

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

April 9, 2020



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A Letter from your Servant Leaders

Dear Vincentian Friends,

In a letter to his mother-in-law on Holy Saturday, April 7, 1849, Blessed Frederic Ozanam wrote, *“And you my good mother, when will you come back to us? ... We are reduced to spending Easter holidays without each other. Or rather, we know we will meet at the foot of the good master who awaits us tomorrow morning. Ah, after the sorrows, the fatigue, the battles of life, **it is consoling to have these short moments of rest** as a Saint John on the Savior’s Breast. When one is weary of work, the heart is agitated with discontent and discussion, long days spent in contradictions, in rivalries, in contact with the cruel passions of men, **one yearns for the peace of these holy days!**”*



I read this and reflect that he could be writing this to you and me this week. My deepest hope for you is that you will be able to step into these holy days and find grace and peace. Even though we are separated from friends and family, we can be close to each other by strengthening our loving relationship with Jesus as we recall the events of these special days.

I wish you a Blessed Easter and continue to pray for you, your families and those you serve.

Serviens in spe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ralph Middlecamp".

Ralph Middlecamp
SVdP National President

Questions and Answers

Q: Our store has been up and running successfully for a while. We now are getting a large number of "walk-in" friends in need. We have hired one of our current

Vincentians, who is experienced with the home visit process, as an "intake coordinator." We will continue to use the Home Visit process, but will have the coordinator do intake documentation, refer to other sources of help, coordinate volunteers for home visits, and handle immediate service for basic human needs emergencies.

We would greatly appreciate any documentation on position descriptions, words of wisdom, or other guidelines to get started with this process.

A: Here are some considerations:

1. You are hiring a Vincentian to be the intake coordinator. This means that that person will not be eligible for a role as an officer of the Conference. Paid staff are not allowed to be officers. This person can still be a member, but not an officer.
2. The role of paid staff is to assist Vincentians in the work they do - not do their works of charity for them.
3. The interview and decisions for assistance should be done by two Vincentians, with someone working with the intake coordinator during interviews to decide what basic assistance is to be given.
4. There is no national documentation such as a job description describing an intake coordinator.

Q: Can you give me a list of days of the calendar year for celebrating Frederic Ozanam, Rosalie Rendu and St. Vincent de Paul?

A: For feast days, please refer to page 10 of the Manual which states: According to the original Rule and the Society's tradition, Vincentians celebrate "Festival Meetings," gathering together for Mass and a meeting. Today the Society meets on one or more of the following: the Feast of Blessed Rosalie Rendu (Feb 7th), Ozanam Sunday (the last Sunday of April), in honor of the April 23rd birthday of Frédéric Ozanam), the Feast of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam (Sept 9th), the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul (Sept 27th), the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec 8th), the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 12th). See also Rule: Part III, Statute 9.

[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

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 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!

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



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/>.

Society says goodbye as Sr. Kieran Kneaves, D.C. retires

“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” – A.A. Milne

In 1962, Sr. Kieran Kneaves, D.C. took her vows and officially became a Daughter of Charity and a member of the Vincentian Family. She spent 15 years as a high school chemistry teacher, 13 years as a youth and young adult minister and 11 years in health ministry.



Then, in 2002, the National Council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul welcomed her as the National Formation Director.

“We needed, at that time, a gifted educator who was grounded in Vincentian Spirituality to develop a plan and related materials to assist Vincentians to know and live our Vincentian Spirituality,” said Eugene Smith, former SVdP National President. “We found Sister Kieran by the grace of God.”

[Click here](#) to read more about Sr. Kieran Kneaves, D.C.

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 searching for new Director of Stores Support

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

**To inquire or apply, contact:
Anna Filson**

afilson@svdpusa.org



Introducing "Fred Talks"

We are happy to introduce to you Fred Talks! These short videos offer information on topics of Vincentian Heritage, Traditions, and Spirituality in five minutes or less – what Vincentian can't spare time for that?

This week, we talk about [Home Visits in Times of Disaster](#), a timely topic, we hope.

Help That Honors: The Mutuality of Vincentian Charity

I hope you are not still using the dreaded “c” word to describe our neighbors in need! The words we use not only reflect the way we feel, but can also affect the way that we act.

In a famous essay, Bl. Frederic once explained the difference between help that humiliates, and help that honors. If all that we do is deliver material assistance like food, firewood, rent money – things that the poor can never repay – we leave them indebted. When we extend a hand to shake, offer a word of encouragement and a prayer, then we are giving things that we, too, will need one day.

Help honors, Frederic explained, because it may become mutual. Because “the hand you clasp clasps yours in return.”

We are called to establish relationships based on trust and friendship; to understand the troubles of those we serve as we would a brother or sister; to be the neighbor, the Good Samaritan. Our Rule consistently uses the language of mutual relationships to describe our service, and this is why:

To have a neighbor you have to be a neighbor.

To have a friend, you have to be a friend.

To have a brother or sister you have to be a brother or sister.

Clients don't have clients!

Perhaps during this pandemic, it will become easier for us to remember “we are all in this together!”

Recommended reading this week: [Spirituality of the Home Visit: A Journal](#), Parts I and II

Contemplate: When I last saw the Face of Christ on a home visit, how did He change me?

Questions regarding Formation, contact:

Tim Williams

National Formation Director

314-576-3993 ext. 207

twilliams@svdpusa.org

Ozanam Sunday - April 26, 2020

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

The Friends of the Poor® Grant Program Mideast and Midwest Regional Cycle has been moved up

We are already seeing what the Coronavirus pandemic will mean to our critical work and have made the decision to move up our last regional grant submission cycle to April instead of May to assist Conferences and Councils with the upcoming surge in need.

Submission Cycle Opens April 13th

Deadline April 30th!

[APPLY TODAY!](#)

[Click here](#) for more information.

Managing Paid Staff

The section on Paid Staff is the focus of this week's excerpt from the pages of *Vincentian Life: Council*.

[Click here](#) for information on the topics of Hiring A Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, Supervision, Personnel Manual, Termination and Wages/Working Conditions.

In coming weeks we will address additional aspects of Council operations.

Questions? Contact:

Pam Hudson Johnson

Director of Governance & Membership Services

314-576-3993 ext. 214

phudson@svdpusa.org



“Helping Friends in Need Access Coronavirus Assistance Programs”

The response to the webinar was overwhelming we had over 600 total registrants!

If you weren't able to join us, you can access an archived recording and the slides [on our COVID-19 Resource webpage](#).

Remember to stay tuned to the webpage for regular updates and additional information to help your Conference and Council respond to this unprecedented time in our nation.

“Civility in a Time of Political Strife”

Talking about Congress, policy, and advocacy can be very challenging. Partisan rancor discourages well-meaning people from undertaking the important work of being advocates for poor and vulnerable people, which is especially important in times like these.

Join the Voice of the Poor Committee to learn more about the programs and resources available to Vincentians that can help us have meaningful conversations about poverty and advocacy that affirm human dignity.

Thursday, April 16 at 3:00 PM ET

[Register Here](#)

Questions? Contact:

Tom Mulloy

Director of Poverty Programs

314-576-3993 ext. 215

tmulloy@svdpusa.org

Getting Ahead Practitioner Call: "How We're Adapting to the Coronavirus”

The COVID-19 pandemic has halted Getting Ahead programs, but staying connected and continuing to build trust is still important. If you're running a Getting Ahead program that has been interrupted by a stay-at-home order, or had a start date postponed, join us for a conversation about how to help friends in need continue to “Get Ahead” even when meeting in person is not possible.

Monday, April 20, 2020

1:00-2:00 PM ET

[Register Here](#)

Questions? Contact:

Tom Mulloy

Director of Poverty Programs

314-576-3993 ext. 215

tmulloy@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.

[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

In the News

International

NEW ZEALAND:

[SVDP extends commitment to environment](#)

NEW ZEALAND:

[Vinnies facing 380% increase in demand for its services in Wellington](#)

IRELAND:

[St Vincent de Paul reports 15000 calls for help in March](#)

AUSTRALIA:

[Canberra Support Services to tackle Homelessness in a COVID-19 World](#)

National

PHOENIX, AZ:

[Nonprofits continue food, vital services amid coronavirus concerns](#)

DALLAS, TX:

[In Times of Coronavirus, this free Pharmacy doesn't stop](#)

LOS ANGELES, CA:

[New hotline, volunteer effort for LA's neediest prepares for long haul amid pandemic](#)

ALPENA, MI:

[Groups ready to help newly needy amid virus outbreak](#)

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

Dates to Remember

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

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!](#)

**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**

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 Johnson 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.](#)

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!