August 17, 2023

A LETTER FROM OUR SERVANT LEADERS

In a few weeks, hundreds of Vincentians from across the country will arrive in
St. Louis for the National Assembly under the theme of “Where It All Began.”
Thanks to the pandemic, our original 175th anniversary celebration will be two
years later than scheduled. Let’s take a look not only at where it all began, but
also when it all began back in 1845 St. Louis.

St. Louis was a major city in 1845, thanks to its location on the banks of the
Mississippi River and its uses for commerce, fur trading, and both military and
civilian exploration of all points West. From its 1840 population of 16,469, the city would grow
to 77,860 by 1850, becoming the eighth largest American city. The St. Louis Diocese covered a third
of the country, but with only 75 priests and 33 churches. By 1849, St. Louis would become the
second archdiocese, after Baltimore, within the organized states of the Union. It was the only major
Catholic presence west of the Mississippi.

St. Louis was considered the gateway to the West from the time of its 1804 launching of the Lewis
and Clark expedition until at least the great railroad expansion after the U.S. Civil War. Steamboats
and wagon trains regularly started from St. Louis, and much wealth was generated from fitting these
expeditions from St. Louis merchants and wagon builders. The city would continue to grow,
especially around the time of the 1904 World’s Fair and later decades. For Vincentian purposes, the
“Old Cathedral” (the only cathedral in the city at that time) was completed in 1834 in a bustling
mixed-use downtown of commerce, shipping, and residences. Today the Old Cathedral sits in a
national park at the base of the famous Arch, built in the late 1950’s-early 1960’s. The entire five
blocks from the cathedral to the river was razed of old warehouses for the arch’s construction, but
the Old Cathedral was gracefully spared.

When the Society of St. Vincent de Paul held its first meeting on November 20, 1845 at the Old
Cathedral, life was quite different than we might realize from today’s city and United States.
Yours in Christ,

Dave Barringer
CEO

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

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

Saturday, September 2 at 10:00 AM CENTRAL
- Hispanic Latino Task Force Hosting Q&A Session / El Grupo de Trabajo Hispano-Latino (HLTF) los está invitando a una sesión de preguntas y respuestas

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Q:** What can we include in our volunteer hours? Is working at a funeral, serving food, choir, sacristan, driving an elderly neighbor to an appointment, or babysitting for a family in need or the members’ grandchildren also allowed to be included in volunteer hours?

**A:** Any member activities that are directly associated with SVdP Conference life can be considered volunteer hours. If individuals volunteer outside of their Conference duties, it should not be counted in the annual report data. If working at a funeral, serving food, choir, sacristan, etc., are activities of the Conference life then they can be counted. If these are individual choices in support of the parish but not Conference works, these volunteer hours cannot be counted.

**Q:** Is there a national policy about sharing documents in a criminal case with a pastor? We have shared the information with him, but he now wants copies of the documents, which we have given to the local law enforcement authorities. The parish itself is not involved in the case.

**A:** This issue should be discussed with an attorney. A lot depends on the nature of the case. Depending on the nature of the information, it may impact an investigation. Both the pastor and the attorney should know and understand that confidentiality is highly emphasized within the Society. The Society operates at the pastor’s permission and relies on him for matters of faith and morals. If the case involves these issues or parish property/resources, the pastor has a right to be informed.

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**

**Empowering Hope: Rebuilding Lives Beyond Hurricane Ida's Wake**

In the wake of Hurricane Ida's devastation, the heart of Passaic County, New Jersey, witnessed both destruction and the incredible power of community coming together. The following is a story of resilience, strength, and the transformative impact of generosity — a story that speaks to the heart of our mission at the Disaster Services Corp (DSC). Click here to read more.
Youth from Around the World Gather in Lisbon for World Youth Day 2023
Recently, Youth and Young Adults from around the world gathered in Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day and the International Vincentian Youth Meeting. Click here to read more about these special events and hear first-hand accounts from young adult Vincentians who attended!

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.

Meet Me in St. Louis for the 2023 National Assembly Host City Event
Friday, September 8 from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch — Grand Ballroom. This event costs $35 per person.

For all the details, click here.

If you haven’t already signed up to attend the Host City Event and would like to add this to your registration, 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].

Hispanic Latino Task Force Hosting Q&A Session / El Grupo de Trabajo Hispano-Latino (HLTF) los está invitando a una sesión de preguntas y respuestas

Saturday, September 2 at 10:00 AM CENTRAL [Register here]

Sabado, 2 de septiembre a 10:00 AM CEN

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: Servware
Servware is Vincentian-developed client tracking software, customized for SVdP Councils, District Councils, and Conferences. The software is low cost, easy to learn and use, provides 21st Century technology, and is customizable to meet any Vincentian needs. The system reduces client fraud, as it tracks all visits, disbursements, and other activities a client experiences within your Council or Conference. For more information, please contact Mark Stine at mark.stine@servware.org.

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

GOVERNANCE, GROWTH, & REVITALIZATION UPDATES

Resolve to Focus on Good Governance
A new fiscal year for our Society will start soon and this is a good time to remind ourselves that loving and supporting one another while serving the poor is an integral part of our Vincentian mission. Our Conference meetings are where we help each other fulfill that mission of growing spiritually, developing friendships and having face-to-face encounters with those in need. Click here to read the entire article.

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 PROGRAM UPDATES

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.

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