

Frederic's E-Gazette
An e-newsletter from the National Council of
the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul®
June 25, 2020



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A Letter From Your Servant Leaders

What lessons have we learned, and are still learning, during this pandemic year? Some changes may have lasting impact on our personal lives and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for many years. I offer you five lessons to consider:



First, we are learning that even pandemics are rooted in poverty. While early testing analysis showed a higher COVID-19 infection rate among our Black and Hispanic neighbors, further study reveals that it isn't the color of one's skin that increased the COVID rate; it was in large part socioeconomic standing. As Dr. Anthony Fauci said before Congress this week, "Because of economic and other considerations, the jobs that the majority of them would find themselves in does not allow them to protect themselves by looking into a computer and doing telework." Systemic racism and other long-term factors led to this environment. Once again we see that when something bad happens, whether it be a natural or manmade disaster, the poor are affected most. That's why our Catholic and Vincentian preferred option for the Poor is so important.

Second, the pandemic's impact on the Church looks to be negative and long-term. Perhaps it is because our Church leadership consists mostly of rule-followers and cooperative sorts, who agreed to close or suspend Mass and to bring it back slowly and healthy. Maybe too it's because Catholic Church parishioners skew to older people, especially so in the past two decades as so many young people have left our faith and indeed any faith. The pandemic exacerbated this trend to result in empty pews, and it will be slow to recover. The Church needs our Vincentian spirituality, zeal and evangelism now more than ever.

Third, many of us learned a new technology or two in the past three months! Streaming services increased, and we met by conference calls, Zoom and various webinar platforms. The absence of physical travel required us to find new ways to interact as friends and servants of Christ. Watch for this to become more customary, with many groups and employers already thinking about why they meet in person after all. We pray that faith-based services will be an exception!

[Read more.](#)

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave B." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dave Barringer
CEO

A Prayer for Unity on Independence Day

Fellow Vincentians,

We are approaching the celebration of our nation's 244th Independence Day, a traditional day of unity and gratitude for the many blessings we've received as Americans.

This year, we see around us so many signs of disunity, even anger. It calls to mind President Lincoln's words at his First Inauguration: "*We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection.*"

Blessed Frederic believed that it was our calling as Christians, and as Vincentians, to be the mediators of social conflict, a visible sign of Christ's peace.

As people of prayer, I'd like to ask all Vincentians to begin their day on July 4th silently reading and reflecting on this prayer for unity across all lines in our great and diverse country, and to take that spirit of peace out with you to celebrate the day with your friends and neighbors.

As Frederic said, "*...our mediocrity does not make our role of mediators easier than our title of Christian makes us responsible. There is the possible usefulness of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul.*"

[Download the prayer by clicking here.](#)

Have a Happy Independence Day, and may God continue to bless America,

Ralph Middlecamp
President, National Council of the USA

Questions and Answers

Q: We have a Food Pantry at our parish and as long as I can remember it's been SVdP Food Pantry to our Parish and our community. I am told by our District President that it isn't SVdP Food Pantry but our church's pantry run by Vincentians and funds from our SVdP account cannot be used to purchase food. Can you please clarify?

A: Your District President is correct in that we are not permitted to give funds to outside organizations. However, the key words in the phrase are "run by Vincentians." If the pantry is indeed run by Vincentians, it is a work of the Society and can be funded by the

Conference. Keep in mind though that, if the phrase is only used loosely and if a member or two only occasionally help out, then this does not qualify as a SVdP work. The essential question is: Is this an SVDP program, or a parish ministry? That distinction dictates our Society independence and therefore our financial support.

Q: One of our Conferences noted that in the SVdP Manual on page 10 (2nd to last paragraph), there is mention of "obtaining plenary indulgences on the day of their admission to the Society..." We were wondering if there is a special SVdP ceremony that will suitably achieve the granting of the indulgence on the participants. I could not find anything in the "Vincentian Celebrations" Manual. We are looking for an official description of such a ceremony that would result in the granting of the indulgences.

A: There are no ceremonies associated with indulgences. You fulfill the requirements of the indulgences and they are granted - not by us, but by God. The requirements are specified in the paragraph you referenced in the Manual.

[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

Formation and Spirituality News

Webinar Replay: The Seven Duties of a Conference President

If you were unable to attend last week's webinar, you can now watch the recording! Please be sure to download the recommended handouts, as they are all referenced in the presentation.

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.

- [Webinar Recording](#)
- [PowerPoint slides](#)
- [Guidelines for Conference Presidents](#)
- [Transforming Our Culture](#)
- [Delegating Conference Responsibilities](#)
- [Discernment: Becoming a Conference President](#)

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: [“The session is nearly always concerned with business...”](#) **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 4: Where Do We Go From Here?

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

Wednesday, July 1 at 4:00 p.m. ET/3:00 p.m. 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 catch up on them here](#).

Our last session in the series will address some of the pressing questions that have come up in previous sessions, explore strategies for discussing and confronting racism in our communities, and review the resources that are available to do this critical work. 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.

For more Information about National Poverty Programs, contact:

Tom Mulloy

National Director of Poverty Programs

tmulloy@svdpusa.org

Governance and Membership Services Updates

Succession Planning Requires Preparation And Training

What does succession planning really mean within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Essentially it refers to Conferences and Councils being prepared when a president's term of office nears its end to present to membership Vincentians who are qualified and willing to take on the role of Conference or Council president. Realistically, succession planning relates to all officer positions, as well as committee chairs, etc. Achieving this goal requires preparation and training. To be more specific, it requires three parts preparation and three parts training.

1. **Preparation Part 1:** Conference members should be exposed to regular reinforcement of the idea of growing into some role in Conference and/or Council leadership. This is something each member should be encouraged to consider from the day he/she joins the Society.
2. **Training Part 1:** The Ozanam Orientation is the basic formation/training that all Vincentians need to experience. The National Council recommends that all members attend an Ozanam Orientation at least once and suggests attending again every few years as a refresher.

[Click here](#) to read the entire article.

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!

Hard-copy 2020 annual report forms are now available by [clicking here](#). The reporting period for Vincentian assistance and services provided to our friends in need is FY Oct 1, 2019 - Sept 30, 2020.

Quarterly report hard copy forms are also available!

NOTE: The online data entry program for the 2020 annual reports will be available 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

Paycheck Protection Program Update

Congress established the Paycheck Protection Program to provide forgivable loans to small businesses and nonprofit organizations to help them respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and funded it to the tune of \$659 billion. Many Vincentian Councils and nonprofit partners have utilized this program to continue providing needed services in the community.

The ongoing and varied nature of community responses to the pandemic have highlighted the need for program modifications. Congress passed, and the president signed, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act, which relaxes some requirements and gives participating organizations more time to comply and use the funds. [Check out our COVID-19 Response page for more information and additional resources.](#)

Census Report Reveals Low-Income Adults Hardest Hit by COVID-19

Research released earlier this week by the Census Bureau showed that low-income adults who lost employment during the Coronavirus pandemic suffer more mental health problems and have increased anxiety that they will be able to avoid becoming homeless. The same is true for younger households (ages 25-39).

To read more about this research and other insights into how households are coping with the pandemic, [visit the Census Bureau website.](#)

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 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 US 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 Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA, 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.svdpdisaster.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

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

IRELAND:

[Dealing with poverty costs the state €4.5 billion each year, says SVP](#)

AUSTRALIA:

[Vinnies CEO Sleepout participants raise close to \\$52,000 to help homeless people in the Illawarra](#)

AUSTRALIA:

[COVID: Vinnies has many first-time clients](#)

NEW ZEALAND:

[SVDP launches National Recovery Appeal](#)

National

COEUR d’ALENE, ID:

[More vets facing homelessness](#)

CINCINNATI, OH:

[St. Vincent de Paul Opens Virtual “Ozanam Cafe” to serve up Lunchtime Discussions on Catholic Social Teaching](#)

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

Dates to Remember

SVdP National Foundation Meeting
July 7 (virtual)

National Assembly
Details for Virtual Meeting Coming Soon

South Central Regional Meeting
October 17
Oklahoma City, OK

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

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!](#)

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.

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 the E-Gazette, 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 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!](#)