



# Frederic's e-Gazette

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



NOVEMBER 21, 2024

A LETTER FROM YOUR SERVANT LEADERS



“God knows the sufferings of his children because he is an attentive and caring father. As a father, he takes care of those who are most in need: the poor, the marginalized, the suffering and the forgotten. No one is excluded from his heart, for in his eyes, we are all poor and needy.”

– **World Day of the Poor Message, 2024**

On Sunday, November 17, Pope Francis declared the **2024 World Day of the Poor**. It was the eighth declaration of a

World Day of the Poor, something that began under the Pontificate of Francis. In his message for 2024, the Pope declared the World Day of the Poor with the theme “The prayer of the poor rises up to God.” The expression that gives the 2024 World Day of the Poor its theme is taken from the **Book of Sirach** (21:5), which Pope Francis says is not sufficiently known and deserves to be discovered for the richness of its themes.

[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, \***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. Vea 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

## 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!](#)



## The National Council Is Hiring

The National Council is seeking qualified candidates for the role of [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

### **Voice for the Poor**

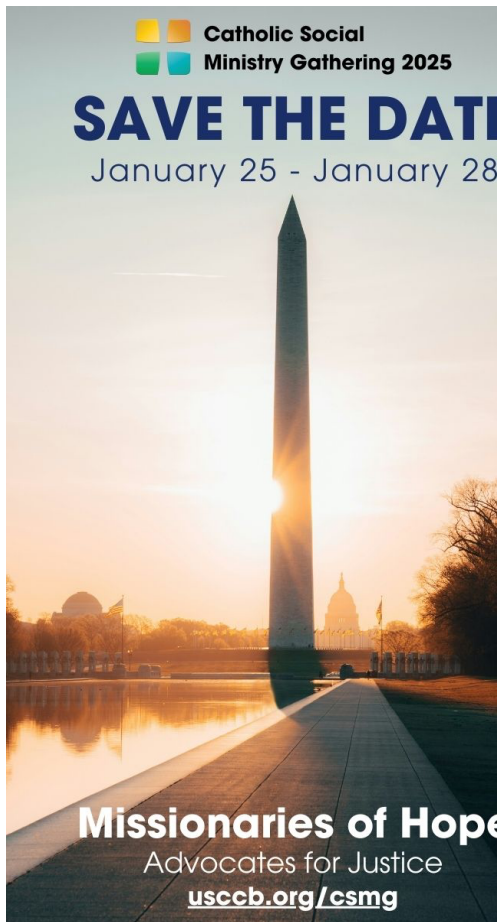
Just because the election is over doesn't mean that our advocacy efforts stop. In many ways, it is the perfect time to begin. Members of Congress are back in Washington for their lame duck session to pass another continuing resolution to fund the government through early next year, as well as passing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



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 **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.

## 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.

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



**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](mailto: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  
Vincentian  
s in our  
Cincinnati  
Youth  
Conferenc  
es,  
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



Led by Timothy P. Williams and Ralph Middlecamp



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,

### **Vincentian 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 Vincentian 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

local transportation and selected meals.

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

Booking Code: 090525WILL

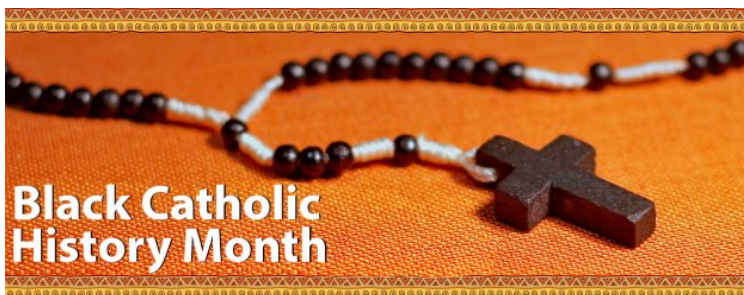
*Not ready to make a reservation yet, but still want to get updates? Or more questions? Contact Tim Williams.*

### **Questions Regarding Spirituality and Formation?**

Contact Tim Williams, Senior Director, Formation & Leadership Development  
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207

[twilliams@svdpusa.org](mailto:twilliams@svdpusa.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](mailto:svdpmcdc@gmail.com) to be entered into a drawing to receive an icon of this saintly African American.

## **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](#).



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: We have a Food Pantry at our parish, and as long as I can remember, it's been SVdP Food Pantry to our Parish and our community. I am told by our District President that it isn't SVdP Food Pantry, but our church's pantry run by Vincentians, and funds from our SVdP account cannot be used to purchase food. Can you please clarify?**

A: Your District President is correct in that we are not permitted to give funds to outside organizations. However, the key words in the phrase are "run by Vincentians." If the pantry is indeed run by Vincentians, it is a work of the Society and can be funded by the Conference. Keep in mind that, if the phrase is only used loosely and if a member or two only occasionally help out, then this does not qualify as a SVdP work. The essential question is: Is this an SVdP program, or a parish ministry? That distinction dictates our Society independence, and therefore, our financial support.

**Q: One of our Conferences noted that in the SVdP Manual on page 10 (2nd to last paragraph), there is mention of "obtaining plenary indulgences on the day of their admission to the Society..." We were wondering if there is a special SVdP ceremony that will suitably achieve the granting of the indulgence on the participants. I could not find anything in the Vincentian Celebrations Manual. We are looking for an official description of such a ceremony that would result in the granting of the indulgences.**

A: There are no ceremonies associated with indulgences. You fulfill the requirements of the indulgences, and they are granted - not by us, but by God. The requirements are specified in the paragraph you referenced in the Manual. You

can review the [Guideline for Indulgences](#) document on our website to learn more.

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

### **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](mailto:phudson@svdpusa.org)

## 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!

## 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 VINCENTIAN'S AREN'T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!

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