

Frederic's E-Gazette
An e-newsletter from the National Council of
the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul®
June 18, 2020



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A Letter from your Servant Leaders

Quite a few corporations are putting their money where their mouth is this past three months. First with the pandemic, and now with justice and racism awareness, companies want to demonstrate that they are aware of an issue and participating in improvement. A uniquely American solution to any problem is to throw more money at it, and then hope that someone else solves the problem.



Whenever a new problem arises, someone rushes out to create a new nonprofit to solve it rather than taking the time to see if another group is already working on it! How many new food bank organizations sprang up since March when several national and many local organizations are already quite effective? What do nonprofits do best? They create more nonprofit jobs. That is rarely the answer to a social or hunger problem.

Today, corporations are devoting millions of dollars to racism-related causes. Some don't even know yet where the money will go; they just want to demonstrate their caring and participation. That's good to some extent, but is lack of funds really the problem in the first place? Most of us, I think, believe the problem to be much, much deeper.

As Vincentians, we appreciate funding as a vehicle to take real action. When the pandemic crisis hit the United States, people thought of us as a solution. Foundations and local governments appreciated that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was already working, and working effectively, in so many communities to resolve hunger, housing, and other poverty needs. Without asking, we received grant funds. When we did ask for pandemic-related funding support, we got it from individuals as well as from businesses and other groups. This was extremely helpful when our stores closed and no one was in the parish to use the Poor Box or give in a second collection to support our work. We need to remember that we were supported not only for our efforts, but also for who we are in the community.

One reason for this outpouring support is that we are present in the community, not just in the church basement. We don't toot our own horn enough for our mission, and we certainly don't pat ourselves on the back often for our accomplishments. This Vincentian humility is a challenge sometimes when we need to ask for the community's help. Despite this, people see us and know we are out there, helping others. We don't need to create anything new (except to meet COVID-19 restrictions) to expand our work. A few more members though would certainly help!

Now our stores are re-opening and parishioners, we pray, are returning. Others think it is a struggle to handle all the new clothing donations, while we know that this outpouring of lifeblood is to be celebrated! We are not ready to relax because poverty never takes a break, and actually we expect a tsunami of rent and utility assistance requests even as unemployment rates come down.

[Read more.](#)

Yours in Christ,



Dave Barringer
CEO

Questions and Answers

Q: Can you cite the portion of the bylaws that does not allow us to hire anyone with any sexual charges?

A: There is nothing in The Rule or bylaws that explicitly prohibits this. We recommend you check with legal or HR experts to ensure a policy is appropriate in your jurisdiction. In 2011, the National Council passed Resolution 91 which states: "it is the obligation of all Vincentians to comply with the requirements of the program to protect children in their (Arch) Diocese and it is the responsibility of (Arch) Diocesan Council Presidents, District Council Presidents and Conference Presidents to ensure that compliance." Usually, this is part of the consideration that comes into play throughout each diocese when it comes to ensuring a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults. People look upon the members and employees of St. Vincent de Paul as trustworthy, someone who is safe to be around. We need to ensure this is true. It would also be helpful to consult with the department in your Diocese that oversees these issues.

Q: The owner of a nearby motel that we use said she will be charging us a \$150 security deposit for anyone we assist that stays at the motel. Our problem is that we do not think this is a good use of funds, as it is transitional housing and considered more emergency housing since there is no lease or long term commitment. Some Vincentians think it's no big deal as we would pay a security deposit for someone moving into an apartment with a lease. Some Vincentians think it is a bad use of our funds as it is typically short term emergency housing and the deposit would complicate matters, and that it's not our mission to guarantee a tenant's behavior, and that would be a bad precedent to set. Some of us believe we can handle it on a case by case situation, but others still want our policy defined.

A: There is no policy on this. Each Conference establishes its own operating guidelines. There are strong arguments that can be made in either the pro or con of providing security

deposits. The current trend is not to offer them. However, we should never make our decisions based on the fact of "we always do..." or "we never do..." Our decisions should be on a case by case basis with the Conference deciding if the deposit is appropriate for the circumstances. It is not our mission to guarantee a tenant's behavior." The details should be worked out with the motel ownership or a different motel may be more helpful.

[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

Formation and Spirituality News

Webinar: The Seven Duties of a Conference President

Today: 8-9:30 pm Eastern / 5-6:30 pm Pacific

Last chance to [Register!](#)

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 for your Conference.

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

New Formation Resource: Intro to the Society

While social distancing rules still prevent us from having in-person Ozanam Orientations, it is still important to introduce new members to the heritage, traditions, and spirituality of the Society.

The Formation Committee has published a 90-minute "*Introduction to the Society*" that local Formators may present online as a temporary alternative for new members, who will still need to attend Ozanam Orientation once it resumes.

Formation teams can [download the PowerPoint](#) (with speaker notes) from the [Formation Page](#) in the “Ozanam Orientation” section.

Formation Resources and Updates

- Contemplation: [I Stand at the Door and Knock](#) **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](#)

Questions Regarding Spirituality and Formation? Contact:

Tim Williams

National Formation Director

314-576-3993 ext. 207

twilliams@svdpusa.org

National Poverty Programs Updates

Hope in the Face of Racism Series

Session 3: Transforming Our Concern Into Action

A Collaboration of the African American Task Force and the Voice of the Poor Committee

Wednesday, June 24 4:00 / 3:00 CT

Hundreds of Vincentians have embarked on a journey to reflect on the racism experienced by our African American brothers and sisters, and explore how our Catholic faith and Vincentian charism call us to respond. If you missed previous sessions, [you can watch them here](#).

Our next session will continue to explore how systemic racism plays out in policies and practices in our communities, and what concrete action steps we can take to address it. Join us!

[Register Here](#)

Getting Ahead Facilitator Training Summer 2020

Conferences and Councils across the country are running [Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World](#), a comprehensive program that empowers individuals to build their own personal plans for economic security and create Systemic Change.

The online Facilitator Training webinars will equip you with all the knowledge and resources to start a Getting Ahead program in your area or get involved with an existing program.

Wednesday, July 22 & 29

6:30-9:30 p.m. Eastern

[Register for our Online Training Here!](#)

Future Trainings:

Fall: Saturday, October 10 & October 17 at 10:30-1:30 PM Central

Are you a Getting Ahead facilitator with questions, ideas, or best practices? Start a conversation in the [Getting Ahead Community of Practice](#) today!

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World *is a licensed work of aha! Process, Inc. The National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a licensed provider of facilitator training for the Getting Ahead program.*

Systemic Change Grant Program Request for Proposals

Systemic Change is a core value of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Systemic Change is not a substitute for meeting the “demands of charity” that Vincentians undertake, but rather a complement to that work.

The National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) has made \$200,000 available to make one-year grants of up to \$5,000 to support Systemic Change projects at Vincentian Councils or Conferences. The formal Request for Proposal and Application can be downloaded [here](#). **Applications are due Friday, July 17 by 5:00 p.m. ET.**

On Thursday, June 25 at 4:00 p.m. ET the National Council will host a webinar to discuss the RFP and field questions. To join the webinar, [simply visit this link, enter your name, and press 'Enter Room'](#).

For more information about National Poverty Programs, contact:
Tom Mulloy
National Director of Poverty Programs
tmulloy@svdpusa.org

Governance and Membership Services Updates

Think Seriously About Succession Planning

During the next several weeks we will focus on an important topic that deserves your attention: Succession Planning.

Some of you may belong to, or in the past have belonged to, other organizations that elect their officers and leadership teams up to a year in advance. They frequently will have a president-elect. We seldom seem to do this. Rather it seems as though we are often scurrying around at the last minute pleading for one or more of our members to step forward to become a Conference or Council president.

If this sounds familiar to you then step back and ask why your Conference or Council should not begin to give serious thought to a succession-planning process with the purpose of selecting and nurturing Vincentians so they are prepared to offer their time and talents in a leadership role in the Society.

[Click here](#) to review our paper titled "Succession Planning – A Brief Primer." If you have leadership positions to fill this year, you would do well to read it. If you don't have positions to fill now it is still important to review and file this valuable resource so it is available for your next election cycle.

Special Notice: Policies to be Continually Analyzed

Councils and Conferences should analyze their policies (operational guidelines) at least every two years, to identify any that need to be updated, changed, or 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 not meant to be adopted; rather, they are examples of how such policies could read. It is always recommended that local legal counsel be sought to ensure that your Council or Conference's policies are compliant with local laws.

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

Did you miss the extended deadline? If so, [Click here](#) to download 2019 hard copy forms, complete and return to the national office today! Email your completed hard copy annual report to phudson@svdpusa.org.

Questions about Governance and Membership Services? Contact:

Pam Hudson Johnson

Director of Governance & Membership Services

314-576-3993 ext. 214

phudson@svdpusa.org

COVID-19 News and Updates

Covid-19 International Vincentian Projects

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; and is 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...

FamVin has created a new website dedicated to COVID-19 Vincentian Projects. [Click here](#) to view the website and to read more about the great works Vincentians are doing.

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

*Please note that, due to U.S. government regulations surrounding contributions to foreign charities, National Council strongly recommends that all donations designated for an international Vincentian organizations be made through the National Council Office. National Council has set up systems and documentation that satisfies the requirements of these US government regulations. **If your Conference would like to contribute to these efforts, please send a check to the National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul, with "International Relief Fund" in the memo line.**

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 Coronavirus Hotline

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/>.

SVdP National Council looking for Contract Grant Writer

The SVdP National Council is looking for a Contract Grant Writer. To read the full job description, [click here](#).

For additional information or to apply, contact:

Kitty Lohrum

Chief Advancement Officer

klohrum@svdpusa.org

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 Order a Copy.
- Add this promotion code: **14CTSA20**, then click Add Promotion Code.
- You will need to open an account with ND Press—this is easy to set up, and no cost to you.

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

Members Portal Update!

We are happy to announce that administrators are now able to import membership lists from a file! Admins will notice that there is an addition of an “Import” button above their member listing. They will be able to click on that and upload a CSV. formatted Excel Spreadsheet.

On the right side of the portal dashboard, under the heading “Importing Membership”, there are guidelines on what is needed for the file upload and also a template that everyone can use. We believe this will make the adding of many members a much smoother process!

If anyone has any questions, please contact the National Council IT Department at techsupport@svdpusa.org

Thanks so much!
Wendy VanDeventer-Jones & Megan Scanlon

In the News

International

AUSTRALIA:

[Wagga St Vincent de Paul welcomes Together Home project funding amid COVID-19 economic downturn](#)

ITALY:

[Vincetian Family's fight against poverty continues despite COVID-19](#)

AUSTRALIA:

[Assistant Minister sleeps out to support Vinnies](#)

National

TAMPA BAY, FL:

[Homeless Tampa Bay veterans and their families find hope amid pandemic](#)

EUGENE, OR:

[Care and Shelter During COVID-19](#)

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

Dates to Remember

Foundation Board Meeting
July 7 (virtual)

National Assembly
Details for Virtual Meeting Coming Soon

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

South Central Regional Meeting
October 17
Oklahoma City, OK

For dates and information regarding National Webinars, [click here](#).

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!](#)

Vincetian Prayer List

Are you or another Vincetian 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 Vincetian 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!