



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

Dear Vincentians,

As you know, the St. Louis Archdiocese is in the midst of a discernment and planning process for the Church in our region called *All Things New*. It is a response to changes in Church membership and participation, as well as decreased numbers of priests to serve in pastoral ministry. It is also a response to the need to respond to the call from the Church for a New Evangelization.



ALL THINGS NEW

A central question asked is how to best unify our Archdiocese with Jesus' commission of making disciples in our Church today and for generations to come. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Louis Archdiocesan Council shares this concern. Our service in the Archdiocese is a concrete manifestation of the love of Jesus for the poor and unites us more closely to Him. This mission continues irrespective of the ways the Archdiocese may organize its pastoral ministry. However, we have been asked by the Archdiocese how we might better marry our charitable outreach with evangelization.

We recognize that *All Things New* will significantly change the makeup of parishes and parish boundaries in the Archdiocese. This will impact SVdP Conferences and Districts and will require significant adaptability, readiness for change, and faith in Divine Providence. We are preparing to support you through this transition by participating in the Archdiocesan subcommittee for Catholic Presence and Social Outreach and meeting with Fr. Chris Martin, Vicar of Strategic Planning. We are reaching out to other SVdP Councils who have experienced similar changes to learn from them and gain wisdom to guide us. We have also met with Dave Barringer, National CEO of SVdP to make sure that our response is aligned with statutes and bylaws.

Under the Vincentians tab on our website, you will find an [All Things New page](#) that will provide resources to help guide the transition. This page will be continuously updated as we move forward. Please know we are here and available to support you with any questions or concerns. We are in this together. Don't hesitate to reach out. Remember, your District and Council Presidents will also serve as support.

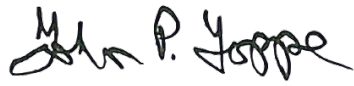
It is important that we do not lose sight of our dependence upon the Holy Spirit as we encounter the difficult changes and realities ahead. Let's remember the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was born and grew in an environment of political, social, religious, and economic turmoil in early 19th century France. We can trust in the words of St. Paul to the Romans as they encountered significant challenges in their own young Church:

"... we know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." - Romans 8:28

If by faith we remain in the love of God, we will see how Divine Providence aligns for the good of our souls, our families, and especially, for the poor. If we maintain faith in our purpose that we are called to as Vincentians, we will act as a light in the darkness of uncertainty and change for other Catholics and our Neighbors in the Archdiocese.

May our focus on Jesus' love, our capacity for friendship, and service of the poor inspire and encourage others. May the Vincentian virtues, simplicity, humility, gentleness, selflessness, and zeal, help us to embody the character of Christ to those most in need of

His presence. May the Holy Spirit be our constant source of peace and wisdom. Amen



Executive Director
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis



[View the SVdP / All Things New Collaboration Timeline](#)