August 10, 2023

A LETTER FROM OUR SERVANT LEADERS

Dear Vincentian Friends,

In a few weeks many Vincentians will gather for the 2023 Assembly of the National Council of the United States. Our National Assembly theme will be “Where It All Began,” because we will gather in St. Louis, within sight of the Old Cathedral, where the first Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States met in 1845. It is not too late to plan to attend. Coming to a National Assembly will draw you deeper into this vocation as a member of the Society. That is what happened to me when I attended my first national meeting.

At our Assembly we gather to look backward and remember our roots, but — more importantly — we look forward, as well. We will celebrate our 178-year history here in the United States, and we will also celebrate the past six years of working with our current leadership team. More significantly, we will plan for the future as we install a new National Council President and officers.

We have prepared a well-rounded program that will strengthen your Vincentian spirituality, friendship, and service. An excellent team of presenters will provide more than 40 workshops to advance our knowledge and understanding of the Society and its mission. Our Friday Morning of Reflection will again be led by Bishop Donald Hying, who has blessed us as our National Episcopal Advisor for the past six years. Our keynote speakers and daily celebrations of the Eucharist will nourish us on our journey together toward holiness.

Read More

Serviens in spe,

Ralph Middlecamp
SVdP National President
Thursday, August 17 at 2:00 PM CENTRAL
- VOP Third Thursday Webinar: IRS Tax Tips & Resources for Parents

Tuesday, August 22 at 6:00 PM CENTRAL
- Growth and Revitalization Gathering — Wrap-up

Wednesday, August 23 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL
- Webinar: Management and Accountability Issues for Conferences

Wednesday, September 6 – 9
- 2023 National Assembly

Monday, September 18 at 12:00 PM CENTRAL
- Module 8 Getting Ahead Practitioner Call

Every Thursday in September at 3:00 PM CENTRAL
- Four-Part Webinar Series on Financial Empowerment and Consumer Protection Resources

To view the complete calendar, click here.

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF THE POOR GRANT CAMPAIGN TODAY

Your Vincentian brothers and sisters need your help. This year, applications for the Friends of the Poor Grant Program have doubled, as the challenges facing our communities have grown more complex and persistent. Meanwhile, the neighbors we serve don't know about our own struggles. The calls keep coming, even when we don't have enough money to do the work.

Your Conference and Council may be facing local hardships and uncertainties, and you may not be in the same position as you were only a year ago. However, if you have been blessed this year, the Friends of the Poor Program is a great way to support the work of your fellow Vincentians. Your gift helps Conferences and Councils across the country who don't have enough local resources to meet the growing need of their neighbors. Your gift makes it possible for your fellow Vincentians to bring help and hope to those who need it most. If you haven't given yet, it's not too late to help the program thrive next year.

There are two easy ways to donate and make a difference:
1. Donate online at https://ssvpusa.org/?form=FOP
2. Or you can send a check to our offices:
   Society of St. Vincent de Paul
   66 Progress Parkway
   Maryland Heights, MO 63043
   Please write FOP Appeal in the memo line.

Thank you for all that you do for our Vincentian brothers and sisters, and those we serve.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Are Conferences permitted to own land and buildings separate from their Council?

A: If a Conference is separately incorporated and has its own tax-exemption, it may own property. If the Conference is using the EIN and tax-exemption of a District or Diocesan Council, it is part of that legal entity, and ownership of property is defined by the owner of the EIN.

Q: Members delivering furniture to a neighbor in need using their personal vehicle accidentally backed into a mailbox — damaging the mailbox and the vehicle. Should the Conference pay for the mailbox and the vehicle repairs?

A: Please consult your Council/Conference insurance policy for coverage. It may require that when a Vincentian has an accident with their own vehicle, it is the Vincentian's auto insurance that comes into play first. The Council or Conference may then have liability insurance to cover this case. The
Conference can separately make a decision to pay or not pay for related damages for either party outside of its insurance coverage. If our work damages the property of a neighbor in need, there is a moral obligation, regardless of coverage, to make it right.

To view this week's Q&A, including the Spanish Translation, click here. Find the full Q&A Index here, and visit the SVDp Thrift Store website for stores-related Q&As.

Submit your questions to Pam Hudson Johnson at phudson@svdpusa.org.

DISASTER SERVICES UPDATES

SVdP–USA Disaster Services Holds “Better Together” Event
Recently, SVdP Disaster Services Corporation held a "Better Together" Long-Term Recovery Committee event. Long-term recovery groups, disaster case management agencies, and community-based organization that had actively been involved in recovery efforts for Hurricanes Ian and Nicole gathered at the American Red Cross of Greater Orlando. Hosted by Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Florida VOAD), in partnership with World Renew, the event showcased the power of collaboration in building resilient communities. Click here to read more.

NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

OFIA Season 2 Segments Now Available in Spanish
Our Faith in Action: Today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul Season 2 was released earlier this year. We've translated select segments from Season 2 into Spanish for Spanish-speaking members and prospective members. You can find the Spanish language segments here, as part of our full library of OFIA season 2 segments.

OFIA segments may be shown at Conference meetings, or shared with prospective members to give them a flavor of the Society's focus on spirituality, friendship, and service. Happy viewing!

National Council Hiring Manager of Stores Support
The SVdP National Council is looking for a Manager of Stores Support. This role will serve as the primary support person for the National Stores Committee. Providing leadership support for SVdP National Stores, this person will develop, facilitate, and provide communications, information, training, programming, and other Stores resources to benefit Society members as part of the National Council's strategic and annual plans and budgets. This role will report directly to Jeff Beamguard, National Stores Support Director. To learn more about this role or to apply, click here.

Let Us Break Bread Together at the National Assembly
The Multicultural and Diversity Committee proudly announces "Let Us Break Bread Together," aimed at celebrating the cultures, skills, abilities, and talents that strengthen our vocation to serve the poor. We believe that by celebrating our differences we can better understand our ONE SOCIETY. For more information and to sign up, click here.

If you have any questions, please contact Michele Schurk at mschurk@svdpusa.org.

2023 North American Vincentian Family Gathering
October 26 – 29 at DePaul University in Chicago, IL Register here

The gathering at DePaul University-Lincoln Park Campus, in Chicago will start on Thursday, October 26 at 5 PM (Registration starting at 2 PM) and will conclude with a final Mass on Sunday, October 29 at noon.
The program includes a concert with Gen Verde at the Athenaeum Center on Saturday evening. The principal morning sessions (gathering, prayer, and main talks) will be held in the main hall for all present, but participants can choose between two different tracks for other parts of the program: the Performance Track and the Conference Track. For more information, click here.

THRIFT STORES UPDATE

Why Thrift Stores?
In this month's Stores Corner, read about why Thrift Stores are a worthwhile investment of time and money for your Conference or Council. Also, see details about the Stores Committee Day at this year's National Assembly! Click here to read more.

Have a Suggested Topic for the Stores Corner or Questions Regarding Stores?
Contact Jeff Beamguard, Stores Support Director
(314) 576-3993 ext. 224
jbeamguard@svdpusa.org

FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY UPDATES

Webinar: Management & Accountability Issues for Conferences
Wednesday, August 23, 6:30 PM CENTRAL Register here
Designed primarily for Conference officers, in this webinar you will learn about issues of governance and accountability that reach beyond (and in addition to) our Rule, including Bylaws, reporting, and more. You'll have opportunities to interact and ask questions during this live session!

Formation Video Library
- Fred Talks — Spirituality & Heritage in small doses
- Servant Leadership — Recorded Workshops
- Spirituality & Formation
- Vincentian Heritage & History

Formation Resources Quick Reference
- Reflections for Conference meetings
- Contemplations for individuals
- Resources for Formation Teams and for Members
- Materials Store to purchase books

Questions Regarding Spirituality and Formation?
Contact Tim Williams, National Formation Director
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdpusa.org

ADVANCEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

National Partner Highlight: Amazon Business
Amazon Business is everything you love about Amazon, for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Amazon Business digitizes and automates procurement with powerful management controls and
analytic tools — all within the familiar experience of Amazon. Amazon Business will reshape your purchasing process to move your organization forward, allowing you to focus more time serving those in need. For more information, contact Peter McManus at petmcman@amazon.com or call (508) 868-6609.

Questions Regarding National Partners?
Contact Alyssa Bergman, Director of National Fundraising Programs
(314) 576-3993 ext. 218
abergman@svdpusa.org

GOVERNANCE, GROWTH, & REVITALIZATION UPDATE

Good Stewardship
What does stewardship look like in your life? The National Governance Committee suggests you think of this through the prism of a Vincentian lens which should have a spiritual and biblical foundation. Click here to read the entire article, which examines three principles central to good stewardship.

Growth and Revitalization Gatherings
Join us for our Summer Series at 6:00 PM CENTRAL on the fourth Tuesday of each month for Best Practices and Lessons Learned: A Gathering Series Focusing on Growth & Revitalization

Tuesday, August 22 at 6:00 PM CENTRAL Register here
Wrap Up: Join the G&R committee as we review the past 6 years, answer any questions, and wrap up with our final gathering.

Past gatherings are recorded and available here. The Growth & Revitalization Committee hopes that this gathering series will be an opportunity to share ideas and best practices in a progressive and beneficial experience for all attendees.

Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?
Contact Pam Hudson Johnson, National Director of Governance & Membership Services
(314) 576-3993 ext. 214
phudson@svdpusa.org

POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATE

Microloan Programs Help Rescue Neighbors in Need from Predatory Loans
High-interest payday lending can cause serious financial harm to those who have no other options to access funds. Several St. Vincent de Paul Conferences and Councils are developing low-interest, alternative lending opportunities for the people we serve. Whether you live in a rural area or a larger city and want to start a loan program, Vincentians already doing the work stand ready to help you. You’ll find great financial literacy resources or information on creating a microloan program here.

Additionally, please attend the Alternative Loan Program workshop at 10 am on Saturday, September 9 during the National Assembly.

August Recess Advocacy Webinar Now Online
Did you miss the August Recess Advocacy webinar last week? The presentation and slides are posted online here. There are great tips for meeting with your legislators while they are back home. You’ll also catch our latest legislative update

VOP Third Thursday Webinar: IRS Tax Tips & Resources for Parents
Thursday, August 17 at 2:00 PM CENTRAL Register here
IRS Education specialists will join us to delve into various resources and programs that can help our neighbors both within and out of tax season. Topics span new parent initiatives, identity protection, multilingual resources, free file, and the IRS’ interactive tax assistant.

**Questions Regarding Poverty Programs?**
Contact Steve Uram, National Director of Poverty Programs  
314-576-3993 ext. 215  
suram@svdpusa.org

**VINCENTIAN PRAYER LIST**

Are you or another Vincentian you know in need of prayers from fellow SVdP members? Send the prayer intention to Pam Hudson Johnson at phudson@svdpusa.org and we will add the name to the Vincentian Prayer List on our website. Thank you and God Bless.

**SOME VINCENTIANS AREN'T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!**

If you’d like to subscribe to the e-Gazette, email mboyer@svdpusa.org.

If you removed your email address from our system or designated "Do Not Mail," your email address cannot be re-added by the National Council office. Sign up to resume receiving the e-Gazette at [http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6](http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6)

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