



Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from

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



Please Note: The National Council office will be closed March 29 in observance of Good Friday. We will resume operations on Monday, April 1. Thank you, and Happy Easter.

March 28, 2024

Challenges of a Vincentian

In my 40 years as a Vincentian, I have made many mistakes. From my mistakes, hopefully, I will become a better person. My hope is you will learn from my mistakes. Here is my list of My Challenges:

1. It's about me. I call this the Santa Claus effect. When I first became a Vincentian, giving something to somebody made me feel good. I got to "help" someone, but it cost me nothing. Then I learned it was not about me, but the person I was helping. This was a very valuable lesson for me to learn as a Vincentian.
2. Poverty is a lack of money. I thought this way in the beginning. As you help people, you realize poverty is a mindset. Improving the situation of a neighbor in need takes education, hope, culture, time, work, acceptance, and, yes, some money.



[Read More](#)

Yours in Christ,
Ed McCarthy
National Treasurer

UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZModu-grT8tGtCRUIOm3MdIGHY9UNrI7Moh>

Saturday, April 6 • 10 AM CENTRAL

- [Vicentinos Hispano/Latinos P y R / Spanish Q&A Session](#)

Wednesday, April 24 • 6:30 PM CENTRAL

- [Webinar: Servant Leadership & Our Vocation](#) This workshop focuses on the core spirituality of Servant Leadership in the model given to us by Christ and exemplified by Frédéric and Vincent. You'll learn how deeply embedded servant leadership is in our traditions, and the many opportunities for all of us to seek out, and to serve as leaders.

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

GIVING MATTERS

Dave Barringer, National CEO

[Give.org](#), part of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, just released a Donor Trust Special Report focused on Donor Participation. Society of St. Vincent de Paul fund raisers, indeed all Society leaders, can benefit by reading the study's charts and bar graphs. They feature donor attitudes about their behavior according to different age groups and by previous giving experiences.

In some cases there were stark differences! This data may influence not only how we solicit for donations, but also how we can better thank and cultivate donors over time. To see the charts, [click here](#).

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

*Pam Matambanadzo,
International Territorial Vice President – America 1*

We have been receiving calls seeking some guidance on the situation in Haiti. Vincentians want to know if they can send funds to help. It is difficult to answer this without first giving some background to fully understand the magnitude of the reality on the ground. [Keep Reading](#)

VISION SVdP UPDATES

VisionSVdP is a synodal listening process that will take place over two years. We ask that you use this prayer at all Vincentian meetings to help guide our conversations.

The VisionSVdP Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, open our eyes, our hearts, and our imaginations to Your inspiration as we embark on our VisionSVdP journey and seek to discern the Father's holy will for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and how it will adapt to a changing world.

Oración de la VisiónSVdP

Ven, Espíritu Santo, abre nuestros ojos, nuestros corazones y nuestra imaginación a Tu inspiración Divina mientras nos embarcamos en nuestro viaje hacia la VisiónSVdP y lograr discernir en la santa voluntad del Padre, en cómo se adaptará la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl a un mundo cambiante.

Come, Holy Spirit, transform our doubts, ignite our zeal. Help us discern new and innovative ways to bring more people into the joy of service in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Come, Holy Spirit, grant us the simplicity to share honestly with each other, the humility to serve a mission greater than ourselves, and the gentleness to listen to each other without judgment.

Amen

Ven, Espíritu Santo, transforma nuestras dudas, ilumina nuestro fervor. Ayúdanos a discernir con formas nuevas e innovadoras de llevar a más personas a la alegría del servicio en la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl.

Ven, Espíritu Santo, concédenos la sencillez de compartir honestamente los unos con los otros; la humildad para servir a una misión más grande que nosotros mismos; y la gracia de escucharnos unos a otros sin juzgarnos.

Amén

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES

Midyear Meeting Recaps

Thank you to everyone who came to St. Louis for the 2024 Midyear Meeting! If you weren't able to join us, or would like a refresher, online resources are available, including:

- [President John Berry's Midyear Presentation](#)
- [Video: Presidential Welcome With John Berry](#)
- [Video: SVdP Australia National President Mark Gaetani](#)
- [Video: Spiritual Retreat with Archbishop Andrew Bellisario, C.M.](#)
- [2024 Committee Charters](#)
- [National Twinning Commission Information](#)

Vicentinos Hispano/Latinos P y R

El Comité de Renovación y Entrega de Formación los invita a participar en una sesión de Preguntas y Repuestas en Zoom. Esta reunión se llevará a cabo el día 6 de marzo a las 10:00 AM tiempo central. [Por favor regístranse](#). ¡Allí nos vemos!

The Formation Renewal and Delivery Committee invites everyone to a Spanish Q & A session on Zoom. The meeting will be on Saturday April 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM Central. [Please register](#). See you there!

National Council Seeks New Chief Executive Officer

With Dave Barringer's retirement at the end of this fiscal year, the National Council seeks a CEO with the management experience, cultural sensitivity, and spiritual grounding to be the leader our extraordinary mission deserves. [Click here](#) for full job description and application information.

National Council Job Openings

It's a busy time at the National Council office, with several open positions now posted. We're seeking qualified candidates for the following roles:

- Accounting Associate
- Executive Administrative Associate
- Director of Program and Strategic Development

Complete job descriptions and application information are available [on our website](#).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Can Councils create endowment scholarships?

A: Endowments are permitted as long as they are funded by donations specifically for that purpose. Funds identified for service to those in need should not be used to build an endowment. An endowment campaign can be established to solicit funds specifically for the purpose desired.

Q: Can Conference officers consist of the President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer only, if no member accepts the Vice President appointment?

A: Conference officers (an elected President who appoints a Vice President(s), Secretary, and Treasurer) have no specific authority other than representation of the Conference and requirement to fulfill specific tasks. All decisions are made by the Active Members of the Conference as a whole. According to the Bylaws, there must be at least one Vice President; hence a member should step forward to serve as VP for a complete slate of officers. The Conference as well as the Council needs to know who will serve in the Presidential capacity should the elected President be unable to serve for any reason.

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

Voice For the Poor Updates

Fellow Vincentians,

As the new Chair of the Voice for the Poor Committee, I wanted to update you on our work. First, the new National Council Board made a small name change and we are now the Voice FOR the Poor Committee. While our committee's name changed slightly, our mission and focus remain the same.

The National Voice for The Poor Committee is charged with advocating on behalf of people in poverty, and with education and information-sharing to strengthen and grow Council and Conference involvement with advocating for policy solutions to local, state, and national leaders and legislators. [Continue Reading](#)

In Christ,
Bobby Kinkela
Voice For the Poor Chair

Getting Ahead Webinar Training Spring/Summer 2024

Conferences and Councils across the county are running *Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting-By World*, a comprehensive program that empowers individuals to build their own personal plans for economic security and create Systemic Change. The online Facilitator Training Webinars will equip you with all the knowledge and resources to start a Getting Ahead program in your area or get involved with an existing program.

Training will consist of two sessions, running three hours each, on Wednesday, May 1 and 8 from 10:30AM – 1:30PM Central. Registration will close Tuesday, April 23 at 12:00 PM CENTRAL. Reading and session expectations will be emailed once your registration is approved. [Register Here](#)

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World is a licensed work of aha! Process, Inc. The National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a licensed provider of facilitator training for the Getting Ahead program.

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.](#)

What Is Meant by “Hoarding” in a St. Vincent de Paul Context?

Hoarding is prohibited in a number of instances within the documents of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Our Rule, for example, tells us that “Money must not be hoarded.” However, since there is no specific place where hoarding is actually defined, the National Governance Committee deemed it appropriate to provide a formal definition.

Considerations related to hoarding within the Society are slightly different when looking at this from a Conference perspective and a Council perspective. These are addressed in a document developed by the Committee which treats Conference considerations and Council considerations separately.

Editor’s Note: The second part, dealing with Councils, was inadvertently linked last week. Our apologies for the error. The entire document is linked this week. [Click here](#) to read this important information.

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

Formation Video Library

- [Fred Talks — Spirituality & Heritage in small doses](#)
- [Servant Leadership — Recorded Workshops](#)
- [Spirituality & Formation](#)
- [Vincientian 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 Vincentian Formation Director
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdpsusa.org

STORES CORNER

How Can Facebook and Instagram Help My Thrift Store?

By Bryan Engel, Director of Operations

Diocesan Council of Pittsburgh, Eastern Region

If your Marketing budget is on the lower end (or nonexistent), you may not feel like there are any opportunities to promote your stores. What can you do if you cannot afford billboards, radio, TV, or even newspapers? Have you tried free social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram? For thrift stores, these platforms offer opportunities to connect with customers, showcase products, and ultimately drive sales. Let's explore the benefits of social media marketing (particularly on Facebook and Instagram) for thrift stores. [Read More](#)

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



Solstice Sleep Products is committed to being the leading provider of quality mattresses at exceptional value. Solstice Sleep Products works with the leading suppliers in the industry to develop an extensive portfolio of brands that delivers exceptional mattress values for hundreds of dollars less than leading national advertised brands. For more information, visit <http://www.solsticesleep.com/> or contact [Keith Ellwanger](#).

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@svdpsusa.org and we will add the name to the [Vincientian Prayer List](#). Thank you and God Bless.

SOME VINCENTIAN'S AREN'T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!

To subscribe to the e-Gazette, [click here](#).

If you removed your email address from our system or designated "Do Not Mail," your email address cannot be re-added by National Council office. [Click here](#) to resume receiving the e-Gazette.

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

