

**Frederic's E-Gazette**  
**An e-newsletter from the National Council of**  
**the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul®**  
**May 28, 2020**



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## A Letter from your Servant Leaders

A good friend of the Society, when asked of her priorities in supporting us financially, would quickly say “Jobs, jobs, jobs!” She understood that one of the best and most permanent pathways out of poverty is employment, and qualifying for better-paying jobs beyond minimum wages.



This year, her mantra could not be more relevant.

The United States has moved from record unemployment lows to record highs in just a few months. As the country now slowly re-opens after the pandemic, some jobs will quickly come back. Others, though, may be permanently gone. Some businesses already on the financial bubble have decided to close permanently. Other employers used the pandemic closure period as an opportunity to re-size their workforce, to move from offices to remote workers permanently, or simply to decide after years of inattention to scale back and finally make some difficult employee separations.

All of these stories may show up at our Conference’s doors. Some workers will quickly move to new jobs at new employers. Others, however, particularly now in retailing, may find it difficult to transition to new careers. I find that generally, retail workers don’t write resumes well, may not have college degrees, and because they worked in teams can’t always sell their personal accomplishments to prospective employers. In a country of shrinking retail locations and thus opportunities, this is a problem.

Meanwhile, we also unfortunately anticipate that some Vincentians will be slow to return to their Society activity, in particular Home Visits, because they are afraid of the virus spread potential. Some of these members may not have enjoyed going on these visits in the first place!

From these challenges comes an opportunity. The Society may develop an enhanced role in the community of knowing where the jobs are, who is hiring, and how to connect the people we serve with the employers who need workers. I don’t suggest that we be the historic employment office, with shoeboxes of employer contacts looking for help. No, but with basic technology we can maintain a simple database of where we know jobs exist and get this information to our neighbors in need. We will still provide Home Visit emergency services, but we can also provide a systemic change solution of new employment. What hope that can bring to an affected worker!

Our members who may feel unable to provide a Home Visit can still be effective in researching employment opportunities. Where in our community are the Help Wanted signs or banners asking workers to apply? What do we hear “on the street” about who is hiring and what skills they want? How can we collect all this anecdotal, changing data into useful information for fellow Vincentian workers to access in their visits and at our pantries?

Beyond the matchmaking, can we provide other resources such as resume improvement, and basic skills development for those who need to re-train? The National Council now has two programs that can help you to provide these services. The Back2Work program is designed for almost everyone who needs added employment help, and the IMMERSION program focuses these resources specifically on returning citizens. They are certainly worth a look before designing something on your own, and they include practicing Councils who can help you get started!

We expect that nationwide we will see in coming months a big increase in people asking for our help. This demand may shift somewhat from our present high demand for food pantry services to requests for rent and utility assistance. These are often symptoms of the primary reason they come to us: unemployment.

Let's continue to provide for immediate needs. Yet when possible, let's help solve the root cause of our visits and provide employment resources in the shared goal, for the Society and our friends in need, that they need not return to us for more help.

Yours in Christ,



Dave Barringer  
CEO

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## 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.

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## Questions and Answers

**Q: Our churches will become one parish and have a new name but both churches will remain open. Both churches have a St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Do we have to become one Conference and combine our income together or can we operate separately?**

A: There is no official document that says there should be one Conference per parish. If there are two separate parish Conferences each serving separate communities, there should be no problem continuing to operate individually; presuming each has a different name for legal and separate identifications. In the end, the ultimate decision is that decided upon by the Conferences involved after consultation with District and Diocesan Councils as well as with the pastor. He will have to come to an agreement with the Conference(s) on how financial support will be provided.

**Q: Can Councils create endowment scholarships?**

A: Endowments are permitted as long as they are funded by donations specifically for that purpose. Funds identified for service to those in need should not be used to build an endowment. An endowment campaign can be established to solicit funds specifically for the purpose desired.

[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)

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## 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).

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## **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.

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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.svdpdisaster.org/node/150/>.

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## **Formation Resources and Updates**

- [Ozanam Orientation 2020](#) is here – plan your transition.
  - [Fred Talk](#) Videos: Vincentian Heritage, Traditions, and Spirituality in Small Doses
  - [Weekly Contemplation: Loves, Fishes, and Trust in Providence \(NEW!\)](#)
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## Leadership Task Force Updates

- Midyear Report of the Leadership Task force ([Video](#) | [Presentation Slides](#))
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## Voice of the Poor Third Thursday Webinar

### The Immersion Program:

### Serving Returning Citizens and Reforming the Criminal Justice System

Involvement in the criminal justice system is a root cause of poverty, and the United States incarcerates the most people in the world. The vast majority of people who have spent time in jail or prison will eventually be released. This presents Vincentians with a unique opportunity to walk with returning citizens in the journey back to their communities; restorative Justice practices help to heal and break the cycle of violence and poverty.

Join us for a conversation about criminal justice in the United States, what Vincentians across the country are doing to serve reentering citizens through our Immersion Program, and what you can do to serve our most marginalized members of society.

**Thursday, June 18 at 3:00 PM Eastern**

[Register Here](#)

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## Getting Ahead Practitioner Call:

### How and Why to Talk About Systemic Change

Across the country, Systemic Change has invigorated Conferences and Councils. Vincentians are thinking in new and creative ways how to attack poverty in our communities, and Getting Ahead is key to that.

If you are eager to start Getting Ahead or some other systemic change program in your community, this webinar will help you lay the groundwork. What are some of the best practices for having critical conversations about root causes of poverty and the systemic changes needed to address them? How can we share our excitement for new ideas with community members and collaborators?

Join us!

**Monday, June 15, 2020**

**12:00 PM Eastern/11:00 AM Central**

**\*Note new time: This is different from usual practitioner calls\***

[Register Here](#)

**Questions? Contact:**

**Tom Mulloy**

**National Director of Poverty Programs**

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

## Ten Characteristics of a Vincentian Servant Leader

Robert Greenleaf believed that nothing of substance will ever happen in society unless people inside institutions are able to and want to lead them into better performance for the public good. Greenleaf explored this notion in a book he authored in 1977, "Servant Leadership: A Journey Into the Nature of Legitimate Power & Greatness." St. Vincent de Paul came to understand this same notion through scripture and prayer. The similarities between their core values are striking even though they lived centuries apart and in different parts of the world and wrote in different languages. It has been observed that they both saw the servant leader as one who wants to serve first as a priority and then makes a deliberate choice to lead others as servant leader.

We suggest you set aside some time to reflect on these 10 characteristics of a Vincentian servant leader and then complete the Vincentian Servant Leader Personal Assessment and Formation Plan. This can be a great exercise to brush up on what is of value and what needs improvement.

1. LISTENING
2. EMPATHY
3. HEALING
4. AWARENESS
5. PERSUASION
6. CONCEPTUALIZATION
7. FORESIGHT
8. STEWARDSHIP
9. COMMITMENT TO THE GROWTH OF PEOPLE
10. BUILDING COMMUNITY

[Click here](#) to read descriptions of each characteristic and view the Personal Assessment and Formation Plan.

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

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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.

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## June 2nd 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 June 2nd. 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](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)

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## In the News

### International

#### AUSTRALIA:

[Help Vinnies support vulnerable Australians impacted by COVID-19](#)

#### IRELAND:

[Last night's Late Late Show rasied €900,000 for St. Vincent De Paul](#)

#### AUSTRALIA:

[St Vincent de Paul volunteers anticipate an increase in welfare needs after the pandemic](#)

### National

#### HAMPTON, NH:

[St. Vincent de Paul delivering meals to seniors](#)

#### PHOENIX, AZ:

[St. Vincent de Paul teams up with 16 restaurants feed the homeless](#)

#### AUSTIN, TX:

[SVdP Austin receives much-needed Emergency Funding](#)

[Click here](#) to read more National SVdP News.

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## 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

South Central Regional Meeting  
October 17  
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!](#)

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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 Johnson 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.](#)

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## 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**

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## 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!