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Frederic's E-Gazette

An e-newsletter from the National Council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul®



March 5, 2020

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Disclaimer:

(NOTE: The links in some of the articles are intended to take you to websites for a specific story, page, function or program approved for your use by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Society does not accept responsibility for, or grant approval of, peripheral advertising or stories that may reside on those websites.)

From your Servant Leaders:

Vincentians have asked this week if the coronavirus is reason to stop conducting our Home Visits. The short answer is: No, keep going.



This is a changing environment, and this column certainly does not override any direction given by state or federal health officials. For now though, let's be mindful of the facts:

- Almost a third of Americans have either not yet heard of the virus, or believe that it comes from a certain brand of beer. No, I am not joking. Misinformation is rampant.
- As of Tuesday morning, there are around 100 cases of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) in the United States with fewer than 10 deaths. Almost all of the deaths were people with frail immune systems due to health and/or age.
- You are much more likely to catch another type of flu,

and other flu bugs kill thousands of Americans each year. The difference is that these deaths are not in today's news.

- Statistically, you are much more likely to be in a car accident on the way to a Home Visit than to contract the coronavirus during the visit. No one is suggesting that we start walking.
- You are also more likely to contract any virus in a large group of people, such as a grocery store, theater or at church. We have not stopped these activities in the United States.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Yours in Christ,
Dave Barringer



CEO

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Please Help the Society with the Humanitarian Crisis in Lebanon

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Lebanon has been a key provider of food and heating oil to the thousands of Syrian refugees, as well as the local poor, living in horrible conditions in their country. Lebanese Vincentians are very dedicated, but the national economy continues to worsen and their local resources are exhausted.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Lebanon (SSVP) was founded in 1860. Vincentian volunteers are engaged in 49 Conferences across the country. The Society there works in many fields including medical, social, educational and development projects. Currently half of the Lebanese live below the poverty line, according to World Bank reports. The presence of Syrian refugees in large numbers since 2011, the overall worsening economic situation, unemployment, and regional conflicts have resulted in an unprecedented crisis in Lebanon.

Due to the influx of Syrian refugees, some specific projects were dedicated to fit refugee needs, including an eatery housed by the National Council in which refugees have been able to eat twice a week for more than four years now. SSVP also finds itself under the obligation to feed more Lebanese people than ever, often on a daily basis. The Society wants to welcome one hundred persons for a meal - hot main dish and salad - three times each week. The annual cost in U.S. dollars to do this is approximately \$150,000.

Winterization for Lebanese communities is more urgent than ever, as winds, rain, storms, snow, and hail battered the southern and eastern Mediterranean during the whole season. Heating oil is a priority; an average of 1,200 families are served with 200 liters of oil each. The cost to provide these resources will be approximately \$139,000.

If your Council or Conference would like to help with this humanitarian crisis and wishes to donate with a check, please send to:

**SVdP National Council
58 Progress Parkway
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Mark "Lebanon Relief" in the memo field**

***Consolidated donations will be sent properly and safely through the SSVI International Office to the Lebanon National Council.**

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Q: The definition of memberships is somewhat vague in the Manual. Does National have any additional guidelines on what constitutes a full voting member of a Conference, especially on how many meetings members need to attend to maintain active status?

A: The Rule, Part III, Statute 3 identifies clearly the membership types. There is nothing in the Rule that specifies who is eligible to vote. However, in the Nationally Approved Bylaws for Conferences, it states that each Active Member is entitled to one vote and that vote must be cast in person. The Rule does say an Active Member must be Catholic, attend meetings on a regular basis, and provide person-to-person service to those in need. A true Active Member will make an effort to attend all meetings, will want to be with fellow Vincentians as often as possible and will attend the far majority of all meetings.

Q: As a Conference can we limit the amount of money we pledge to those we serve, and can we put a limit on how many times a year we can serve the same person?

A: This is a Conference decision; however, such limitations are not recommended. We recommend that you treat each case on its own merit. Make your decision as to the amount of assistance

to give based on what is being requested and the resources you have available. Vincentians often say that their funds are low and they need to save some funds for people who might come in the future. That is not what our Lord is asking us to do. He asks us to love the one in need who is sitting here in front of us in the best way possible. If you place an arbitrary limit on the amount, then you cannot fulfill what our Lord is asking.

As far as the number of times a year to serve the same person, the same criteria essentially holds true. If you limit the number of times, then you turn people away before you even hear what they are asking for and of their circumstances. You don't have to say "yes" to every request, but we ask you to listen and to be open to help in any way possible. St. Vincent asks us to be "creative to infinity." Let's remember that providing service does not always mean "giving money," listening and prayer are also two essential services Vincentians provide, hopefully without limits.

[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

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Attention National Council Members and Executive Directors

SVdP Midyear Meeting

March 26 - 28

Hilton Ballpark, St. Louis

[Register Now](#)

Join us for the 2020 Midyear Business Meeting, March 26 - 28, 2020 at the Hilton at the Ballpark, St. Louis, Mo. Agenda to include special project forums, regional meetings & the National Business Meeting, meet some of our national partners, and network with other Vincentians.

Questions about national partnerships? Contact:
Michele Schurk
Event Coordinator
314-576-3993 ext. 223
mschurk@svdpusa.org

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Celebrating our 175th Anniversary

We have two Vincentian spiritual formation resources available to help celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Founding of the Society in the U.S.

[Click here](#) for more information and to order "Serving in Hope: Module VII, Our Vincentian Home Visit"

[Click here](#) for more information and to order "The Spirituality of the Home Visit: A Journal"

The Vincentian Heritage Pilgrimage to Paris

September 22-29, 2020

Directed by Ralph Middlecamp, Sr. Kieran
Kneaves, DC and Fr. Gerry Kelly, CM.



For more information, [click here](#).

For more information about the trip from the travel agency,
[click here](#).

If interested in participating, contact Sr. Kieran Kneaves at
kkneaves@svdpusa.org.

For more information contact:
Sister Kieran Kneaves, DC
National Formation Director
kkneaves@svdpusa.org

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March Voice of the Poor Webinar Combating Predatory Lending

Millions of working Americans struggle to make ends meet as expenses pile up while wages remain flat. Desperate for additional income, they turn to payday loans and end up trapped in a cycle of debt that makes matters worse.

Join the Voice of the Poor monthly webinar series to learn more about this issue and what Vincentians are doing to protect vulnerable friends in need.

Thursday, March 19, 2020

3:00 p.m. Eastern

[Register Here!](#)

For more information, contact:

Tom Mulloy

National Director of Poverty Programs

tmulloy@svdpusa.org

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Getting Ahead Practitioner Call A Mini Refresher Course for Facilitators

Monday, March 16, 2020

1:00 p.m. Eastern/12:00 p.m. Central

[Register Here!](#)

Getting Ahead facilitators juggle a tremendous amount of information and challenges over the course of a GA program, so it's helpful to 'check-in' occasionally on the foundational tips and tricks we learn in facilitator training. For the next practitioner call, we'll talk about those helpful hints we need to remain cognizant of throughout the program, and share new ones we've picked up along the way. Join us!

Getting Ahead Facilitator Training - Spring 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 Facilitator Training 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, April 8 & 15

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

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

Future Trainings:

Summer: Wednesday, July 22 & 29 at 6:30-9:30 p.m. Eastern

Fall: Saturday, October 10 & 17 at 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Eastern

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, contact:

Tom Mulloy

National Director of Poverty Programs

tmulloy@svdpusa.org

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More from *Vincentian Life: Council*

Last week we began a series of excerpts from Vincentian Life: Council. They are intended to complement the resources developed by the National Governance Committee posted at Governance-in-a-Box on the National Council website.

We continue with more information from the first section of this important document which is titled "Conferences" because the Council's primary role is to support the Conferences. **[Click here](#)** to read this week's excerpt.

SVdP Mentoring Opportunity

As Vincentians and Vincentian leaders, we all know the rewards that come from helping rescue people in crises and helping them take steps toward self-sufficiency. The Vincentian Mentoring program provides an opportunity for a similar reward.

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) to access the application.

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

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SVdP Young Adults Service Day - April 25



For information about the 2020 Young Adults Service Day,
[click here.](#)

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New Conferences January - February 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

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Attention New Conference Presidents

Have you been wondering where to find the essential materials for your duties as a Vincentian conference president? Have you had trouble locating those materials on the Society website?

With you in mind, the new Leadership Task Force commissioned a quick video tour of the National website. You can view that tour by [clicking here](#).

Questions about this topic, contact:

Ray Sickinger

Liaison for Formation

SVdP National Board Member

rsicking@providence.edu

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Announcing New National Stores Committee!

SVdP National has formed a National Stores Committee to assist Thrift Store operations nationwide. The committee exists of 12 retail experts within the organization to help find solutions for all SVdP Thrift Store businesses. Each month, the National Stores committee will provide ideas and strategies to improve retail functions.

For more help or information, email John Walters at johnw@svdpstl.org or Lori Bedwell, lbedwell@svdpusa.org.

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Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017...

If you think the following information might interest a friend or family member, please share this article with them.

Many people are still wondering how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) affects their ability to deduct charitable contributions and what, if any, changes they should make to their charitable giving strategies.

Because everyone has different charitable giving goals and tax situations, SVdPUSA recommends that you discuss the TCJA changes with your tax advisor to pick an approach that makes sense for you!

[Click here](#) for more information.

For specific instructions on how to direct your Qualified Charitable Distributions funds from your IRA or make a donation of stock to SVDPUSA, please contact:

Nathan Martin

National Director of Fundraising Programs

314-576-3993 ext. 218

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.

For information regarding Annual Reports, contact:

Pam Hudson Johnson

Director of Governance and Membership Services

314-576-3993 ext. 214

phudson@svdpusa.org

All 2019 Online Annual Reports are now due!

Have you filed your 2019 annual report online yet? Tomorrow is the deadline for ALL reports to be filed online for Vincentian assistance and services provided to our friends in need from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept 30, 2019. Click here to enter your report today: <https://www.svdpmembers.com/annual-reports/annual-reporting-cycles/>.

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

- 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.

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Electronic Filing of Form 1023

If your Council or Conference is planning on applying for independent tax exemption by filing a Form 1023, please note that the IRS went live last week enabling organizations to file the IRS Form 1023 Application electronically.

This is generally a welcome advancement but Friday's announcement also included a short 90-day grace period for filing paper 1023 Applications.

As of January 31, 2020, the IRS requires that Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, be completed and submitted through Pay.gov. There is a 90-day grace period during which the IRS will continue to accept paper versions of Form 1023.

<https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/electronic-filing-of-form-1023>

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SVdP In the News



***Deadline for Frederic's E-Gazette articles submission: Every Wednesday by 12 noon for article to be included in current week's edition**

International News

CGI:

[Create a New Logo for the SSVP International!](#)

AUSTRALIA:

[Vinnies opens new Ulverstone shop after relocation and makeover](#)

National News

BATON ROUGE, LA:

[Zachary residents give generously, help St. Vincent de Paul collect record-high local donations](#)

NATIONAL:

[House in a Box®, an Award Winning Disaster Relief Program, Needs Funds for Hurricane Harvey Survivors](#)

AIKEN, SC:

[St. Vincent de Paul Society in Aiken helps those in need](#)

CHICAGO, IL:

[Alumnus commemorates St. Vincent de Paul with artwork](#)

CINCINNATI, OH:

[St. Vincent de Paul receives top honor for nonprofits](#)

Dates for 2020:	
Midyear Meeting March 25 - 28 St. Louis, MO	Midwest Regional Meeting June 19-20 Des Moines, IA
Southeast Subregional April 3-4 Atlanta, GA	South Central Regional Meeting June 22-27 Oklahoma City, OK
Northeast Regional Meeting April 18 Taunton, MA	Eastern Regional Meeting June 27 Emmitsburg, MD
Florida Subregional May 2 Orlando, FL	Invitation for Renewal July 29 - August 2 St. Louis, MO Click here for info.
Western Regional Meeting May 21-23 Sacramento, CA	National Assembly September 2-5 St. Louis, MO
North Central Regional Meeting June 11-13 Milwaukee, WI	Invitation for Renewal November 4-8 St. Louis, MO
Mideast Regional Meeting June 11-13 Livonia, MI	

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Responding to Local
Disasters Nationally

Be sure to follow SVdP Disaster Services Corp. on Facebook for updates, [click here to visit their Facebook page](#).

For more information about SVdP Disaster Services, [click here](#) or contact:

Elizabeth Disco-Shearer
CEO, SVdP Disaster
Services
ldisco@svdpdisaster.org

Kevin Peach
COO, SVdP Disaster Services
kpeach@svdpdisaster.org

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Social Media

Keep up with SVdP on your favorite social media!



[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!](#)

***You can watch the OFIA TV series and movie on-demand through the mobile app and you can access it on your phone or tablet!**

[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 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.](#)

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To print the E-Gazette

If you wish to print the E-Gazette and are having trouble printing it from your email, [click here](#) to print this issue and past issues of the E-Gazette in PDF format straight from the SVdP website!

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
58 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!

Michelle Boyer

Marketing Communications

Specialist

Email: mboyer@svdpusa.org

(314) 576-3993 ext. 219