



# Frederic's e-Gazette

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



## [Donate Today to the 2024 Disaster Appeal!](#)

October 24, 2024

### A LETTER FROM YOUR SERVANT LEADERS



Isabel Darcy  
National Vice President,  
Southeast Region

#### **My Vincentian Journey: Finding My Place in the Plan**

God has a plan for all of us. He knows how we fit into his plan long before we do. Sometimes our own plans for life might not go the way we expect, and we may even feel confused or alone. I have learned that if we trust God and look for ways to be of service to Him, He will guide us. I never thought my life would look the way it does today, but I am grateful! When I was lost, I turned to God, tried to act with love, and found my purpose and direction by serving others.

Growing up, my parents were very involved in church and set good examples of service. My mother brought me along when she took food to families that struggled with poverty or were going through hard times, and we talked with them to share support and friendship. I remember bringing toys to poor communities as a part of my time in the Girl Scouts. These early memories remain with me. When we needed help, our neighbors and friends were there for us as well. These memories are my guiding examples of Christian charity and neighborly love. I was destined to be a Vincentian from the start!

When I went off to college in California, I felt alone for the first time. I was in the big city of LA, surrounded by strangers who only spoke English. I was looking for friends and saw an opportunity to meet people at community service projects on campus. I got involved by joining a group that needed Spanish speakers to help migrant families.

[Read More](#)

Yours in Christ,  
Isabel Darcy  
National Vice President, Southeast Region

## UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

### Poverty Program Committee Meetings

Voice for the Poor, *First Thursdays at 4PM Central* [See you on Zoom](#)

Poverty Action, *Fourth Tuesdays at 1PM Central* [See you on Zoom](#)

Homelessness Prevention, *Fourth Wednesdays at 3PM Central* [See you on Zoom](#)

### Thursday, November 7 at 10:30AM CENTRAL

[Webinar: Workforce Shared Interest Group - Kitchen of Champions](#)

Join us for to learn about Alameda, CA Council's "Kitchen of Champions Culinary Training and Job Placement Program." The program has provided opportunities for over 100 people to transform their lives, while also serving over 500,000 meals to disadvantaged men, women, and children.

### Monday, November 18 at 12:00PM CENTRAL

[Webinar: Lessons Learned from Facilitators & Investigators](#)

The Getting Ahead program offers a transformative journey for both facilitators and investigators. Join us as share insights and lessons learned from the perspectives of those who have participated in the program.

### Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30PM CENTRAL

[Webinar: Annual Reporting for Councils](#)

This tutorial begins with an overview of the process of gathering and organizing Council information, and includes a walkthrough of completing the report within the online Members Portal. This tutorial is specially designed for leaders of smaller Councils that don't have special works or paid staff.

### Thursday, November 21 at 2:00PM CENTRAL

[Webinar: Voice of the Poor - Advocacy that Makes an Impact](#)

Join Steve Uram, National Director of Poverty Programs, as he debunks some popular myths around grassroots advocacy and explains the keys to a successful meeting with your legislators. Steve will also explore the impact of social media advocacy.

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES



## Latest Annual Report Available Now

Thank you for an incredible year, Vincentians! Thanks to you, SVdP served more than 5 million neighbors in need last year and provided an astonishing \$1.7 billion in services to the most vulnerable among us. [Read the full Annual Report here.](#)

### The National Council Is Hiring

The National Council is seeking qualified candidates for the open positions of:

- [Chief Advancement Officer](#)
- [Senior Director of Finance](#)
- [Donor Data and Relationship Coordinator](#)

RECRUITING NEW VINCENTIANS TO JOIN YOU

### See the Face of Christ video is now available in Spanish!

[Click here](#) to download and share with the Spanish-language speakers in your parish community to invite them to join the Society.

[Shop now](#)

**New Fall Line!**

Use code **SVDPFALL10**  
for 10% off fall products!

## DISASTER SERVICES UPDATES

### Florida Hurricanes

Hurricane Milton was the third hurricane to hit Florida in the past 13 months. DSC is actively responding to both Hurricane Milton and Hurricane Helene, which also devastated multiple states.

For those who wish to help those affected, here are some guidelines:

1. Do not send donated goods. The best way to assist DSC with providing aid to impacted Councils and Conferences is to donate to SVdP's Disaster Relief Appeal [here](#).
2. Do not self-deploy! If Councils want to provide in-kind support, please consider assembling hygiene kits and backpacks for school-age children. Interested Councils can email [Kevin Peach](#).
3. DSC is assembling a volunteer pool of vetted Vincentians for deployments to P-RACs if local Vincentians require additional support.

Please continue to pray for survivors! This is a massive recovery effort that will take years to rebuild. Thank you for your continued support, and please consider [donating to our Disaster Relief Appeal](#) today.



## POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATE



Curious about starting a Getting Ahead program? Don't know where to begin? Our program practitioners have updated the Getting Ahead Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. Both in webpage and document format, this comprehensive FAQ material will provide tips on how to begin a program, how to find investigators (participants), and how to find mentors. Read it [online](#) or download the document [here](#).

A coalition of faith-based organizations, including the U. S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul, sent a letter to the Chairman and Subcommittee Chairs of the House Ways and Means Committee making a strong pro-family



argument for supporting the Child Tax Credit. The letter can be found in the Coalition Letters area of our website.

[Click here](#) to read the letter.



The **National Alliance to End Homelessness** is pleased to announce the establishment of a fund to support people who have experienced homelessness. This grant will support people with lived experience of homelessness in their pursuit of innovative professional and creative endeavors. To learn more about this grant opportunity, look at the [Alliance website](#) and register for the informational webinar on Oct. 24.

## VISION SVdP

### **Correction: Reporting Deadline Is December 31, not December 1.**

All listening sessions should be completed, and feedback provided on or before this date. Thank you to those who have already provided their feedback.

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.

#### **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.

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, 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



### **Vision SVdP Online Form Now Available**

You can now enter Vision SVdP observations online. The [easy-to-use form is located here](#). This online submission form is not intended to replace discussions from shared sessions at Conferences, Councils, stores, or other groups — it has been created for additional observations. We highly recommend participating in a group discussion before using the form. If you have questions, please contact [techsupport@svdpusa.org](mailto:techsupport@svdpusa.org)

### **Every Voice Matters!**

This is a reminder that it takes extra effort to reach and include all voices. We all know that it is not just about language. Let's keep opening our minds to include everyone in our conversations, in our thoughts, ideas, etc. for the future of our Society.

¡TODAS VOZ IMPORTA! Este es solo otro recordatorio de que muy probablemente se necesitarán esfuerzos adicionales para llegar a todas las voces e incluirlas. Todos sabemos que no se trata solo del lenguaje. Sigamos abriendo nuestras mentes para incluir a todos en nuestras conversaciones, en nuestros pensamientos, ideas, etc. para el futuro de nuestra sociedad.

**Please see the full list of Spanish resources available below.**

VisionSVdP material/tools are available in Spanish.

*(Los materiales y herramientas de la VisiónSVdP están disponibles en español.):*

<https://ssvpusa.org/vision-svdP-resources/>

Archbishop Andrew Bellisario's Welcome Video in Spanish can be accessed with this link:

*(Se puede ver al video en español de bienvenida del arzobispo Andrew Bellisario con este enlace):*

<https://vimeo.com/975263440?share=copy>

The PowerPoint Presentation in Spanish can be download using this link  
(*La presentación de PowerPoint en español se puede descargar usando este enlace*):

[VisiónSVdP-Fase-III-Diapositivas-1.0e](#)

[A](#)

Esta presentacion tambien está adjunta en version pdf.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: Can a Conference allow a member who was on sabbatical due to the fact that her husband is dying of cancer and needs her care be allowed to vote in the upcoming election?**

A: Everything depends on circumstances. If, for example, she has missed meetings for several months and is not current with what is going on in the Conference, then the answer should realistically be “no.” If she only missed a couple of meetings, then the answer is “yes.” You want to avoid the possibility and even the perception that someone was stacking the vote with as many potential votes as possible one way or the other. This would effectively be campaigning, and campaigning is forbidden in the Society.

**Q: We would like to provide SVdP smocks and T shirts to our volunteers. Can these be paid for from the Conference funds or do members have to use their own money?**

A: If Conference members together agree and want everyone to be dressed in Vincentian apparel for identity’s sake, use of Conference fund is justified to provide the clothing. Members can still make a voluntary contribution towards purchase of SVdP smocks and T shirts.

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)**

## GOVERNANCE

### **Society of St. Vincent de Paul BYLAWS What They Are and Why They Matter**

Bylaws are a nonprofit’s operating manual. Their purpose is to guide the nonprofit Board’s actions and decisions. They are helpful in preventing or resolving conflicts and disagreements. They can protect the organization from potential problems by clearly outlining rules on authority levels, rights and expectations. [Click here](#) to read this important article containing valuable information about our Bylaws and why they matter.



## Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?

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

## FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY

### Introducing the Vincentian Digital Pathway

Members, volunteers, leaders, and staff are all Vincentians, each with our own special role to play. We share our dedication to the works and the spirituality of our great patron, St. Vincent de Paul, and we seek to carry on the traditions of the Society founded by Bl. Frédéric Ozanam. We also recognize that our roles may change over time.

The Vincentian Digital Pathway is designed to let you join from where you are in your personal Vincentian journey, following your own interests to learn and to grow – to become better equipped for your current role, or to prepare for a new one. Within each area of interest, you will find videos, online reading, books you may wish to purchase or download, and more. You will find this even more fruitful the more you share and discuss it with your fellow Vincentians.

Visit the [Vincentian Digital Pathway](#) and start (or continue) your journey today!

### 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, Senior Director, Formation & Leadership Development  
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207  
[twilliams@svdpusa.org](mailto:twilliams@svdpusa.org)

## STORES CORNER

### Budgeting, Forecasting, & Measuring Your Way to Profitability

*By Paul Ihlenfeldt, Director of Operations  
North Central Region*

The non-profit thrift environment can be extremely unpredictable. You're not always sure how much you are going to receive in donations and cannot always predict how or when it is going to sell. But we can reference trends and use those trends to plan and budget for

improvement. If we do not establish a goal for improvement, we will not achieve improvement. We will only repeat what we have done and eventually lose what we have gained. [Read More](#)

### 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](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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