



# Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from

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



November 7, 2024

## A LETTER FROM YOUR SERVANT LEADERS



John Berry  
National President

The other day, I was speaking to one of our Vincentians and she asked me, “Hey, what ever happened to VisionSVdP?” I must say I was a little taken aback by the question, and I asked her why she was asking. I told her that VisionSVdP was going full speed ahead and that we were in the final two months of Phase I, with many local Conferences and Councils holding listening sessions (as a matter of fact, my own Conference just held our listening session at the end of October). She said, “OK, but you haven’t been saying much about it lately. Maybe it’s time for an

update?” Great idea! So, here we are.

Over the last year, you have heard and read about VisionSVdP, our “family conversation” that we are using to answer the call in our Rule to ‘Adapt to a Changing World.’ I first spoke about this after my Installation as National President in St. Louis in October 2023, and I have written about it often in the e-Gazette Servant Leader column and other places. We officially kicked off VisionSVdP at the 2024 Midyear Meeting, and since that time, we have held literally hundreds of listening sessions at Regional meetings, Council meetings, Conference meetings, and the National Assembly in Phoenix.

In case you are new to the Society, or you've been hiding under a rock for the last year (only kidding), you might be asking, "What is this VisionSVdP he is talking about?"

[Read More](#)

Peace and God's blessings,  
John Berry  
National President

## 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](#)

### **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 we 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 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

## Fall Newsletter

Thank you for being a part of the SVdP family! We're excited to share with you the Fall Issue of *Serving in Hope*, SVdP USA's quarterly newsletter. Every issue moving forward will highlight a local Council and the amazing work they are doing in their local community. Your service as a Vincentian helps care for millions of neighbors in need every year. Check it out [here!](#)



## 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.](#)

## November is National Puerto Rican Heritage Month

When we look at the table of St. Vincent de Paul, those of us with eyes to see can almost see the Puerto Rican jibaro and the dancers and players of Bomba at the table. To learn more about the history and traditions of this beautiful culture [click 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](#)
- [Development Coordinator](#)

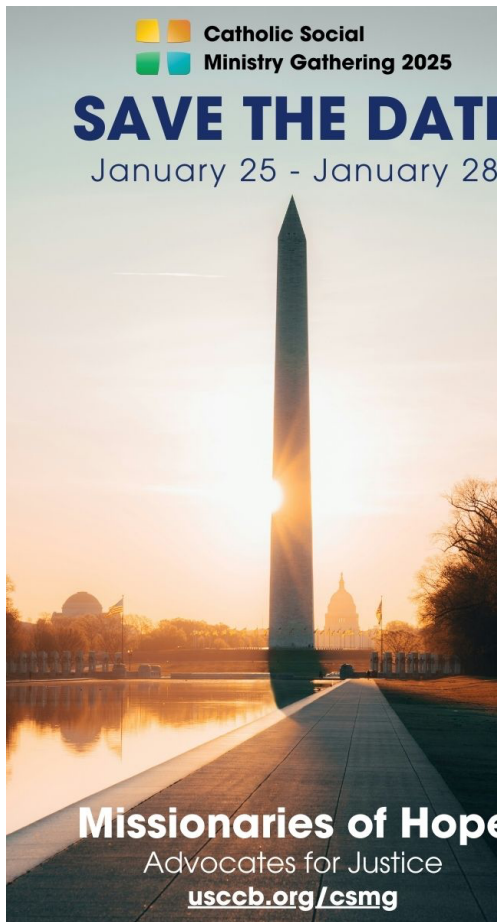
## RECRUITING NEW VINCENTIANS TO JOIN YOU



Testimonials are powerful tools. We've filmed several Vincentians talking about their heartfelt experiences serving a neighbor in need with the Society St. Vincent de Paul. These testimonial videos are available for YOUR USE on your Conference's social media, at your next parish fair, or during a pulpit talk. Recruit your friends and family to become Vincentians today!

Visit <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11431825> to see all the videos available for your use.

## POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATE



Don't miss this transformative gathering for leaders in Catholic social ministry and advocacy! We will gather to pray, learn, and work together on our Catholic call to be missionaries of hope and beacons of God's love for the world. The 2025 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering celebrates and shares a bright vision for our world and will equip leaders to become advocates for justice and peace. [Click Here](#) for more details.



**Join the discussion and be part of the solution!**

Register before November 22, to take advantage of special early bird registration. Visit the CSMG 2025 Home Site: [Register Now!!](#)

When registering use this passcode:

**NCOREG25** As a reminder, this registration code is for restricted use only and should not be shared.

The Registration Fee is \$400. The last day to register online is January 10, although on-site registration is allowed.



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 SVdP USA, 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.

## NATIONAL PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT



### **Help Keep Christ in Christmas**

At Christmas, we are great Santas, and present bearers, but are we Christ bearers? The St. Vincent de Paul Nativity Program is a way for us to serve the needy by helping to bring Christ back into their lives during the Christmas season. This is an ideal gift for your Conference Christmas Program brought to you by the SVdP Eyedentity Program. [Click here](#) to order your kit today!

## VISION SVdP

### **Reporting Deadline Is December 31**

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

#### **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



### **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!**

It takes extra effort to reach and include all voices. Let's 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.**



Spanish VisionSVdP material/tools:

*(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:

*(Video en español de bienvenida del arzobispo Andrew Bellisario):*

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

Spanish PowerPoint Presentation:

*(La presentación de PowerPoint en español):*

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

## 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: When the executive committee meets and a question of utmost importance is considered, can the committee agree with a consensus, or does a motion need to be made, seconded, discussion and vote? What does a consensus mean?**

**A:** The Rule, Part I, Article 3.10 calls for decisions to be made by consensus: "All decisions are made by consensus after the necessary prayer, reflection and consultation. The democratic spirit is fundamental at all levels of the Society and, when appropriate, matters are put to a vote." Consensus means that, if it is clear that everyone is in agreement (no matter if the decision is "yes" or "no"), then no formal vote is necessary. However, that does not mean that an important decision is not to be recorded in the minutes. This also means that, if it is clear that not everyone is in agreement, then a vote should take place. In either case, the motion and resulting decision must be recorded.

Another consideration is the executive committee. Executive committees typically have limited authority to make decisions, since decisions within a Conference or a Council are to be made by the members. The Council/Conference Bylaws and

charter for an executive committee usually defines the type of decisions they are allowed to make.

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

### **Owners And Stakeholders – Part One**

Have you ever considered the audiences you have as a Vincentian and especially as a Vincentian leader? Whether you are a Conference or Council President, a member of a Board of Directors, serve on a committee or are an Active or Associate member of a Conference there are a number of people to whom you are accountable, are your audience, or have a stake in what you do and how you do it. We call these people “stakeholders.” This week we’ll discuss five of these groups and next week an additional five. [Click here](#) to read Part One.

### **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!

### 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

#### Key Benefits of Adding an In-Store Radio System to Your Thrift Store

*By James Conley, National Store Support Manager*

Music plays a significant role in our society, not only in retail, but in overall health. It helps to relieve stress and anxiety and create a feeling of well-being for our employees, volunteers, and our customers. It also can trigger feelings of pleasure and well-being, which in a retail setting, increases total spending! To learn more about the benefits of music in stores [click 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](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!

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.

