



## Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from

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



April 18, 2024



John Berry  
National President

Over the last few months, as we've launched our VisionSVdP initiative and begun to conduct our 'family conversations' regarding how the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA will adapt to a changing world, the feedback I have received from Vincentians across the country has been overwhelmingly positive and excited. People feel that this is the perfect time for us to have these conversations and in many cases, they feel the conversations are long overdue.

From the very first email that went out about VisionSVdP, people have been sending me their thoughts and ideas. Although the process is designed to take place in the Listening Sessions (which begin at Regional Meetings across the country this week), people felt so passionately about the things

that they believe needed to be discussed, that they decided to send comments in via email.

Be assured that, if you were one of those people, your comments...

[Read More](#)

Peace and God's Blessings,  
John

## UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

Friday, April 19 • 10 AM CENTRAL

- [Reentry/Prison Ministry Affinity Group](#)

Friday, April 19 • 2 PM CENTRAL

- [Workforce Development / Back2Work Affinity Group](#)

Tuesday, April 23 • 1 PM CENTRAL

- [Webinar: Systemic Change Grant Q&A](#)

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](#).

## NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES



**ADAPT**  
to a changing world

### 2024 National Assembly

Call for Presentations! Have a workshop or best practice that you'd like to share with the Society at the upcoming Phoenix National Assembly? We'd like to hear from you. Review the [Guide to Submitting a Workshop](#) or [complete the online form here](#).

### National Council Job Openings

It's a busy time at the National Council office, with several open positions now posted. Complete job descriptions and application information are available [on our website](#). We're seeking qualified candidates for the following roles:

- [Chief Executive Officer](#)
- Director of Program and Strategic Development

### Friends of the Poor Grant Application Available

Via the Friends of the Poor® Grant Program, the National Council helps local Conferences and District Councils provide emergency service to the poor, beyond their available resources. Conferences and Councils can apply for up to \$5,000 for specific needs in their communities. **Grant application submission dates for the Mideast, Midwest, and Mountain Regions are May 1 - 15.** [Click here to find out more information and apply.](#)

## POVERTY PROGRAMS

### Systemic Change 2024 Grant Program - Q&A Webinar Is This Tuesday!

Systemic Change is a core value of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, working to remove the conditions that hold poverty in place. The ideal Systemic Change program uses Vincentian knowledge, and validation from people in need, to design programs that have wide scale and sustained impact on a community. The National Council will make one-year grants of up to \$20,000

to support Systemic Change projects at Councils or Conferences. Find the grant application form, criteria, and [more details on our website](#).

We will be holding an informational webinar to answer your Systemic Change Grant questions on *Tuesday, April 23 at 1:00 pm Central Time*. [Register for the webinar here](#).

Grant Timeline:

**April 23** - [Systemic Change Grant Webinar](#) | 1 PM Central

**June 14** - Grant Applications Due

**July 26** - Grant Scoring and Reviews Completed

**August 2** - Winners Announced

**February 14, 2025** - Mid-Year Report Due

**July 11, 2025** - Final Report Due

### Poverty Programs Affinity Group Kick-Off Meetings

National committees have been realigned to foster greater communications and remove barriers that discourage program effectiveness. Some committees, like Voice of the Poor, have a new name – Voice for the Poor.

Many task forces have now become Affinity Groups. These new groups will carry on many of the functions of their prior task forces, like encouraging program growth and developing best practices and programmatic excellence.

Affinity groups increase participation to a wider audience of Councils and Conferences, not limiting it to those serving on the task force. If your Council or Conference has one of the following programs, is thinking about starting a program, or you just want to learn more about a subject area, please join us for the following kick-off meetings:

- [Reentry/Prison Ministry](#) – April 19 | 11 AM Eastern
- [Workforce Development / Back2Work](#) – April 19 | 3 PM Eastern
- [Getting Ahead Affinity Group](#) – May 20 | 12 PM Central

If you are not able to attend, please register and we will send out the recording within a week. This helps us to determine future interest.

### Getting Ahead Webinar Training: Registration Closes Next Tuesday!

Conferences and Councils across the country 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](mailto:suram@svdpusa.org)

## VISION SVdP

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.

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

### 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.

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

***VisionSVdP prayer cards are now available!*** We'll send supplies of the prayer in both English and Spanish to every regional meeting this year, and you are invited and encouraged to order them for every member of your Council at no charge. Visit our online store [to order in English](#) and [order in Spanish](#), or [download the prayer cards here](#).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: Our Elder Care team makes visits to the elderly in our parish. They have been asked by some families to spend some extra time with the homebound individuals (and sometimes provide a respite for the family caregivers). The question has come up as to what would be**

our liability or exposure if something (i.e., a medical emergency) occurred while we are there? I suppose something like this could happen even during a Home Visit, so I'm not sure if we would treat these cases differently. However, do you think we should be concerned about getting into a situation like this, or would our status and/or insurance coverage protect us?

**A:** There is a difference between what we do as members of the Society and caregivers. When they are giving respite to the family caregivers, they are effectively acting as the caregivers and need to be qualified to do so (whatever minimal training that is required). Any liability insurance the Society has is based on what we normally do as Vincentians and doing so in a Vincentian manner. If we do something not in compliance with what we promote and do normally, liability coverage may not be provided.

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](mailto:phudson@svdpusa.org)

## NATIONAL PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



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 [email Mark Stine](mailto:mark.stine@servware.org) or visit [www.servware.org](http://www.servware.org).

## GOVERNANCE

### The Meaning of Good Governance

Good governance: What does it mean anyway? [Click here to read](#) some thoughts from the National Governance Committee on what it does – and doesn't – mean in a Vincentian context.

### May 1st Deadline for 2023 Online Annual Reports

Have you filed your 2023 annual report yet? The online filing deadline is May 1 at midnight, including ALL reports for Vincentian assistance and services provided to neighbors in need between Oct. 1, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2022. No time extensions are permitted. [Click here to enter your report today.](#)

SVdP's fiscal year runs from October 1 - September 30. Here are the annual report due dates:

- May 1: 2023 Annual reports due
- Nov. 30: Conference annual reports due
- Dec. 31: District Councils annual reports due
- Jan. 31: (Arch)Diocesan Councils annual reports due

- Special Works & Thrift Store reports are due the same date as the Conferences/Councils that owns/operates them.

2024 Hard Copy Report Forms for FY2024-2025 Reporting Cycle [are available here.](#)

### Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?

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

## FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY

### Special Discount on Sirviendo en Esperanza

For a limited time, Modules 1-6 of Sirviendo en Esperanza are on sale for less than \$1 per book (including postage)! Please don't miss this opportunity to stock up for your Conference or Council! You can [order this special bundle here.](#)

#### Formation Video Library

- [Fred Talks — Spirituality & Heritage in small doses](#)
- [Servant Leadership — Recorded Workshops](#)
- [Spirituality & Formation](#)
- [Vincentine 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@svdpusa.org](mailto:twilliams@svdpusa.org)

## STORES CORNER

### 3 Ways to Build a Dream Team and Keep Rockstar Employees

*By Brooke Trick-Senior, Director of Retail Operations  
North Central Region – District Council of Madison*

Hiring and retention are hurdles for many organizations as we navigate this modern work environment. Businesses are becoming more creative in how they hire and retain employees. Employees' views and expectations of the work environment are shifting. Burnout and dissatisfaction at work are high. As employers, we need to change course to a more people-centric work culture. Here are three ways.... [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.

## 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](mailto: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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