

Frederic's E-Gazette
An e-newsletter from the National Council of
the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul®
May 14, 2020



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A Letter from your Servant Leaders

“How are you doing?”

That’s something we all ask each other, but -- given what we are all going through – how do we answer? “OK, but ...” is the answer I frequently give and hear. Honestly, none of us are OK. We are aware, however, that the suffering of others may be on an entirely different scale than our disappointments, fears and complaints. So we are reluctant to tell our complex stories.



As much as we are all in this together and living through a unique moment in history, our individual experiences may be very different. Our friends, family members, fellow Vincentians and those we serve may have already suffered the illness, may have had family members die, and may have struggled with unemployment, stress or depression, while others among us may have primarily been inconvenienced.

People also have very diverse opinions about what should be done next. This includes the leadership of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States and throughout the world.

The leadership of the National Council is faced with difficult decisions regarding our National Assembly, scheduled to be held in St. Louis in September. We have canceled or postponed almost every other event for this year. We are going to wait a few more weeks and discuss our options at the National Council Board meeting on June 6th. Look for an announcement shortly after that.

It would be one more major disappointment if we need to cancel the event celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Society’s founding in the United States. The St. Louis Council has done a great job working with us to hold a wonderful event. Even if we do proceed, we have already planned for a scaled-back event. John Foppe, CEO of the host-city Council,

put it well in a recent phone conversation: Even if it is possible to hold the event safely, John observed, it would not look good for the Society to throw itself a big party in the midst of all the suffering and financial strain.

If we hold the meeting, we will plan to shorten it, simplify the schedule and design for ways to maintain recommended social distancing. We will explore our options with the hotel. We will also keep in contact with the city of St. Louis, which may still be limiting the size of meetings, including our assembly. At the heart of our assembly is the need to do the business of the Society. If we must cancel, we will still go online to conduct our business meeting and offer some informational sessions.

Further on in this E-Gazette, you can read about what is happening with the Society internationally. Here in the United States, Councils and Conferences are considering reopening our thrift stores. Many were able to access forgivable-loan funding from the federal Paycheck Protection Program, but the relief that PPP money is providing won't last much longer. So they are faced with the hard decisions that other organizations and businesses across the country are wrestling with, as well: how to protect staff, volunteers and customers now, while retaining the ability to open back up at all later.

In spite of all our challenges, I am impressed with how well we are doing. Conferences, councils and regions are holding online meetings that are well-attended and offer opportunities for growth in spirituality and friendship. We have also found new ways to continue our service to neighbors in need. There is a spirit of inventiveness among us that St. Vincent would recognize and affirm. Donors are stepping up with contributions, too, because they know the good work we do.

So please keep praying, and keep communicating with one other. We Vincentians know well that the light of hope shines brightest through the darkness.

Serviens in spe,



Ralph Middlecamp
SVdP National President

Important Information regarding COVID-19 from SVdP International President General

"The Council General International (CGI) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) cannot turn a blind eye on the situation; to that end, a myriad of actions has been implemented to address the issues in these difficult times, humbly begging God to help us defeat this pandemic, so that we can get back to normal quickly."

To read more from SVdP International President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira's letter to Vincentians about COVID-19, [click here](#). (English)

To read the letter in Spanish, [click here](#).

To read the letter in French, [click here](#).

To read the letter in Portuguese, [click here](#).

New Website for Covid-19 Vincentian Projects in Need of Funding

The current COVID-19 pandemic in our world has multiplied the poverty and needs of millions of people around the globe. From the very beginning, the Vincentian Family (a movement that follows Jesus Christ after the example of St. Vincent de Paul, present worldwide through 4 million people and more than 160 christian institutions) is working tirelessly to alleviate the situation of all these people who have seen their lives worsen because of the Coronavirus: the homeless, the newly unemployed, families in vulnerable situations, etc...

With the aim of connecting projects in need of funding from local organizations worldwide, and people of good will who wish to help financially to keep these works going, we have created a new website. [Click here](#) to view the website.

[Click here](#) to read the article from the SVdP International Council.

Questions and Answers

Q: Is it acceptable to earn interest on Conference bank account balances? When the question of earning interest came-up at several of our Conference meetings over the past years, the president said we are not permitted to earn interest because of our nonprofit status.

A: We can earn interest on our funds. Many of our Conferences have checking accounts in Credit Unions and Savings and Loans instead of banks. Both pay interest and this is common practice with many Conferences. However, receiving interest must not be a reason to decline using funds to assist those in need.

Q: As District Council president, I drive to the District Council office at least three times per week. Is it appropriate for me to be reimbursed for mileage?

A: Yes. Statute 28 states Vincentians entrusted to undertake previously and duly authorized offices, missions, or tasks for the Society are entitled to the refund of the expenses incurred.

[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.svdpsa-thriftstore.org/)
<http://www.svdpsa-thriftstore.org/>

Submit your questions to:
Pam Hudson Johnson
National Director of Governance & Membership Services
phudson@svdpsa.org

SVdP National Council welcomes Director of Philanthropy

The National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul welcomes Dennis Kempf as Director of Philanthropy. We have faith you will quickly see why we feel so blessed to have him on our team.



In his role, Dennis will focus on, in his words, **“helping donors do the good they want to do.”** He approaches his work in fundraising as an opportunity to help individuals achieve their philanthropic goals. When this COVID-19 pandemic is under control, he will travel to meet with individuals, Councils, and groups to deepen their engagement.

After ten years of seminarian education, Dennis chose to become a different kind of ‘father.’ Ministerial service runs in his family: his late aunt was a nun; his uncle a priest; a first cousin was Ray Repp, considered the “father of the guitar Mass,” and two of his brothers are active diocesan priests.

After leaving the seminary, Dennis worked in the for-profit world, but found it unfulfilling. He then earned a Masters in Nonprofit Management from Washington University, and has been in the nonprofit fundraising field for the past 21 years - all with Catholic institutions.

Dennis joins SVdP with experience working with youth in the St. Louis inner city, leading summer youth camps in Northern Ireland during “the troubles,” and hospital chaplaincy and missionary work in Tijuana. **“Working with the marginalized, the oppressed, and the poorest of the poor created a ‘God-shaped hole’ in my heart. It is such a blessing, then, to serve in the ministry of fundraising that helps Vincentians be Christ’s presence with the poor.”**

In his spare time, he enjoys quality time with his two daughters, both college students who are competitive collegiate swimmers.

“Life can be ‘circular.’ The seminary was led by faculty from the religious order of Vincentian priests. They had two charisms: to teach in seminaries and to serve the poor. It is an honor to continue their service to the poor in my new capacity with St. Vincent de Paul.”

Welcome to the SVdP family, Dennis!

To contact Dennis, you may reach him at 314-576-3993, ext. 222, or email at dkempf@svdpusa.org

Coronavirus Response Updates

Continued COVID-19 Guidance to SVdP Members

As the country continues to adapt to the 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!

Local Councils Responding to the Coronavirus

Some Councils have developed resources to help friends in need access assistance and information available at the state and local levels. [Click here](#) to check out these examples from the Attleboro Council (MA).

SVdP Safety Face Masks

OFFERS PROTECTION AND STYLE FROM AIRBORNE PARTICULATES.

Comfortable and breathable to wear. Made of 100% microfiber polyester so it is light weight and cool even in the summertime. When your mask is not needed, simply pull it down off your face and let it rest easily around your neck until you are ready to use it again. This fabric is color fast which means the SVdP logo will be attractive and bright for as long as you own the mask. It is totally washable and easy to maintain. Keep safe from harmful airborne particulates and show the SVdP logo at the same time.



Washable - Microfiber Polyester - SPF50 - Dry Wicking

To Order:

Visit the Magnalite Catholic Website, or [click here](#).

Item: SFM-I Safety Mask \$5.50/ea

*DISCLAIMER: Masks are non-medical. The manufacturer makes no guarantees that the mask prevents the infection or the transmission of viruses or diseases.



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 searching for new Director of Stores Support

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

To inquire or apply, contact:

Anna Filson

afilson@svdpusa.org

SVdP Immersion Reentry Program works in the Midst of Pandemic

It is difficult enough going to the grocery store during these trying times amid the COVID19 pandemic. It is almost impossible to imagine being released from an institution of incarceration with no shelter, no food, no healthcare resources. This crisis exposes the

already bleak realities that exist daily for our brothers and sisters upon their release back from incarceration into their home communities. These realities become more severe as the social safety network of agencies, such as our Society of St. Vincent de Paul, are limited in their access to the people we serve-those already most in need.

The Society has implemented a national reentry program-Immersion. The first phase of the program has been working since January in 6 sites: Sacramento District Council, Idaho Southwest District Council, Des Moines Council, Green Bay Council, the Attleboro Council and the Orlando Council.

All Immersion Program sites are facing the challenges of the COVID pandemic which has required Immersion sites to adhere to local government orders to shelter. However, our Immersion site leaders and volunteers understand most clearly that those persons reentering will end up homeless on the streets or in shelters without much protection for their health. Further, any possible support from their family or friends is severely limited, if not impossible, to access.

In the face of these severe needs, our Immersion sites response continues to be as best as possible. We are focusing on helping our returning persons with primary issues and moral support.

[Click here](#) to read more about the Immersion Program and its work during the pandemic.

Midyear Report of the Leadership Task Force

The Leadership Task Force, appointed by the National Council to develop new resources and training for the Society's servant leaders, presented their Midyear Report on a webinar in April. To view a recording of that presentation, please visit "Videos and Webinars" on:

[The Vincentian Formation Page](#)

The slides from this presentation are also available for [download](#).

If you have questions or suggestions regarding the Task Force's report, please send them to:

Tim Williams
National Formation Director
twilliams@svdpusa.org
314-576-3993 Ext. 207



Vincentian Heritage, Traditions, and Spirituality in Small Doses

The newest Fred Talk covers, in a word, the heart of the Vincentian Vocation. So take four minutes to watch it and share the link with your fellow Vincentians!

New this week: [Fred Talk: For Love Alone](#)



Celebrating our 175th Anniversary

In honor of this year's celebration of the Society's 175 years in the United States, Ray Sickinger has produced this song and video, which we hope you will enjoy and share.

[Click here](#) to view the video.

Contemplation: A Seed of Sanctity within Our Hearts

As Fr. Robert Maloney explains in his book "*Tis a Gift to be Simple*," many saints had a "guiding star" in their own paths to holiness. For example, St. Therese of Lisieux, recognized not only as a saint but as a Doctor of the Church, had what she called "the little way," a complete and childlike trust in God as our Father.

As Vincentians, we answer our church's Universal Call to Holiness by following the Vincentian Pathway. It is useful, then, to consider our Patron's guiding star. St. Vincent once said that simplicity was "the virtue I love the most." For him, simplicity was not just truthfulness, but *the Truth*; Christ incarnate, the Word of God.

Bl. Frederic believed that "each of us carries within his heart a seed of sanctity." Like Vincent, Frederic taught that we must abandon ourselves to God's Providence, to seek always to do His will.

And after all, what better way to discern God's Will than through devotion to God's Truth?

"Behold now, how little is needed," Vincent once said, "To become a saint."

Recommended reading this week:

['Tis a Gift to be Simple](#), by Fr. Robert Maloney

Contemplate:

What do I carry with me that is a barrier to simplicity? How can I put it down?

Questions regarding Formation, contact:

Tim Williams

National Formation Director

314-576-3993 ext. 207

twilliams@svdpusa.org

Ozanam Orientation 2020 is now available!

A new revision of the Ozanam Orientation is now available. This update incorporates all errata and changes that have been made since 2016, along with numerous minor corrections and improvements that make it easier to teach. Of note, the Poverty section has been streamlined and now includes “*If Not Me, Then Who?*”

- Other Changes and Recommendations
 - “*Ozanam Orientation Formator’s Guide*” is now called “[Ozanam Orientation Guide for Presenters and Formators](#)” to reflect its use as a resource for all OO team members.
 - In addition to the [Rule](#), the [Manual](#), and the [Participants Guide](#), we recommend giving participants the [Member Handbook](#) if your local budget can support this.
- Transition Timeline
 - New materials are available in the Materials Store now! While the changes are less extensive than the change from 2012-to-2016 Ozanam Orientation, we still suggest that you PRACTICE the slides so nothing takes you by surprise. With that in mind, formation teams are encouraged to switch over at a convenient point. We think most will teach what they have through the spring and start teaching the 2020 version in the fall.
 - If you have 2016 Participant Guides in stock, they can be used alongside the new Powerpoint slides until they are used up. Additionally, Ozanam Orientation 2016 materials are still available from the Materials Store, and will continue to be sold as long as they remain in stock.
 - The Spanish translation is in progress now, and will be announced separately when it is available.

Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run: Raising Money after COVID-19

Did you lose income from a cancelled event because of COVID-19? Does your Conference or Council need funds to assist those living in need? Have requests for help increased since the pandemic?

If you answered “yes” to any of these, you should consider hosting a Friends of the Poor Walk/Run. Not only is it a fun *outdoor* way to raise money for your Conference or Council, it will engage your friends and supporters who have been cooped up for months.

The official walk date is Saturday, September 26, 2020, but you may host yours any time through October. Please register your 2020 Friends of the Poor Walk/Run event at www.fopwalk.org. If you have questions, email Nathan Martin at nmartin@svdpusa.org.

Benefits of hosting a FOP® Walk/Run include:

- unlimited income potential with low overhead cost
- cultivation opportunity for new Vincentian members
- increased awareness about poverty and how the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helps

- outdoor fun with friends after months of quarantine and social distancing

To register your Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run:

1. Go to www.fopwalk.org
2. Find the “Coordinators” section on the right under the big picture
3. Under the “Establish a Walk” header, select your state and press “Next”
4. Fill and submit the form

For questions, contact:

Nathan Martin

National Director of Fundraising Programs

314- 576-3993 ext.218

nmartin@svdpusa.org

Important Information from our Vendor - Motel 6



Motel 6 would like to offer our Society of St. Vincent de Paul partners a **12% National discount at Motel 6 & Studio 6.**

[Click here](#) for more information about this special offer.

[Click here](#) to learn about recent renovations at Motel 6 locations across the country!

Questions? Contact:

Doreen Musso

239-542-0051

musso_doreen@g6hospitality.com

motel6.com

Responsibilities to the Society

At the beginning of *Vincentian Life: Council*, mention was made of two other specific documents that are available on the Society’s website: “What is Expected of a Diocesan Council” and “What is Expected of a District Council.” Both of those documents clearly explain what a Council should be doing. A few key reminders are listed below. As part of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Council will:

- Accept and strive to achieve our stated missions.
- Operate within the Rule, Manual, Nationally Approved Bylaws, and Resolutions of the Society.
- Report annually on a timely basis on its activities and results.
- Take part in the larger Society by attendance at meetings and participating in Regional or National Committees when asked to do so.

- Share all best practices, processes or procedures with other Councils whenever possible.
- Actively promote training and formation of its members.
- Develop a program of extending our work to those parishes within our Diocese that have no Conference.
- Do everything possible to strengthen the spiritual life of its members.

This article concludes our excerpts from *Vincentian Life: Council*. We hope you found this information to be helpful.

Special Notice

Policies are the operational guidelines for SVdP. Councils and Conferences should continually (at least every two years) analyze their policies to identify any that need to be updated or changed or need to be created.

The National Governance Committee has posted 40 sample policies covering a wide range of subjects at Governance-in-a-Box on the National Council website. The policies shown are intended to be examples of how such policies could read. They are not meant to be adopted as is but rather to serve as examples only. It is always recommended that local legal counsel be sought to ensure that the policies your Council or Conference adopts are compliant with the laws of your state and municipality.

Questions? Contact:
Pam Hudson Johnson
Director of Governance & Membership Services
314-576-3993 ext. 214
phudson@svdpusa.org

Antoine Frederic Ozanam to be released in Paperback

Announcement:

The University of Notre Dame Press has announced that it will publish a paperback edition of Ray Sickinger's award-winning biography, *Antoine Frédéric Ozanam* this August of 2020.

The paperback edition of the book will cost \$38. A small charge for shipping and handling will be added once you check out. You can preorder your copy now.

Directions to order from ND Press:

1. Click on or copy and paste this link:
<https://undpress.nd.edu/9780268101428/antoine-frederic-ozanam/>
2. Select **paperback edition**.

3. Each person will have to create a simple account with ND Press to process what they have in their cart. That is an easy process and there is no charge to create an account.

Raymond L. Sickinger
Professor of History & Public and Community Service Studies
Department of History and Classics
Providence, RI 02918

Liaison for Formation
Chair, Leadership Task Force
National Board of Directors
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Getting Ahead Practitioner Call: Graduate Support

After successfully completing Getting Ahead in Waukesha, WI, graduates are invited to be a part of the Graduate Program, where they work on a personal financial plan and grow in understanding of their financial needs and resources, while working with their peers and mentors.

Our next practitioner call will look at the evolution of the program over the past three years, including what has and hasn't worked. It will highlight the documents they use to track financial stability, as well as how they utilize mentors, incentivize their graduates, and respond to language needs. It will also include an update on how they are adapting this graduate program to continue during COVID-19.

Monday, May 18, 2020
1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern
[Register Here](#)

Systemic Change Task Force Third Thursday Webinar **The Journey to Getting Ahead®**

Vincentians have been using Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World to empower friends in need to change their lives.

The next Third Thursday webinar will feature Getting Ahead graduates discussing not only how their lives have changed, but also how they are changing their communities. Join Us!

Thursday, May 21, 2020
3:00-4:00 p.m. ET
[Register Here](#)

Questions? Contact:

Tom Mulloy
National 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.

May 31st Final Deadline Online 2019 Annual Reports Data Entry!

All 2019 annual reports deadlines shown below have passed. The 2019 report covers Vincentian assistance and services provided to our friends in need from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept 30, 2019. The good news is that you still have time to file online! The deadline for online annual report data entry program is at MIDNIGHT on May 31st. Can we count on your Council/Conference to meet this deadline for service and activities beginning nearly two years ago?

Click here to enter your report online today: <https://www.svdpmembers.com/annual-reports/annual-reporting-cycles/>.

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

- 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

IRELAND:

[SVP launch 'urgent' appeal after highest volume of calls since recession](#)

IRELAND:

[Concern at the level of anxiety among students prompts uplifting musical video from Young SVP](#)

NEW ZEALAND:

[Catholic agencies continue to serve in NZ](#)

National

DALLAS, TX:

[Pharmacies across the U.S. are stepping up to help consumers find affordable meds](#)

DeKALB, IL:

[Society of St. Vincent de Paul program receives 100+ Women Who Care Greatest Impact Award](#)

PHOENIX, AZ:

[The donation in the envelope was small, but the meaning behind it was huge](#)

WAUKESHA, WI:

[Closed for nearly two months, St. Vincent de Paul of Waukesha County is reopening its stores](#)

NASHVILLE, TN:

[Tennessee Tornado Relief Update](#)

Dates to Remember

North Central Regional Meeting

[Now virtual, click for more 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!](#)

**South Central Regional Meeting
October 17
Oklahoma City, OK**

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
66 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!