



Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE U.S.
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



May 2, 2024



John Berry
National President

In the South, where I live, the beginning of May signals the beginning of the end of the school year for students. My granddaughter in South Carolina has already had her Prom (yes, she was beautiful) and her Graduation from high school is in a few weeks. For most students in the northern parts of the country, the school year will continue on until at least Memorial Day. But in either case, come early June, most students will be off for the summer and free of the classroom, homework, and getting up early for school.

Some of you may remember the song written in 1932 by George Gershwin for the opera Porgy and Bess, "Summertime." Its most famous line, oft repeated, is "Summertime and the livin' is easy."

How often do we think about children and summertime...

[Read More](#)

Peace and God's blessings,
John

UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

Saturday, May 4 • 10 AM CENTRAL

- El Comité Nacional de Renovación y Entrega de Formación te invita a un encuentro en español de Vicentinos hispanohablantes donde compartiremos ideas y creceremos en amistad con nuestros hermanos y hermanas Vicentinos. ¡[Nos vemos en Zoom](#) el sábado, 4 de mayo a las 10:00 a.m. hora central!
- The National Formation Renewal and Delivery Committee invites you to a Spanish-speaking gathering of Hispanic Vincentians where we will share ideas and grow in friendship with our sister and brother Vincentians. [See you on Zoom](#) on Saturday, May 4 at 10:00 AM Central!

Thursday, May 16 • 3 PM EASTERN

- Voice For the Poor Presents [Human Trafficking: Sex and Labor Webinar](#)
Human trafficking is largely misunderstood. Even those who work with trafficking victims often lack the training and education necessary to help effectively. This training will enhance your knowledge on both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, and will provide essential resources for use when working with human trafficking situations and victims.

Monday, May 20 • 12 PM CENTRAL

- [Getting Ahead Affinity Group](#)

Thursday, May 30 • 3 PM EASTERN

- [The Eucharist and Social Mission](#)

Friday, June 14

- [Systemic Change Grant Applications Submission Deadline](#)

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES



Exciting New International Twinning Opportunities

We are delighted to announce the establishment of a new twinning relationship with the National Council in Honduras, furthering our commitment to Vincentian values on a global scale. Additionally, we have Conferences in countries such as Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and more currently on our waitlist.

If your Conference or Council would like to explore Twinning opportunities to embody the spirit of St.

Vincent de Paul and support other Conferences internationally, please reach out to our International Twinning Coordinator, Valeria Vlasich, at vvasich@svdpusa.org. Let's come together as Vincentians to foster global connections and make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve!

Friends of the Poor Grant Award Winners Announced

Congratulations to the winners of the Friends of the Poor Grants from the North Central, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic Regions! [You can find the list of winners here](#). The National Council received 131 grant applications totaling \$632,250. Grant awards for this round total \$83,500.

Friends of the Poor Grant Application Available for Mideast and Midwest

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 and Midwest Regions are May 1 – 15. [Click here to find out more information and apply.](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

National Council Job Openings

Several open positions are available at the National Council office! We're seeking qualified candidates for the following roles:

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

POVERTY PROGRAMS

Systemic Change 2024 Grant Program

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](#). **Final day to apply for the Systemic Change grant is June 14, 2024.**

Affinity Group Meetings

Join the Getting Ahead team from Waukesha on May 20 to explore the question "is it working?" In this presentation on evaluations, hear from a team that has been providing Getting Ahead for 10 years and how they use data and stories to learn from and support their work. Share and learn from others on the Zoom as well! [Getting Ahead Affinity Group](#) – May 20 | 12 PM Central

Affinity Groups held kickoff meetings recently. Affinity Groups are open to all members, leadership, and staff. No requirements, come as you are! Recordings are available below:

- Financial Literacy/Microloans: <https://vimeo.com/935890348>
- Housing: <https://vimeo.com/935913307>
- Reentry: <https://vimeo.com/936793123/>
- Workforce Development: <https://vimeo.com/937903485/>

If you are interested in participating in an affinity group, [please fill out this Google form](#) to tell us which one(s) you are interested in and your general availability to meet.

Questions Regarding Poverty Programs?

Contact Steve Uram, National Director of Poverty Programs
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
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: What are the guidelines for an internal Conference audit?

A: The Rule and Bylaws emphasize the need for an annual Conference audit. An SVdP audit should cover more than just the Treasurer's financial portion of Conference operations. It should include a basic review of the overall operations of the Conference. Audit guidelines and forms are on the national website under the Growth and Revitalization officers training page. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Q: Our Conference reached out to the Council for financial assistance to help someone in need and the Council advised they could not help because the person in need contacted the Conference for assistance and NOT the Council. What is the purpose for having a Council?

A: A Council primarily exists to support its member Conferences. This consists of many resources which may or may not include financial help. If the Council has available funds, financial assistance to Conferences in need may be considered.

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

GOVERNANCE

A Council's Job One: Serve The Conferences

We conclude our excerpts from *Vincentian Life: Council* with more information from the first section of this important manual titled "Conferences" because the Council's primary role is to support the Conferences. [Click here to read this week's article.](#)

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

FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY

The Eucharist and Social Mission

Join us May 30 at 3:00 PM Eastern during the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Together, we will break open the Theology of the Eucharist and consider how our liturgical practice calls us to be missionary disciples, going forth from the Eucharistic meal to accompany those who are poor and vulnerable. This webinar will also provide practical examples, resources, and tools to help Eucharistic communities live the call to transform all that degrades human life and dignity and create systemic change. Co-sponsored by the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. [Register here.](#) [Read the Spanish version here.](#)

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 Vincentian Formation Director (314) 576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdpusa.org

STORES CORNER

Wage Justice

*By Lori A. Malcom, Director of Retail Operations
Northeast Region – Council of Boston*

Employee wages are one of the store's largest budgeted expenses. How do you know if you are paying a just wage? Overpaying for a position is just that, overpaying, the cost for which is quantifiable. If you know what the wage should be, underpaying a position can be even more costly. High turnover rates have a negative effect on the bottom line, as well as employee morale. So, what should you do?

First you need to understand that for most of our non-exempt positions, minimum wage is not meant to be a living wage for our employees. Minimum wage fluctuates throughout the USA. States adjust the federal minimum wage (\$7.25 per hour) for cost-of-living considerations within the states however, many states use the federal minimum wage for their state. This can make determining where you stand with your wages very daunting.

Thankfully, there are resources if you are open to the objective data they provide. Recently the Council of Boston subcontracted a comprehensive wage survey of all positions and targeted the mid-range for all positions. [Read more here.](#)

Have a topic you would like to see in the next Stores Corner?

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 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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