



NOVEMBER 27, 2024

A LETTER FROM YOUR SERVANT LEADERS



The Beautiful Exchange

In early 1997, I was in the final stages of my reconciliation with the Catholic Church, a process that had begun in earnest eight years earlier and which would be consummated at the Easter Vigil that year. During those months, I had a spiritual director, a Carmelite hermit named Fr. John of the Trinity, whose hermitage was the third story of a tenement in a rough area of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

One day, I visited Fr. John, and he agreed to hear my confession. I had not yet received First Communion, but my baptism had been recognized by the Church, and I was permitted to receive the

Sacrament of Reconciliation. On this day I made a long and intense confession to Fr. John. When I finished, he looked at me, sighed, and said, "You are so arrogant." (He actually used stronger language that I'll spare you.)

Naturally, I was taken aback. "What do you mean, Father? I think that was a pretty good confession!"

[Read More](#)

Yours in Christ,
Mark Gordon
National Vice President, Northeast Region

UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

Poverty Program Committee Meetings

Voice for the Poor, *First Thursdays at 4PM Central* [See you on Zoom](#)
Poverty Action, ***December 17 at 1PM Central** [See you on Zoom](#)
Homelessness Prevention, ***December Meeting Cancelled**
***Please note the change in dates for December.**

Multicultural Diversity Committee Meetings

Fourth Thursdays at 7PM Central [See you on Zoom](#)

Saturday, December 7 at 10:00AM CENTRAL

[Register Here: Hispanic Latino Special Interest Group Virtual Listening Session](#)

Please familiarize yourself with VisionSVdP resources BEFORE the Session.

[REGÍSTRESE: Una Sesión de Escucha virtual HISPANO/LATINA de la VisiónSVdP incluyendo en ESPAÑOL \(a través de ZOOM\):](#)

Por favor familiarícese con el material de VisiónSVdP en español ANTES de la sesión. Ve a la lista completa aquí abajo.

Saturday, December 7 at 2:00PM CENTRAL

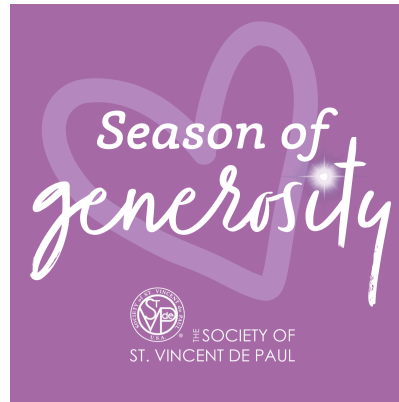
[Register Here: African American Focused Vision SVdP Virtual Listening Session](#)

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES

Giving Tuesday is December 3

As members of the Vincentian family, we are One Society united in service to those in need. This Giving Tuesday, we invite you to participate in a global effort to make a difference by giving to your local Conference, larger Council, and National SVdP. Together, millions of people will come together to [provide hope](#) during this season of generosity.



The National Council Welcomes our New Directors of Philanthropy!



Meg Ahlering brings over a decade of experience in fundraising and strategic relationship management. She has held leadership roles at Smile Train, the American Red Cross, Pfizer, and Eli Lilly, driving impactful initiatives and cultivating meaningful partnerships. Passionate about advancing missions that create positive change, Meg is eager to contribute to the Society’s work.

Outside of work, she enjoys mountain adventures, horseback riding, and quality time with her family, faith, and friends.

David Lins worked for 25 years in vibrant parishes across Arizona and California, where he held many roles. From there, he dove into the philanthropic world supporting Great Hearts Charter Schools of Arizona. He is beyond excited to meet Vincentians across the country while raising awareness – and yes, funds – for the great works they accomplish.

David and his wife Maryrose are the proud parents of their adopted daughter, Georgiana. He enjoys escaping to the mountains, reading great books, and soaking up every aspect of the adventure called “fatherhood.”



The National Council Is Hiring

The National Council is seeking qualified candidates for the role of [Development Coordinator](#).

POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATE

Voice for the Poor

Just because the election is over doesn't mean that our advocacy efforts stop. In many ways, it is the perfect time to begin. Members of Congress are back in Washington for their lame duck session to pass another continuing resolution to fund the government through early next year, as well as passing a disaster relief funding bill.

The new president and Congress will hit the ground running and begin their work in January. Will we be ready? Budget issues will be a top priority in 2025, and we will keep our eyes focused on important policies of critical importance to our neighbors, such as SNAP, health care, and housing. Make sure that our neighbors in need don't fall further behind. We need your help to ensure that every member of your Council and Conference is signed up to be an advocate for SVdP! You can build a stronger tomorrow for our neighbors in need by becoming an advocate today at <https://ssvpusa.org/take-action>.

Workforce Development Shared Interest Group: Kitchen of Champions

Kitchen of Champions, based in Alameda, California, recently presented details about their program and shared their successes and challenges with us. Check out the recording [here](#).

The program has provided opportunities for over 100 people to transform their lives, while also serving over 600 meals to disadvantaged men, women, and children daily. Watch their [Youtube video](#)!



Join the discussion and be part of the solution!

Register before **December 4** 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 should not be shared.

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

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.

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.

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 — 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

Every Voice Matters!

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

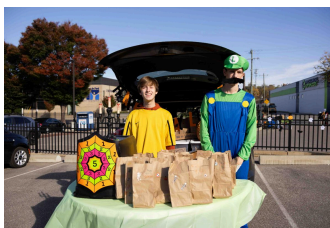
<https://vimeo.com/975263440?share=copy>

Spanish PowerPoint Presentation:

(La presentación de PowerPoint en español):

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

VINCENTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION



A big thanks to the Vincentians in our Cincinnati Youth Conferences, including Roger Bacon High School and St. Ursula Academy, pictured here, for making Halloween a bit more fun for their neighbors in need this October. These youth assisted the Cincinnati District of SVdP with their annual Trunk or Treat event for our neighbors in the West End of Cincinnati. They had just under 200 kids come through, leaving with

bags full of treats. What a great way to celebrate the holiday!

FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY



The cost is \$4,999.00 per person (based on double/shared room) plus \$1,389.00 per person to add the optional extension to Lyon. This includes airfare, hotel, local transportation and selected meals.

Vincentine Heritage Pilgrimage

Paris: September 5-13, 2025

Registration is Open!

On this Pilgrimage to France, you will walk in the footsteps of Vincent, Louise, Frédéric, and Rosalie. We'll visit the Sorbonne, where both Frédéric and Vincent studied, Ste. Etienne-du-Mont, site of the first Conference, the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal, where the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Labouré, the newly reopened Notre Dame Cathedral, and much more. You may also take advantage of the optional extension to visit Lyon, Frédéric's childhood home, and Châtillon, where the Vincentine Family was born in 1617. Spaces on this Pilgrimage are limited!

You can download the brochure for all the details, and sign up for the trip here:

<https://bookings.wittetravel.com/>

Booking Code: 090525WILL

Not ready to make a reservation yet, but still want to get updates? Or more questions? Contact Tim Williams.

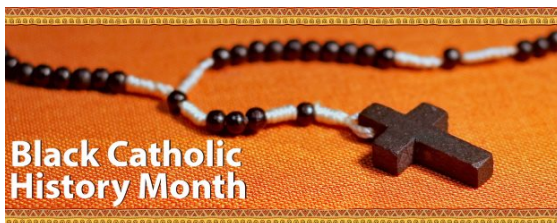
Questions Regarding Spirituality and Formation?

Contact Tim Williams, Senior Director, Formation & Leadership Development

(314) 576-3993 ext. 207

twilliams@svdpsusa.org

MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY



November Is National Black Catholic History Month

In commemoration, the Multicultural Diversity Committee is sharing this [article](#) that features the lives of six noteworthy Black Catholics on the path to canonization. These six Black Catholic candidates are on the path to

becoming the United States' first African American saints and are known as the 'Saintly Six.' Can you figure out which candidate was once referred to as a "one-person Society of St. Vincent de Paul"? Send your answer to svdpmcdc@gmail.com to be entered into a drawing to receive an icon of this saintly African American.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Our Conference was given a considerable amount of canned goods for our Food Pantry Special Works. We cannot use all of it so we decided to give some to another Conference. Is

this “twinning”?

A: What you are describing is indeed twinning and not “in-kind.” The Conference receiving donated food from another Conference does not report the donation on its annual reports. Only the Conference that initially received the food donation from an outside source and passed it on to another Conference reports the donation as “in-kind.”

Q: Are all three levels of membership eligible for the Top Hat Award? Is the 'spirit' of the Top Hat Award to nominate someone who is an Active or Associate Member, but not necessarily someone who is a Contributing Member?

A: The Top Hat Award is a local award given by the local SVdP Council, who decides the requirements and eligibility for the award. The National Council has no guidelines for this award and does not determine which membership level is eligible to receive it. This is a decision solely for each local Council. Also, the National Council no longer separately recognizes Contributing Members.

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

How to Avoid Confusion with Clear Communication

Good communication is a part of good governance. This week we offer an article by Michael S. Hyatt titled “How to Avoid Confusion with Clear Communication.” Mr. Hyatt is an author, podcaster, blogger, speaker, and founder of Michael Hyatt & Company, a leadership development firm. We think it will be worth a few minutes of your time to acquaint yourself with his tips on communicating clearly. [Click here](#) to read his article.

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

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 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.



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