



Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from

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



DECEMBER 5, 2024

A LETTER FROM YOUR SERVANT LEADERS



My dear Vincentian Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter this sacred season of Advent and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, we are reminded that this is a time of joy, love, and celebration. Yet, for many among us, the holiday season can also be a time of profound difficulty and pain. It is a season that magnifies the joy of the lights and the gifts in the eyes of little children, but it also magnifies the burdens of poverty, loneliness, and sickness in those who suffer. As followers of Christ, we are

called to recognize those who struggle and to respond with compassion, love, and action.

The holiday season, marked by abundance and generosity for many, often highlights the stark contrast of scarcity for the poor. The material demands of this time — gifts, decorations, festive meals — can become a source of stress and sorrow for those who can barely make ends meet and provide the essentials for their families. As Proverbs reminds us, “Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him” ([Proverbs 14:31](#)). The poor are not forgotten by God, and neither should they be forgotten by us.

[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](#)

Thursday, December 19 at 2:00PM CENTRAL

[Register Here: Voice of the Poor Webinar: Advocating After Disaster Strikes](#)

Please join Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO of DSC, to learn how they serve our neighbors in need after disaster strikes. Hear how DSC interfaces with federal, state, and local agencies. Lastly, learn how Vincentians, like you, can get involved.

Wednesday, January 8 and 15 from 5:30PM - 8:30PM CENTRAL

[Register Here: Getting Ahead Facilitator Training](#)

This training will equip you with all the knowledge and resources to start a Getting Ahead program in your area or get involved with an existing program. **Registration closes December 19 at 5PM Central** to allow ordering/shipping/reading books from aha! Process.

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES



Our CEO Michael Acaldo was recently featured on the weekly podcast *Yes Catholic*. He shares about his inspiring journey of faith and service with SVDP. “During my 34 years of being a Vincentian in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, I have met so many good people and had the opportunity to witness ordinary people doing extraordinary things...I have been surrounded by people that have put their faith into action by sharing Christ’s love to the most vulnerable. This has shaped me in a remarkable way...” [Listen to the full podcast episode.](#)

NFL Players Support SVdP With My Cause My Cleats

Three NFL players are supporting SVdP’s mission to end homelessness in this year’s My Cause My Cleats program!

Jon Runyan Jr. of the New York Giants, Abe Lucas of the Seattle Seahawks, and Zach Tom of the Green Bay Packers will each wear SVdP-decorated cleats in My Cause My Cleats games to raise awareness and funds for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



Show your love for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and those we serve by bidding on Jon Runyan’s cleats now! https://givebutter.com/c/svdpusa_runyan

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.

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. 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!](#)

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

Oración de la VisiónSVdP

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

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

VINCENTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION



Madison SVdP Youth Service Council members initiated a new project this year - their "Pet Project", to be exact! Patrons of the busy SVdP Madison Food Pantry often inquire about the availability of dog or cat food, and YSC members have learned that sometimes people will prioritize having food for their pets over having food for themselves. The group decided to organize a 10-day dog and cat food (and cat litter) collection. Members conducted the Pet Project at schools, parishes, and local community organizations with collected items to be distributed through the SVdP Madison Food Pantry.

FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY



September 5 - 13, 2025

Led by Timothy P. Williams and Ralph Middlecamp



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!

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.

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@svdpusa.org

MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

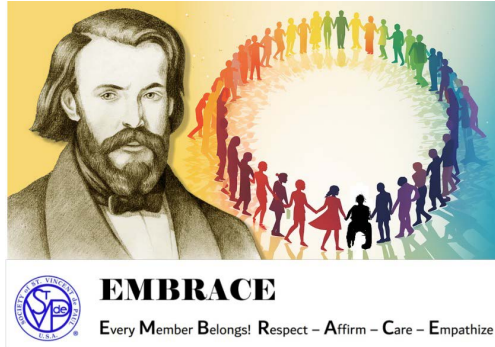
Frederic Ozanam had a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, from his youth to his death. Frederic was insistent that the Society take Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception as its patroness. The first members of the Society chose December 8 as their special Marian feast 20 years before the formal proclamation of the dogma in 1854 by Pope Blessed Pius IX and a year after Frederic's death! Vincentians implore Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, their patroness, to intercede for their Councils and Conferences, their lives and ministry. (SVdP Manual, p. 34-35)

When we as Vincentians look at the life of Mary, we see her overwhelming desire to do the will of God, which she taught her son, Jesus Christ. Let us, in celebrating Mary's Immaculate Conception, pray as she did at the Annunciation: "Let it be done to me according to your will." The song reflects our desire to serve God as Mary

did: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5VUwLsd9jl>

Vision SVdP Virtual Cultural Listening Sessions

Sponsored by the Multicultural Diversity Committee
All are welcome to participate in these virtual family conversations on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Please use the Zoom links found in the Upcoming Webinars and Events section above to register.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: I have a store committee that wants to fundraise in the community, so they can have a Christmas party for employees and volunteers. It does not sound right to me, but I want to make sure that I am not being too conservative, and I say no to something that is not against any Rule or standards. I need guidance.

A: As long as the community knows that the fundraising is for a Christmas party for employees and volunteers it is okay to do so, so long as funds are not collected for another purpose and then used for a Christmas party. We must be very careful with this because then it looks like SVdP is collecting money to serve ourselves (employees & volunteers). No fundraising is acceptable under false pretenses. As always, use your best judgement.

Q: We are getting ready for a small fundraising campaign and in our advertising, we want to use the SVdP logo in a special way. What restrictions are there on its use?

A: In 2006, the National Council passed Resolution number: 12-2-2005/6 11 assigning its Chief Executive Officer with the task of approving special uses of the SVdP Logo. The National Council's [Brand Guidelines document](#) describes the preferred uses and color for the logo. Basically, the logo design itself can't be changed, and nothing else in a larger design can touch the logo. We recommend that you draft how the logo will be used and submit it to the national Chief

Executive Officer for review and approval. This should not significantly delay the project.

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

Helping Others Serve the Poor

We offer this week the section from *Vincentian Life: Conference* titled “Helping Others Serve the Poor” focused on our activity, visibility and availability. [Click here](#) to read its instructive content.

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

Donation Acquisition

By Bryan Engel-Director of Operations – Mid-Atlantic Region, Diocesan Council of Pittsburgh

Do not tell anyone, but at one time, I worked for another thrift store organization. My title was Donations Acquisition Coordinator. I only worked there for two years before seeing the light and coming over to St. Vincent de Paul. But, during that time, I was able to raise their donations from 300,000 pounds of donations to 1.2 million pounds of donations in that timeframe. How did I do it? [Click here](#) to find out.

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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