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Frederic's E-Gazette

**An e-newsletter
from the National
Council of the U.S.
Society of St.
Vincent de Paul®**



March 26, 2020

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Disclaimer:

(NOTE: The links in some of the articles are intended to take you to websites for a specific story, page, function or program approved for your use by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Society does not accept responsibility for, or

grant approval of, peripheral advertising or stories that may reside on those websites.)

From your Servant Leaders:

Dear Vincentian Friends,

What now and what next?

Even if I glue myself to cable news, it seems impossible to answer that question. What I know is that my Vincentian vocation is still guiding how I live out my calling to follow Christ. As a young man, Frederic Ozanam wrote this to a friend: "Let us go in simplicity where merciful Providence leads us, content to see the stone on which we should next step without wanting to discover all at once and completely the windings of the road."



Vincentians have long had strong confidence and trust in God's providence. That comes easily when good things come our way just when they are needed. But, our trust in God's providence is tested when we suffer misfortunes and experience tragedies. Even in such times in my own life, however, I have always found small signs of God's presence and care.

Several weeks ago, when I could still travel, I was with our Vincentians at Sacred Heart Parish in Punta Gorda, Florida. Their pastor, Fr. Jerry Kaywell, has a keen eye for the providence of God working among us in the little signs or glimpses of grace that he calls "God whispers." He attends the Conference meetings and sometimes invites the Vincentians to share their own God whispers. These are often described as coming at difficult moments. I was moved by some of the God whisper stories I heard shared by our Vincentians.

Our Rule frames our Vincentian vocation as a journey we take together. As I noted in last week's column, our journey is now taking an unexpected detour. Even while detoured, however, we can still embrace our essential elements of spirituality, friendship and service. We will just do so differently than we might have. Let us help each other then, to listen for those God whispers. They will assure us that we can still trust in God's watchful care.

So, what next? Many of the people we may soon be called to assist will be experiencing "situational poverty." That is in contrast to those we frequently aided and mentored in the past, who were more likely to be in "generational poverty." Evolving realities will require us to acquire an understanding of new resources being developed by the federal government, state and local agencies, and a variety of other organizations. We will also need to become aware of new laws and regulations protecting those coping with poverty stemming from the crisis we are in. This knowledge will help us provide good advice to those we serve and will also help inform our decisions on the use of our own financial resources.

The other predictable "what next" is that our financial capacity to serve is going to be challenged. So right now, you may want to consider new strategies for fundraising, or create a plan for adjusting your current efforts. The Society has always been reluctant to blow its own horn, but we need to tell our story. It is compelling. We also may need to invest some of our money to begin that process.

On an ongoing basis, our National Council website (www.svdpusa.org) will offer updated information to help you with the "what now and what next." The website will provide linked information on new legislation intended to benefit the people we serve, and related webinars may be developed. Another area of linked information will be provided to inform the efforts of those with special works, stores and employees, as well as to provide ideas for new fundraising opportunities. A third area of online focus will provide linkage to a continually updated set of recommended resources for training and spirituality. Watch for more about these web offerings in this and future editions of the E-Gazette.

We know that poverty and available financial resources are not evenly matched among our communities or our Conferences. If you are not already doing so, I would urge your Council to establish a "Needy Conference Fund." This can be funded by the Council or by twinning between a Conference with the ability to help and another that needs it. Even though our Rule prohibits hoarding, we know that there are many Conferences with significant "rainy day" funds they have not been willing to share. Although funds may come from within a particular parish, an arbitrary boundary should not define who gets help. I am not sure what a "rainy day" would look like if that is not today's storm. Creating a Needy Conference Fund can allow for collaborative community fundraising that can be directed by the Council to assist Conferences with the greatest need and the greatest ability to deliver help.

After a couple of unsuccessful tries, my Conference met by phone last week. We prayed, and we made plans to call a few of the families we had recently visited to see how they are doing. There was also some business that needed to be discussed, but mostly, it was just good to hear what others were up to. I hope your Conferences are doing likewise.

Keep listening for those "God whispers" and find ways to share them.

Serviens in Spe,



Ralph Middlecamp
National Council President

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Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The Senate-passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (March 25), if passed by the House and signed by the President, will provide almost \$2 trillion in quick, economic relief to individuals, families, businesses, and communities. Highlights include cash assistance to all individuals and families, expanded unemployment insurance, and assistance to nonprofit organizations. See a complete summary with links to more information here.

[Click here](#) to read about the CARES Act.

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Continued COVID-19 Guidance to SVdP Members

As the country continues to adapt to the new reality of social distancing and impending scarcity, the Society is aware of the need for our services now more than ever.

Local Councils and Conferences shift their work from face-to-face services to creative and location-specific approaches. The National Council will continue its focus on support and value to the entire Society.

Please visit our website regularly, as we will update COVID-19 related resources for Public Policy & Advocacy, Fundraising, and Leadership Communications.

We are grateful for your good work to continue responding to shifting community needs. Thank you for all you do to fulfill our mission to feed, clothe, house, and heal friends in need across the U.S.

As a trusted nonprofit organization that already serves the most likely to be hurt by the economic devastation of the Coronavirus Crisis, the Society's work has never been more important!

To keep up with SVdP and National news regarding Coronavirus, [click here](#).

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Making the best of the Current Stores Environment

One hundred years of thrift retailing tells us that lost sales day are not recovered. We see this every year with snow days, for example. Material donations may also be limited right now as people stay home. However, there are a few strategies that Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) stores can take to make the best out of the current store closure conditions.

- While the store is closed, it's a great time to take care of those repairs that were delayed. Contractors are exempt businesses and they appreciate the work. It may be easier to manage the work while the store is empty.
- Likewise, this is the time to clean the store thoroughly. Get that floor shined up. Do some small paint jobs. Clean out the clutter from the sales floor as well as the back room!
- If you are keeping employees on the job, this is a great time to dig into those stored or warehoused bulk goods and process everything for the sales floor. Fill those racks during this interim, and be ready to re-open with a full store. For those who are not currently working in the stores, make sure to keep these employees updated with information on plans for reopening.
- However possible, keep the flow of donated goods coming into the system. Empty the drop boxes. Have someone available for drive-up donations at the store, just as the restaurants are doing. When donations are coming in keep donations separate from items already in your store. Sanitize incoming hard-goods items to help prevent the spread of the virus.
- This is Spring Cleaning time! Advertise this to the homebound as a perfect way to spend their new time at home cleaning out their closets, even if they deliver the goods to you later.
- When you re-open, consider it - and advertise it - as a Store Grand Re-Opening to attract returning and

brand new shoppers. Don't offer discounts, as we need the funds to do our mission work, and discounts give away profits! However, offer a discount or coupon that comes when they bring donated goods to the store.

- Upon opening, have two weeks extra stock available from what you have saved. Take advantage of all the new customers by having stores with full racks.

Any business interruption can be harmful. In this case with closed SVdP stores, closures give us the opportunity for new customer first impressions as we spring back to life. What can you be doing now during the closure to prepare for a bright new future for your store?

-The National Council Stores Committee

Questions? Contact:
Lori Bedwell
Stores Support Director
lbedwell@svdpusa.org

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Disaster Services SVdP-USA has set up a Coronavirus Hotline to support St. Vincent de Paul Councils and Conferences in the United States and can be accessed by calling 1 (800) 604-5759. You can learn more about Coronavirus resources and guidance at <https://www.svdpcdisaster.org/node/150/>.

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**QUESTIONS
And
Answers**

Q: Are employees of St. Vincent Thrift Stores allowed to be voting members at the local Conference? What if the thrift store is operated by the Conference that the employee is a member of? In that scenario, is the employee allowed to vote? That would appear to be a conflict of interest.

A: Store employees, like all employees of the Society at any level, can be Conference members but not officers. They may vote on all Conference matters except those which are a conflict of interest, including any that affect the store or their work as employees.

Q: Our Conference is required to tithe with our Diocesan Council. We do send some money each month, but not always the percentage requested. Is this an acceptable policy that we are doing?

A: The National Council Bylaws define the governance within the Society in the United States. You are under the governance structure of the Diocesan Council. Such decisions are made by the Diocesan Council, by vote or consensus. Once the decision is made, all members must abide by the decision whether they agree with it or not. The Rule, Part III, Statute 24 requires Conferences to provide financial support to the District and Diocesan Council in the form of solidarity contributions. It is up to each Diocesan Council to determine what each entity in their Diocesan Council should pay toward that total solidarity contribution. If no Diocesan Council exists, the District Council may assess a solidarity contribution from its Conferences, stores and special works. There is no specific "tithing" requirement.

[Click here to view the Spanish translation of this week's Q&A](#)

[Click here to download this week's Q&A](#)

[Q&A Index](#)

Click here to visit the SVdP Thrift Store website for stores-related Q&A's: <http://www.svdpusa-thriftstore.org/>

Submit your questions to:

Pam Hudson Johnson

National Director of Governance & Membership

Services

phudson@svdpusa.org

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We are not alone: Growing in our Vocation during Lent

During the Lenten Season, we are called to take the time for reflection and prayer. We are afforded in this particular Lenten season perhaps more time than usual for this quiet reflection. Remember that God speaks to us in the silence; He speaks to us in solitude; He speaks to through our silent reflection on His word.

As Vincentians, may we take extra time this season to grow in our faith through reading the wisdom of our Vincentian saints and blessed. Take out those books you have been "meaning to read." Here are a few ideas:

- [The Rule](#) - especially Part I
- [The Manual](#) - especially Vincentian Spirituality
- [Serving in Hope](#) - read through a module (or seven)
- [The Vincentian Library](#), four books by Fr. Robert Maloney
- [15 Days of Prayer with Bl Frederic](#)

And if you are all caught up on your reading, please look at the Vincentian Spirituality publications available at <https://www.svdpusa.org/materials/Vincentian-Spirituality>.

Ozanam Sunday - April 26, 2020

[Click here](#) for a list of materials available to order to celebrate this special Vincentian day.

Celebrating our 175th Anniversary

We have two Vincentian spiritual formation resources available to help celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Founding of the Society in the U.S.

[Click here](#) for more information and to order "Serving in Hope: Module VII, Our Vincentian Home Visit"

[Click here](#) for more information and to order "The Spirituality of the Home Visit: A Journal"

**For more information contact:
Tim Williams
National Formation Director**

twilliams@svdpusa.org

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Getting Ahead Facilitator Training - Spring 2020

Conferences and Councils across the country are running [Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World](#), a comprehensive program that empowers individuals to build their own personal plans for economic security and create Systemic Change.

The Facilitator 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.

Wednesday, April 8 & 15
6:30-9:30 p.m. Eastern
[Register for our Online Training Here!](#)

Future Trainings:

Summer: Wednesday, July 22 & 29 at 6:30-9:30 p.m. Eastern

Fall: Saturday, October 10 & 17 at 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Eastern

Are you a Getting Ahead facilitator with questions, ideas, or best practices? Start a conversation in the [Getting Ahead Community of Practice](#) today!

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World is a licensed work of aha! Process, Inc. The National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a licensed provider of facilitator training for the Getting Ahead program.

For more information, contact:

Tom Mulloy

National Director of Poverty Programs

tmulloy@svdpusa.org

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More on Council Structure

Our excerpts from Vincentian Life: Council continue with a focus on additional aspects of Council structure and operation.

[Click here](#) for helpful information on the topics of Committee Structure, Tax Exemption, Doing Business As..., and Council Bylaws.

Next week we will look at the section on Council officers.

SVdP Mentoring Opportunity

As Vincentians and Vincentian leaders, we all know the rewards that come from helping rescue people in crises and helping them take steps toward self-sufficiency. The Vincentian Mentoring program provides an opportunity for a similar reward.

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) to access the application.

Questions? Contact:
Pam Hudson Johnson
Director of Governance & Membership Services

314-576-3993 ext. 214
phudson@svdpusa.org

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National Young Adult Service Day Update

The National Young Adult Service Day has been cancelled. Please check back for information regarding a virtual meeting in its place.

To stay up-to-date on all SVdP Young Adult news, subscribe to the YA newsletter by [clicking here](#).

Three Days Left to order SVdP Young Adults Mosaic T-Shirt!



SVdP Young Adults are still selling the Blessed Frederic Ozanam Mosaic T-Shirt.

The money raised will be donated to the Blessed Frederic Ozanam Mosaic Fund as a contribution from the Society's Young Adults.

Don't miss out on this opportunity (again)! Buy your shirt today!

[Click here](#) for more information and to order.

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2020 Hard Copy Annual Reports Available!

The hard-copy 2020 annual report forms are now available. The reporting period for Vincentian assistance and services provided to our friends in need is for the period of FY Oct 1, 2019 - Sept 30, 2020.

Quarterly report hard copy forms are also available!

Here is the link:

<https://www.svdpusa.org/members/Documents/Annual-Report-Forms>

NOTE: The online data entry program for the 2020 annual reports will be available after the start of the new fiscal year 2020-21 after October 1, 2020.

For information regarding Annual Reports, contact:

Pam Hudson Johnson

Director of Governance and Membership Services

314-576-3993 ext. 214

phudson@svdpusa.org

All 2019 Online Annual Reports are now due!

Have you filed your 2019 annual report online yet? Tomorrow is the deadline for ALL reports to be filed online for Vincentian assistance and services provided to our friends in need from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept 30, 2019. Click here to enter your report

today: <https://www.svdpmembers.com/annual-reports/annual-reporting-cycles/>.

The Society's fiscal year is Oct 1-Sept 30. Here are the official annual report due dates for each level of our organization:

- Conference annual reports due Nov 30
- District Councils annual reports due Dec 31
- (Arch)Diocesan Councils annual reports due Jan 31
- Special Works & Thrift Store reports are due the same date as the Conferences/Councils that owns/operates them

Isolated Conferences can email hard copy forms to jwitzel@svdpusa.org.

[Click here](#) to download 2019 hard copy forms.

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Electronic Filing of Form 1023

If your Council or Conference is planning on applying for independent tax exemption by filing a Form 1023, please note that the IRS went live last week enabling organizations to file the IRS Form 1023 Application electronically.

This is generally a welcome advancement but Friday's announcement also included a short 90-day grace period for filing paper 1023 Applications.

As of January 31, 2020, the IRS requires that Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, be completed and submitted through Pay.gov. There is a 90-day grace period during which the IRS will continue to accept paper versions of Form 1023.

<https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/electronic-filing-of-form-1023>

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SVdP Prayer Intention Program Milestone

The SVdP Prayer Intention Program which was launched nationally at the Denver National Assembly last August has now sent out 10,000 requested SVdP Chaplet Prayer Cards. Conferences, Councils, and Thrift Stores have requested the prayer intention boxes from coast to coast. If you want more information on this powerful SVdP prayer program, go to http://www.magnalite-usa.com/prayer_intention.html.

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SVdP In the News



***Deadline for Frederic's E-Gazette articles submission:
Every Wednesday by 12 noon for article to be included in
current week's edition**

International News

IRELAND:

[SVP outlets in Co Armagh offering help during Covid-19 coronavirus crisis](#)

CANADA:

[Volunteers deliver food, but keep their distance from those in need in Boitania Park Sunday](#)

National News

CLEVELAND, OH:

[Group that helps the homeless needs help themselves as pandemic spreads](#)

PHOENIX, AZ:

[At St. Vincent de Paul, social distancing doesn't mean homeless people will go hungry](#)

ST. PETERSBURG, FL:

[Homeless shelter moves mattresses to underpass to maintain social distancing](#)

BOISE, ID:

[Foodbanks feeling the strain of COVID-19, continue to help those in need](#)

NATIONAL:

[Vincent de Paul: God feeds us to feed others](#)

[Click here](#) for more national SVdP news.

Dates for 2020:	
Western Regional Meeting May 21-23 Sacramento, CA	South Central Regional Meeting June 22-27 Oklahoma City, OK
North Central Regional Meeting June 11-13 Milwaukee, WI	Eastern Regional Meeting June 27 Emmitsburg, MD
Mideast Regional Meeting June 11-13 Livonia, MI	Invitation for Renewal July 29 - August 2 St. Louis, MO Click here for info.
Midwest Regional Meeting June 19-20 Des Moines, IA	National Assembly September 2-5 St. Louis, MO
	Invitation for Renewal November 4-8 St. Louis, MO

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*Responding to Local
Disasters Nationally*

Be sure to follow SVdP Disaster Services Corp. on Facebook for updates, [click here to visit their Facebook page](#).

For more information about SVdP Disaster Services, [click here](#) or contact:

Elizabeth Disco-Shearer
CEO, SVdP Disaster
Services
ldisco@svdpdisaster.org

Kevin Peach
COO, SVdP Disaster
Services
kpeach@svdpdisaster.org

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Social Media

Keep up with SVdP on your favorite social media!



[Click here to keep up with SVdP on social media and join our mobile network!](#)

[Download the free SVdP mobile app now by clicking here!](#)

***You can watch the OFIA TV series and movie on-demand through the mobile app and you can access it on your phone or tablet!**

[Click here to connect with Voice of the Poor on social media!](#)

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Vincentian Prayer List

Are you or another Vincentian you know in need of prayers from fellow SVdP members? Send the prayer intention to Pam Hudson at phudson@svdpusa.org and we will add the name to the prayer list on the SVdP website. Thank you and God Bless.

[Click here to view the Vincentian Prayer List.](#)

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To print the E-Gazette

If you wish to print the E-Gazette and are having trouble printing it from your email, [click here](#) to print this issue and past issues of the E-Gazette in PDF format straight from the SVdP website!

Looking to Support SVdP Programs?

[Click here](#) to access the online donation portal. Use the drop down menu to choose from a variety of national SVdP programs to support.

If you would like to donate by check, please send it to:

SVdP National Council
58 Progress Parkway
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

*In the memo field please write the program you are supporting

ATTENTION COUNCIL PRESIDENTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS: SOME OF YOUR MEMBERS AREN'T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!

If you or another member of your Conference is not receiving the E-Gazette email, jwitzel@svdpusa.org.

Have you Opted Out?

**WERE YOU GETTING THIS NEWSLETTER
BUT NO LONGER ARE?**

When an email address has been removed by the owner, or the email address holder designates "Do Not Mail," the email address cannot be re-added by the National Council office. The email address holder must sign him or herself up to resume receiving Frederic's E-Gazette at:

<http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6>

Is your Conference or Council doing something that you think should appear in the E-Gazette or on SVdPUSA social media? Send your good news to us!

Michelle Boyer

Marketing Communications

Specialist

Email: mboyer@svdpusa.org

(314) 576-3993 ext. 219