



Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE U.S.
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



February 22, 2024



Carrie Johnson-Robinson
National Secretary

God Answers

Imagine a young woman, 18 years of age, alone in solitude after her husband departs for work. She places her infant daughter down to sleep. A nudging from within prompts her to go and look upon her daughter, and she is obedient. She notices her firstborn turning blue. To the touch, she is cold. Breathing is absent. Immediately, she wraps her in blankets, sits in front of a space heater and begins to pray. Eventually she notices the blue fade, feels warm flesh, and hears her daughter cry for nourishment.

Imagine a call placed to a 43-year-old woman by her sister in the middle of the night to inform that their womb bearer had been in an accident, and death was believed to be imminent.

The words my mother spoke to God at 18 are not known to me, because she did not share them. I only know that she prayed for God to alter the circumstance, and He answered. I was embarking upon adulthood when my mother shared the experience. At the time of her sharing, I did not fathom sitting in the Intensive Care Unit of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, praying to God to deliver the same answer He gave my mother, and I don't believe she fathomed me doing it. God answered me — but I did not receive the same answer.

[Read More](#)

Carrie Johnson-Robinson
National Council Secretary

GIVING MATTERS

In this new column, we'll share fundraising ideas and inspiration. Have a question you'd like to see us answer? Contact [Jill Ploter](#), National Director of Marketing and Communications.

The Magic of an Idea

From the book [ASKING](#) by Jerold Panas

Consider these three important questions:

1. What do your key supporters believe you do really well and should do more of?
2. If you were to receive a windfall of 5 – 10x your current annual revenue, what would you do with those additional resources?
3. What's keeping you right now from truly advancing your mission —and achieving your objectives?

[Keep Reading](#)

UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

Saturday, February 24 • 11:00 AM CENTRAL

- [Webinar: Broadening Friendships, Embracing Diversity, Weaving Bonds Toward One Society](#)

Wednesday, February 28 • 6:30 PM CENTRAL

- [Webinar: Finding Servant Leaders: Recruitment & Succession](#)

Join the Leadership Task Force as they discuss succession planning, recruitment of new Conference and Council Leaders, and guiding potential new leaders in discerning their personal call to servant leadership.

Saturday, March 2 • 10 AM CENTRAL

- [Reunión Vicentina por Zoom / HLTF Zoom Reunion](#)

El grupo de trabajo Hispano/Latino le invita a una reunión por zoom el día 2 de marzo, 2024 a las 10 am (tiempo central), para crecer en amistad con hermanas y hermanos Vicentinos y a la misma vez, platicar de éxitos en nuestras Conferencias y/o de dificultades que hemos enfrentado. ¡Nos vemos en Zoom!

The HLTF invites you to a Zoom reunion on March 2, 2024, at 10 AM Central to grow in friendship with our sister and brother Vincentians and at the same time, talk about the successes in our Conferences and/or the difficulties we encounter. See you on Zoom!

Wednesday, March 13 – Saturday, March 16

- [2024 Midyear Business Meeting](#) Registration for Midyear 2024 is now open! [Click here](#) to register for the meeting and your guest room at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch. For more information, [click here](#).

Save the Dates! 2024 SVdP Event Calendar Out Now

Our 2024 calendar of events is now available. [Click here](#) to see all upcoming events and make your travel reservations.

To view the complete calendar, [click here](#).

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES



VisionSVdP Kicks Off at Midyear 2024

VisionSVdP, a Synodal conversation about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, will kick off at this year's Midyear Meeting, happening March 13 – 16 in St. Louis. Missed the announcement yesterday? [See the letter from President John Berry here.](#)

CIAD Annual Report Now Available

CIAD, the Commission for International Aid and Development of SVdP International works to support the initiatives of the local Society of St Vincent de Paul all over the world. Under the leadership of Ralph Middlecamp, CIAD coordinates international disaster and emergency relief through the Society, as well as strengthening international development and expansion for the Society. [Click here to read their latest annual report.](#)

National Council Seeks Director of Program and Strategic Development

The Director of Program and Strategic Development analyzes member and external information to provide guidance to the National Council's CEO and Board of Directors on new national and local programs, national strategies, and subsidiaries. The ideal candidate will be innovative, diplomatic, data-driven, and a strategic thinker and executor. More info [on our website](#).

National Council Seeks Digital Communications Manager

We're hiring a Digital Communications Manager! Key objectives of the role are to raise SVdP's online and digital presence via our social media and website, as well as to provide information and support to both members of the Society and those not involved in the Society through various forms of communication. More info [on our website](#).

Multicultural & Diversity Committee Celebrates Black History Month



MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

This week the Multicultural Diversity Committee features

A Black History Month Reflection

By: Althea-Caroline Onwuemelie

Black History Month is the time to remember and celebrate what has happened through the years.

Through the years African Americans have overcome, accomplished, and contributed. From people such as Malcolm X and Martin Luther King to Shirley Chisolm and Maya Angelou.

Black History Month is the time to celebrate and spotlight the accomplishments of African Americans not only from the past but even in the present when it comes to things like the civil rights movement, inventions that have helped shape history, and even being the first to accomplish things no one else has done.

It is a time to explore how much the African American experience has contributed to history as a whole. A time to educate on topics not always included in school curriculums, a time to step up when it comes to racial injustice and inequality.

There's a saying I heard that goes "History is not only the study of the past but an explanation of the present." This saying relates to what Black History Month is, a chance to educate and understand the past to bring about awareness of the present.

Ms. Althea-Caroline Onwuemelie is the daughter of Vincentian Bernard Ike Onwuemelie, LMSW, CAADC, MSWAS.



MCD Webinar, Part 2

Thanks to all who joined the MCD webinar on January 27. Everyone is invited to register and join Part 2 this Saturday, February 24. We look forward to seeing you.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL

ALL ARE INVITED!

TWO-PART WEBINAR

11:00 a.m. CST

Hosted by: The National Committee on Multicultural/Diversity Issues and Initiatives

BROADENING FRIENDSHIPS, EMBRACING DIVERSITY, WEAVING BONDS TOWARD ONE SOCIETY

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS KEY!

Together Let's Embrace the Opportunity to:

- Reflect on where we have been, where we are today and the vision for the future
- Engage in dialogue to provide greater perspective
- Be knowledgeable of the strategy
- Demonstrate by word and deed your commitment to move forward as **ONE SOCIETY!**

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Is there a particular protocol to follow when a friend in need threatens to harm him/herself?

A: For members of the Society, there is no legal obligation to report such findings. There is a moral obligation when there is strong suspicion or if the behavior is witnessed. This question should be presented to your diocese, who can give helpful contact numbers for referral.

Q: A member of my Conference said our region's National Vice President does not have a vote at the National level. Can you verify this?

A: According to National Council Bylaws, each of the nine Regional Vice Presidents is a voting member of the National Board of Directors. However, the Regional Vice Presidents do not have a vote on the National Council. The voting members of the National Council are the National President and the duly elected National Council Members (each representing a Catholic Diocese where the Society is present).

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

POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATES

Emerge Solutions 2024 National Conference Addressing Poverty

Emerge Solutions, in partnership with Aha Process!, is hosting their Annual Conference October 7 – 9 in Toledo, Ohio. Check out more about their [conference here](#). The group is taking submissions for presentations through May 31.

Questions Regarding Poverty Programs?

Contact Steve Uram, National Director of Poverty Programs
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
suram@svdpusa.org

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

2024 Conference Hard Copy Report Forms Now Available

2024 Conference annual and quarterly hard copy report forms in both English and Spanish are now available on the national website. [Click here](#).

10 Reasons to Love High-Performing Nonprofit Boards

This week we offer an article by management consultant Alyce Lee Stansbury focused on the performance of effective nonprofit Boards. [Click here](#) to read her meaningful comments.

Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?

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

FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY UPDATES

Lenten Reflection: With the Love and Joy of Angels

National Vincentian Formation Director Tim Williams offers a Lenten Reflection on the Catholic Charities USA website this week. [Click here](#) to read.

Formation Video Library

- [Fred Talks — Spirituality & Heritage in small doses](#)
- [Servant Leadership — Recorded Workshops](#)

Formation Resources Quick Reference

- [Reflections](#) for Conference meetings

- [Spirituality & Formation](#)
- [Vincentian Heritage & History](#)
- [Contemplations](#) for individuals
- [Resources](#) for Formation Teams and for Members
- [Materials Store](#) to purchase books

Questions Regarding Spirituality and Formation?

Contact Tim Williams, National Vincentian Formation Director
 (314) 576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdusa.org

STORES CORNER

Thrift Store Staffing Model & Engagement By John Thelen, Mideast Region – Diocese of Lansing

Throughout the country, there are three SVdP Thrift Store Staffing Models. Stores are either staffed by paid employees, staffed by volunteers, or some combination of the two. Whichever staffing model is used, a key factor in a store's success is staff engagement. If staff/volunteers are not invested in the work of our great mission, the store will not reach its full potential.

It is important for staff/volunteers to be aware of our mission. Why do we do what we do? Let us be honest, sorting socks and underwear is not a very glamorous job. However, when you know why you are doing what you are doing, it makes the most tedious jobs tolerable.

What might help keep your staff/volunteers engaged? [Read More](#)

Join Us at Midyear!

If you or another SVdP Council/Conference/Store member will be attending the Midyear Meeting in March, please consider attending the Stores Committee Meeting on Wednesday. [An agenda](#) is included in this article. New this year will be a Stores Committee table in the Vendor area on Wednesday and Thursday. Please stop by to meet and talk with some of the Store Committee members.

If you have a topic that you would like addressed in a future Stores Corner article, please e-mail [Jeff Beamguard](#), Director of Stores Support.

NATIONAL PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

**. SECURE RETAIL
P.O.S.**



Designed specifically for thrift stores, Secure Retail POS gives thrift stores' management and inventory control. Secure Retail POS provides accurate reports in a timely fashion, manages promotions, eliminates errors, provides pricing strategy, and offers hang tags and sticky labels. Vincentians using the system are enthusiastic about Secure Retail POS. For more information, please contact [Gary Perry](#) or visit www.secureretail.ca

VINCENTIAN PRAYER LIST

Are you or another Vincentian 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](#). Thank you and God Bless.

SOME VINCENTIANS AREN'T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!

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