

Frederic's E-Gazette
An e-newsletter from the National Council of
the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul®
June 4, 2020



Stay Connected to SVdPUSA



[Visit our Website](#)

Table of Contents:

- [A Letter from your Servant Leaders](#)
- [New Circular Letter from International President regarding Coronavirus](#)
- [New Website for Covid-19 Vincentian Projects in Need of Funding](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#)
- [Coronavirus Response Updates](#)
- [SVdP Safety Face Masks](#)
- [Disaster Services Coronavirus Hotline](#)
- [Formation Resources and Updates](#)
- [Leadership Task Force Updates](#)
- [Webinar: The Seven Duties of a Conference President](#)
- [Hope in the Face of Racism Webinar Series](#)
- [Voice of the Poor Third Thursday Webinar: The Immersion Program](#)
- [Getting Ahead Practitioner Call: How and Why to Talk About Systemic Change](#)
- [Governance: A Transformative Experience](#)
- [New Conferences: January - May 2020](#)
- [40% Discount on Antoine Frederic Ozanam by Ray Sickinger](#)
- [2020 Hard Copy Annual Reports Available!](#)
- [2019 Online Annual Reports Data Entry now closed!](#)
- [In the News](#)

- [Dates to Remember \(See this section for ongoing updates regarding meetings\)](#)
 - [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

Dear Vincentian Friends,

“We may all be together in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat.” I am not sure where I first came across this quip, but as the weeks pass the truth of the metaphor becomes more apparent.

It is especially apparent that race is a major factor in the disparity of consequences for Americans during the current pandemic and the economic crisis it has created. The COVID-19 virus does not discriminate, but statistics tell a story of disproportionate health and economic impact. The pandemic has highlighted problems with many systems, including health care, criminal justice, employment, housing, education and the food-supply chain. Even before the killing of another black person by police, it was obvious that we in the United States have a problem with racism that infects each of these systems in ways that make racism itself systemic.



The need for systemic change has been a theme of the Vincentian Family for many years. We have made a difference in many lives--but poverty persists. Our focus on systemic change has given us a deeper understanding of the roots of the misery we seek to eliminate. As we have considered systemic change, the embedded issue of racism has been an uncomfortable factor to discuss.

We have not avoided the subject. At our annual assemblies, we have heard from speakers such as Fr. Clarence Williams, author of “Racial Sobriety,” and Fr. Bryan Massingale, author of “Racial Justice and the Catholic Church,” as well as Msgr. Ray East challenge us to be attentive to the issue. Our Multi-Cultural and Diversity Committee has written an excellent handbook and makes presentations at every one of our national meetings.

But this is not an issue that is solved by a few presentations. Light must regularly be focused on what can easily stay in the shadows. I have talked this week with the leadership of the African American Task Force and the Voice of the Poor Committee of our National Council and have encouraged them to create opportunities this month to advance our understanding of racism and our commitment to addressing the issue.

I am a progressive, white, male senior citizen who certainly does not want to be a racist. Still, I must admit that I do not understand many of the experiences of people of color. So I keep listening and reading. The Black Lives Matter movement was something I did not

really understand. Of course black lives matter. The excellent film “13th” helped me understand the fear black men and their families have of the criminal-justice system. You can find this documentary on Netflix. I recommend you watch it.

Our Rule tells us that Vincentians journey together toward holiness by “transforming their concern into action and their compassion into practical and effective love.” What does that look like when the concerns are so overwhelming and we cannot meet together to put our concern into action? We can share our knowledge and experience with our Vincentian sisters and brothers to help make us all better at what we do.

A good starting point for our discussion would be the pastoral letter titled, [“Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism,”](#) issued in 2018 by the bishops of the United States. The letter states, “Racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart. This evil causes great harm to its victims, and it corrupts the souls of those who harbor racist or prejudicial thoughts. The persistence of the evil of racism is why we are writing this letter.” The letter’s study guides provide a very good mechanism for groups such as our conferences to share their knowledge and experience of the subject.

Vincentians are by their nature people who have compassion, want to promote justice and relieve suffering. We want to do something; we want to act. Fr. Henri Nouwen frequently wrote on the subject of compassion, and he observed, “Let us not underestimate how hard it is to be compassionate. Compassion is hard because it requires the inner disposition to go with others to the place where they are weak, vulnerable, lonely, and broken. But this is not our spontaneous response to suffering. What we desire most is to do away with suffering by fleeing from it or finding a quick cure for it. ... And so we ignore our greatest gift, which is our ability to enter into solidarity with those who suffer.”

That is a profound insight for us in this time. We should not be too quick to try solving problems but rather be willing to listen and enter into solidarity with those who are suffering. Sr. Rosalie Rendu mentored our founders with the insight that “They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you bring them.”

I know there are those who are trying to draw political lines as we face these challenges. Our members may be liberal, moderate or conservative, but we are all called to journey together. No matter what political leanings I encounter among my Vincentian friends, I never doubt their deep faith, their love for the poor, and their resourcefulness in making that love practical and effective.

Serviens in spe,



Ralph Middlecamp
SVdP National President

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: How should Councils/Conferences hold elections during COVID-19 while practicing social distancing? How can elections by email meet the requirements of the Rule for a secret ballot vote by active members?

A: It is important to hold timely elections. The important thing to remember is that the Rule does not change, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. While practicing social distancing, Vincentians are being creative in conducting Society affairs. For elections, ballots are mailed to active members with self-addressed postage paid return envelopes for secrecy. The completed ballots are then returned to the nominating committee chair for the committee count and results. This is announced by conference call or virtual meetings such as Zoom video. The election results are published in the minutes afterwards.

Q: A question has come up at our Conference about the need to have two members interview a friend in need. We make some home visits and for the most part conduct interviews at our office. Sometimes, at the office, a single member interviews. Your thoughts, particularly while we are practicing social distance during the coronavirus endemic?

A: Prior to COVID-19 interviews with those in need required two Vincentians, whether in their home, in an office, or at a mutually agreed to location. During the pandemic if conference calls or Zoom meetings are possible two Vincentians should participate. Where there is no direct contact with those we serve one member can make the call to our friend in need and then report the conversation to the rest of the conference. The follow up should be made by another member.

Q: I'm a new Conference President – where can I find training?

A: We encourage all Conference Presidents (and prospective presidents) to [register](#) for the June 18th webinar “Seven Duties of Conference Presidents.” There are more details elsewhere in this E-Gazette.

[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

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.svdpcdisaster.org/node/150/>.

Formation Resources and Updates

- Contemplation: [Fishers and Farmers New!](#)
- [Ozanam Orientation 2020](#) is here – plan your transition.
- [Fred Talk](#) Videos: Vincentian Heritage, Traditions, and Spirituality in Small Doses
- Formation [Tools](#) | [Resources](#) | [Materials Store](#)

Leadership Task Force Updates

- Midyear Report of the Leadership Task force ([Video](#) | [Presentation Slides](#))

Webinar: The Seven Duties of a Conference President

Thursday, June 18, 2020 8 - 9:30 p.m. Eastern / 5 - 6:30 p.m. Pacific

[Register Now!](#)

This session, presented by the Leadership Task Force, is designed for all Conference Presidents, new or experienced, as well as Members who may be considering becoming Conference Presidents.

With references to guidelines and publications, such as the Conference President Handbook, this presentation will help you prepare to be a more effective Servant Leader, focusing on the Seven Duties of a Conference President:

- Commitment
- Comprehension
- Communication
- Cultivation
- Collaboration
- Chairperson
- Contributions/Compliance

You'll have opportunities to interact and ask questions during this live session!

Questions? Contact:
Tim Williams
National Formation Director
314-576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdpusa.org

Hope in the Face of Racism Webinar Series

Session 1: Open Wide Our Vincentian Hearts
Wednesday, June 10 4:00-5:00 p.m. ET

A Joint Webinar Series of the African American Task Force and the Voice of the Poor Committee

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar.

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](#)

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

tmulloy@svdpusa.org

A Transformative Experience

If you are looking for excitement, surprises and a memorable trip, try a special Walk. Known as "Walking the Vincentian Pathway," it is a process for ongoing formation as a Vincentian and a way to ensure you will grow in Vincentian Leadership. No kidding, you will find hidden treasure, special people and amazing surprises. It's your call when to start and it's up to you how long this incredible journey will take but you will be encouraged, inspired and most assuredly transformed.

This formation process is based on the Essential Elements of the Society (Spirituality, Friendship, Service) and Servant Leadership. The Vincentian Pathway will help us to

Discover, Develop, Deepen and Discern our Vincentian hearts by forming our minds and attitudes into a Vincentian way of being.

[Click here](#) for a wealth of information and resources on Walking the Vincentian Pathway.

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

New Conferences (January - May 2020)

| Region | Conference | Diocesan Council | District Council | City, State | Date Founded |
|--------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| NC | Immaculate Conception | Duluth | Western Duluth | Duluth, MN | 12/8/2019 |
| WR | Our Lady of the Rosary | Oakland | Alameda County | Union City, CA | 10/1/2019 |
| ME | Xavier University | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH | 12/11/2019 |
| ME | San Oscar Romero | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH | 2/3/2020 |
| MW | Our Lady Mother of the Church | Denver | Denver Metro | Commerce City, CO | 1/25/2020 |
| ER | Holy Trinity | Richmond | Richmond | Charlottesville, VA | 1/28/2020 |
| NE | Immaculate Conception-St. Mary | New York | Isolated | Yonkers, NY | 11/1/2019 |
| SE | St. Patrick | Mobile | Mobile | Robertsdale, AL | 10/1/2019 |
| NC | Trinity Family | Green Bay | Green Bay | Tigerton, WI | 12/13/2019 |
| NC | Holy Rosary | Milwaukee | Kenosha | Kenosha, WI | 5/28/2019 |
| SE | St. Patrick Youth | Nashville | Nashville | McEwen, TN | 10/1/2016 |
| NC | St. Mark | Milwaukee | Kenosha | Kenosha, WI | 9/26/1938 |
| NC | St. Petronille | Joliet | West DuPage | Glen Ellyn, IL | 2/25/2020 |
| ME | St. Vincent Ferrar | Cincinnati | Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH | 2/22/2020 |
| SE | Sacred Heart | Jackson | Jackson | Pascagoula, MS | 2/2/2020 |
| MW | St. Mary's Cathedral | Denver | Denver | Colorado Springs, CO | 1/22/2019 |
| WR | Immaculate Conception | Tucson | District VIII | Yuma, AZ | 1/9/1967 |
| SE | All Saints | Knoxville | Knoxville | Knoxville, TN | 1/18/2020 |
| SE | Sacred Heart | Knoxville | Knoxville | Knoxville, TN | 2017 |
| SE | Resurrection | Memphis | Memphis | Memphis, TN | 2/6/2020 |
| SC | Holy Spirit | Oklahoma City | South Central | Mustang, OK | 4/27/2019 |

40% Discount on Antoine Frederic Ozanam by Ray Sickinger

Notre Dame Press is offering a 40% discount until June 30th on both the hard cover and new paperback edition of *Antoine Frédéric Ozanam* by Ray Sickinger.

The hard cover edition will cost just \$36 instead of \$60 and the paperback will cost just \$22.80 instead of \$38.

Instructions to order a copy of *Antoine Frédéric Ozanam*

Go to ND Press website by clicking on the following link or copying and paste it in your search engine:

<https://undpress.nd.edu/9780268101435/antoine-frederic-ozanam/>

This should take you to the site of the book

- Click on order a copy
- Then where it asks for promotion code put in the following: **14CTSA20**
- Then click add promotion code.
- You will need to open an account (easy to set up and no cost) with ND Press.

You can order as many copies as you would like. Shipping is free. Deadline June 30.

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.

2019 Online Annual Reports Data Entry Now Closed

At midnight on June 2nd the online annual report data entry program closed. Did you miss this extended deadline? If so, [Click here](#) to download 2019 hard copy forms, complete and return to the national office today!

The 2019 report covers Vincentian assistance and services provided to our friends in need from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept 30, 2019. The online reporting program allows an addition four months for data entry beyond the established due dates yearly, as follows:

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

Councils/Conferences were notified and email reminders sent prior to the final online data entry deadline. Email your completed hard copy annual report to phudson@svdpusa.org.

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:

[Richard Corrigan offers dream wedding prize for Frontline Healthcare Worker in SVP Fundraiser](#)

MALAYSIA:

[SSVP donates facemasks and hand sanitisers to dialysis centre](#)

IRELAND:

[St Vincent de Paul to open almost 100 of its shops next week](#)

AUSTRALIA:

[Place to mend and heal: Hunter man tells how Vinnies helped him out of homelessness](#)

National

TAMPA BAY, FL:

[Rental, utility assistance available to Tampa Bay veterans amid pandemic](#)

BRYAN, TX:

[Non-profit thrift store recovering from COVID-19 closure](#)

MINNEAPOLIS, MN:

[St. Vincent de Paul thrift store to rebuild, continue helping Lake Street neighborhood](#)

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

Dates to Remember

How to keep up with SVdP

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

[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 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!