

**Frederic's E-Gazette**  
**An e-newsletter from the National Council of**  
**the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul®**

**April 2, 2020**



---

**Stay Connected to SVdPUSA**



[Visit our Website](#)

---

**Table of Contents:**

- [A Letter from your Servant Leaders](#)
- [A Message from SVdP's National Episcopal Advisor in these Uncertain Times](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#)
- [Nonprofit Business Operations and Coronavirus Response](#)
- [Continued COVID-19 Guidance to SVdP Members](#)
- [Helping Friends in Need Access Coronavirus Assistance Programs](#)
- [A Letter from the International President General](#)
- [Making the best of the Current Stores Environment](#)
- [Disaster Services Coronavirus Hotline](#)
- [Vincentian Family Prayer Chain](#)
- [SVdP National Council welcomes new National Director of Formation](#)
- [International SVdP mourns the Death of Servant of the Society](#)
- [SVdP National Council searching for new Director of Stores Support](#)
- ["Could our Rule be rewritten just by observing your Conference?"](#)
- [Richmond Vincentians leading Nationwide Rosary](#)
- [Ozanam Sunday - April 26, 2020](#)
- [Celebrating our 175th Anniversary](#)
- [Getting Ahead Facilitator Training - Spring 2020](#)
- [Servant Leadership Responsibilities](#)

- **2020 Hard Copy Annual Reports Available!**
- **All 2019 Online Annual Reports are now due!**
- **In the News**
- **Dates to Remember**
- **How to keep up with SVdP**
- **Vincentian Prayer List**
- **Looking to Support SVdP Programs?**
- **Make sure your members are signed up for the E-Gazette**

---

## A Letter from your Servant Leaders

A lot has changed with the COVID-19 pandemic, including for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the USA and globally. Some things, however, have not changed, such as the National Council's commitment to serve our member Councils and Conferences, and the work of these 4,400 Conferences to help neighbors in need even when our traditional Home visits are not allowed.



Here are a few important updates and in most cases, resources:

**National Council will NOT conduct a national COVID-19 fundraising campaign.** President Ralph Middlecamp and I have determined that the best thing to do is to support local Council and Conference fundraising during this time. Our social media will champion your good work, and we will offer fundraising strategies, tips and sample campaign language you can use on our new COVID-19 webpage (see below). Contact our Chief Advancement Officer Kitty Lohrum ([klohrum@svdpusa.org](mailto:klohrum@svdpusa.org)) for help.

**National Council will NOT offer grants to Councils or Conferences for the COVID-19 emergency.** We have no such available funds. Our Domestic Disaster Fund provides general support to Disaster Services Corporation and for 1-2 localized, large disasters a year. We have not seen anything like the COVID-19 emergency previously, so we have no funds available for local grants.

Some perspective is in order. A Council's solidarity payments (dues) equals no more than six-tenths of one percent of the annual gross income raised and earned locally. With approved exclusions, it is often less. This means that 99.4 percent of the Society's wealth is at the local levels – where it should be! During emergency times such as now, the available funds to be unlocked may be in Conference savings accounts, or at the Conference or Council next door, not at "National."

**Friends of the Poor grants will continue.** Two of the four rounds have already been conducted this year. We will go forward with the grants in the remaining cycles, using the funds restricted for this purpose to provide emergency services (including many of those provided during the emergency). We will also have a national, systemic change grant cycle we will announce soon in the E-Gazette. Contact Gerri Sample ([gsample@svdpusa.org](mailto:gsample@svdpusa.org)) for more information.

**Information to help the people we serve** is gathered daily by National Director of Poverty Programs Tom Mulloy ([tmulloy@svdpusa.org](mailto:tmulloy@svdpusa.org)) and placed **on our new COVID-19 website:**

<https://www.svdpusa.org/Assistance-Services/COVID-19-Response>.

Here you will find whatever we learn about unemployment benefits, direct CARES Act stimulus payments and other resources. Keep in mind that a lot of this information, such as eviction and utilities assistance, is directed from the state or local level.

Likewise, **information to help Councils/Conferences, especially those that are employers**, will also be included on the same website on a different page. We are learning about nonprofit loan program eligibility, payroll assistance and other resources that typically are not available to the nonprofit community. We have already included a paper on what to do when your store closes for the duration, and how to plan for a re-opening. Contact National Director of Stores Support Lori Bedwell ([lbedwell@svdpusa.org](mailto:lbedwell@svdpusa.org)) for assistance.

Speaking of assistance, thank you for your continued solidarity payments! These funds keep the National Council operating. If you need to **create or modify a solidarity payment plan** to spread out payments during this crazy time, please contact Pam Hudson Johnson at [phudson@svdpusa.org](mailto:phudson@svdpusa.org). We will work with you to manage (not forgive) payments.

**Our Catalog department is open!** Patrick Maessen ([pmaessen@svdpusa.org](mailto:pmaessen@svdpusa.org)) is our only staffer at the office, standing by to ship you formation, governance, training and any other materials you need.

**The entire National Council staff is working remotely for the time being.** However, our phone and email systems should make your contacts to us transparent. Just call our regular number and the calls will transfer to individual cell phones. Just like with each of you, our workload shifted significantly with the virus outbreak, but we are still here for you – just not in the same “here” as a few weeks ago!

We have taken precautions to keep our staff safe, and we pray that you have done this as well. Yet we continue to serve with creativity, flexibility and of course, prayer. What a way to celebrate 175 years of service in the United States! Our founders must be smiling!

Yours in Christ,



Dave Barringer  
National CEO

---



## A Message from SVdP's National Episcopal Advisor in these Uncertain Times

[Click here](#) to watch Bishop Donald J. Hying's message.

---

### Questions and Answers

**Q: We have two new Conferences who have applied for membership to the national Society. One is about a year old and the other younger. When will these Conferences receive acceptance letters from the National Council office?**

A: Once a new Conference application has been received and the Conference is added to the National Council Membership Database, an email notice is sent to the Council president, regional vice-president and Conference president advising that the Conference has been added to the membership database accordingly.

After one year of formation, Conferences are eligible to apply for aggregation. A Letter of Aggregation certificate is issued by the International Council General (CGI) in Paris, and recognizes Conferences as official SVdP entities. Aggregation Certificates are registered with the international SVdP office and issued to Conferences throughout the world. Separately, Councils are eligible to apply for Letters of Institution certificates immediately and do not require a one-year waiting period. Contact Julie Witzel at the national office; for more information email [jwitzel@svdpusa.org](mailto:jwitzel@svdpusa.org).

Please refer to the Manual page 27 and throughout the Rule (Sec 1.3.8; Sec 2.6 & Sec 3 Statute 6) for an official definition & explanation of the process of aggregation for Conferences and institution certification for (Arch)Diocesan and District Councils.

**Q: I am doing a project about how students should participate in community service for my senior college Social Work class. What is the eligibility criterion for the services provided by the Society? What roles do social workers have in your organization?**

A: There are no eligibility criteria. We assist all in need regardless of age, race, religion or creed. There is no formal role of a social worker; some add great value as volunteer Vincentians. The Society does not use "social workers" per say. Our members generally assess the needs of those we serve.

[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](mailto:phudson@svdpusa.org)

---

## **Nonprofit Business Operations and Coronavirus Response**

Over the past month, Congress has passed a number of bills in response to the novel Coronavirus outbreak: the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Taken together, these bills will provide close to \$3 trillion in economic relief to individuals, families, businesses, and communities.

Some of the provisions in these bills provide targeted assistance to nonprofits serving those in need, while others make changes to policies that could affect decision making regarding staff and operations.

[Download a primer](#) from our COVID-19 response webpage, and stay tuned to [www.svdpusa.org/covid-19](http://www.svdpusa.org/covid-19) for more information and updates.

---

## **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 (<https://www.svdpusa.org/Assistance-Services/COVID-19-Response>), 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!

---

## Helping Friends in Need Access Coronavirus Assistance Programs

Over the past month, Congress has passed a number of bills in response to the novel Coronavirus outbreak. Taken together, these bills will provide close to \$3 trillion in economic relief to individuals, families, businesses, and communities.

This webinar will help Vincentians understand the assistance available to friends in need, how to access it, and what more we can do to protect poor and vulnerable people during this unprecedented time.

### Join Us!

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

[Register Here](#)

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation with information on connecting to the webinar.*

### Questions? Contact:

**Tom Mulloy**

**National Director of Poverty Programs**

**314-576-3993 ext. 215**

[tmulloy@svdpusa.org](mailto:tmulloy@svdpusa.org)

---

## A Letter from the International President General

***Let's have faith: God will protect and strengthen everyone Vincentians during this battle against the coronavirus***

In our spiritual journey as Christians, baptized and Vincentians, we have already experienced innumerable tribulations and challenges, in all areas of our lives: in the family, in the professional field, in studies, in the search for work, in the area of health, and among many other dimensions as human beings. Also in the Church and in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, we sometimes experience disappointments and setbacks that leave us letdown and very sad in certain situations.

In recent weeks, we have faced the **global coronavirus crisis**, a pandemic that is forcing social confinement and, of course, the prohibition of personal contact, especially with the elderly. Several important events, courses and assemblies are being postponed. Donations to our Conferences, Councils and Vincentian special works are being reduced. We all have to reinvent ourselves to keep Vincentian charity updated.

Anxiety about not being able to make home visits, as we used to, is psychologically impacting many brothers and sisters in all countries. The economy will be impacted. The poor will and the homeless be the most affected and the most vulnerable. However, as Vincentians, we will not be immune to this inevitability. We will also be affected and impoverished by these turn of events.

[Click here](#) to read the full letter in English.

[Click here](#) to read the letter in Spanish.

---

## 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](mailto:lbedwell@svdpusa.org)



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.svdpdisaster.org/node/150/>.

---

## Vincentian Family Prayer Chain

The Council General requests Vincentians throughout the world to invoke the intercession of Mary just in a very simple prayer which we can say slowly and reverently:

- One Hail Mary
- And this prayer, dedicated to Vincentians around the world ...

*Our Lord and Our Father,  
As Vincentian we are dedicated to doing your work to help those in need around the world. Please protect all Vincentians from communicable diseases in our home visits and in our many other forms of service which we do in your name. Please protect those that are now afflicted with the Coronavirus and help this global pandemic to pass. For this we humbly pray. Amen*

[Click here](#) for more about the prayer chain.



---

## SVdP National Council welcomes new National Director of Formation

The National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul is excited to welcome Tim Williams as its new National Director of Formation.

Tim will be taking over for Sister Kieran Kneaves, DC, who is retiring after spending nearly two decades working as the Director of Formation at the SVdP National Council.

"I want to be clear about one thing: I am *succeeding* Sr. Kieran, not *replacing* her!" joked Tim.

Previously, Tim served the Diocesan Council of Dallas as its Senior Formator and first vice president on their board of directors.

Nationally, he chaired the task force to rewrite the Spiritual Advisor Handbook and co-developed the new Spiritual Advisor training program.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Tim.

To contact Tim, you can call him at 314-576-3993 ext. 207, email him at [twilliams@svdpusa.org](mailto:twilliams@svdpusa.org), and follow him on Twitter [@SVdP\\_Formation](https://twitter.com/SVdP_Formation).

---

## International SVdP mourns the Death of Servant of the Society

We have been informed that David Williams, a great servant of the Society, has died following admission to hospital suffering from complications after contracting Coronavirus.

The President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira, declares 3 days of mourning for the death of our fellow member David Williams, who served tirelessly to the English and the International SSVP for many years.



[Click here](#) to learn more about David and the things he accomplished during his time with SVdP.

---

## SVdP National Council searching for new Director of Stores Support

[Click here](#) to view the job listing.

**To inquire or apply, contact:**  
**Anna Filson**  
[afilson@svdpusa.org](mailto:afilson@svdpusa.org)

---

## “Could our Rule be rewritten just by observing your Conference?”

Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, in an address to the National Assembly in 2006, reminded us of the tradition of “Rules” for religious orders. Centuries ago, these rules were typically handwritten; fire, water, or any number of things could destroy the single copy on hand. Then what?

The idea of a rule was that, should it be lost, it could be rewritten just by observing how the members of the order live.

I don’t know about you, but when I hear the word “rule,” I think first of restrictive, prescriptive codes of conduct. Our Rule is not that. Like the rules of religious orders, it is primarily a spiritual document. It tells us, for example, that Vincentians “*establish relationships based on trust and friendship*” with those that we serve, and that we seek to understand their problems “*as [we] would a brother or sister.*”

I am not sure I can say what specific actions those phrases are instructing me to take. But I can ask myself this:

*"If an outside observer were to watch me present a home visit report, are those the sentences they would write to describe what I shared? Would they think I was talking about a friend, a brother, a sister?"*

This is the gift of our Rule. It demands nothing of us. It only describes our calling.

It is up to us to answer that call.

**Recommended reading this week:**

**The Rule, Part I, 1.7 - 1.12**

**Contemplate:**

**Could our Rule be rewritten just by observing me?**

**Questions regarding Formation, contact:**

**Tim Williams**

**National Formation Director**

**314-576-3993 ext. 207**

**[twilliams@svdpusa.org](mailto:twilliams@svdpusa.org)**

---

## **Richmond Vincentians leading nationwide Rosary**

Vincentians in the Diocese of Richmond will do an intentional rosary this Sunday evening at 7 p.m. Eastern. Please consider joining!

The 5 intentions are below.

Intentions:

- 1-Safety of our healthcare professionals
- 2-Recovery of those suffering with the virus
- 3-Wisdom for our leaders (government and church)
- 4-Those suffering from the economic impact of the virus response
- 5-God's infinite wisdom to provide a cure

If you say the rosary at that time, please email [info@svdp-rva.org](mailto:info@svdp-rva.org) and include your location. For example: "Prayed the Rosary in Baltimore, MD on 4-5-20."

---

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

---

## Servant Leadership Responsibilities

We continue our excerpts from the valuable content of *Vincentian Life: Council* with a focus on Council officers.

[Click here](#) for helpful information on the topics of Servant Leadership, Training, Experience/Limitations, Seek Expert Advice, No Surprises, Involve Everyone, No Absentee Presidents, Succession Planning and Special Conditions.

Next week we will examine the section on Paid Staff.

**Questions? Contact:**

**Pam Hudson Johnson**

**Director of Governance & Membership Services**

**314-576-3993 ext. 214**

[phudson@svdpusa.org](mailto:phudson@svdpusa.org)

---

## 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.

---

**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](mailto:jwitzel@svdpusa.org).

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

**For information regarding Annual Reports, contact:**

**Pam Hudson Johnson**

**Director of Governance and Membership Services**

**314-576-3993 ext. 214**

[phudson@svdpusa.org](mailto:phudson@svdpusa.org)

---

## In the News

### International

**CGI:**

[Don't Miss the 3rd Talk Show with President General!](#)

**CGI:**

[Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative Annual Report](#)

**CANADA:**

[€1k donated by customers of man's shop goes to SVP](#)

### National

**MADISON, WI:**

[St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy is committed to keep their doors open](#)

**WOOSTER, MA:**

[St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Mary provides Financial Assistance, Prayerful Support](#)

**DAYTON, OH:**

[St. Vincent de Paul Dayton launches Operation STOPCOVID](#)

**SEATTLE, WA:**

[Centro Rendu Helps those Struggling in Seattle](#)

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

---

## Dates to Remember

**Western Regional Meeting**  
May 21-23  
Sacramento, CA

**North Central  
Regional Meeting**  
June 11-13  
Milwaukee, WI

**Midwest Regional Meeting**  
June 19-20  
Des Moines, IA

**South Central Regional Meeting**  
June 22-27  
Oklahoma City, OK

**Eastern Regional Meeting**  
June 27  
Emmitsburg, MD

**Invitation for Renewal**  
July 29 - August 2  
St. Louis, MO  
[Click here](#) for info.

**National Assembly**  
September 2-5  
St. Louis, MO

**Invitation for Renewal**  
November 4-8  
St. Louis, MO

## How to keep up with SVdP

[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!](#)

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

---

## 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](mailto: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.](#)

---

## 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](mailto: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!