



175
YEARS of
NEIGHBORS
HELPING
NEIGHBORS

The Society Scoop



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



We wish you a safe, happy and healthy new year!

Program Updates

New Prescription Program Voucher

Please begin using the new Prescription Program voucher ASAP (click the link below). Optum RX purchased Castia and now fulfills medications for our Neighbors through our Prescription Program. As a result, we've updated our Prescription Program vouchers. You may print as many as you need.

Important information:

1. Doctors should fax the completed form to 800-491-7997.
2. Neighbors with questions should call 866-516-1121.
3. Neighbors who are new to the program can take up to 24 hours to be activated in the Optum system. Once activated, their prescriptions will be fulfilled as long as the prescriptions are included in the formulary. (The formulary remains the same.)

[Click here for the new prescription voucher](#)

Please destroy old Castia prescription vouchers.

Free Tax Preparation

Low-Income Home Energy

for Neighbors

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program offers free tax preparation services to households with income less than \$56,000. Due to the pandemic, appointments must be made in advance.

For more information, visit [St. Louis Tax Assistance Program – TAP \(stlouistap.org\)](http://St.LouisTaxAssistanceProgram-TAP.stlouistap.org)

Assistance Program

Winter is here, and that means the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now accepting applications. Spire is partnering with local agencies to provide free, virtual webinars on LIHEAP.

To register, visit www.spireenergy.com/community-events

House Fires

Recently, the Society has helped many Neighbors who have experienced a house fire. This is a reminder to our Conferences regarding house fires: the Disaster Committee requests that you complete the **[Disaster Relief Form](#)** for the Neighbor, which can be found on our web site. Generally, the Disaster Program will fund the expense of thrift vouchers and utility payments. Vouchers valued at over \$500 must be approved by a member of the Disaster Committee prior to giving the voucher to the Neighbor. Store vouchers need to be itemized to list the specific items that the neighbor needs.

For questions or guidance, please contact Annette Bligh, the Disaster Committee Chair, at annetteb@svdpstl.org

Missouri Emergency Rental Arrears Program (ERAP)

The Missouri Housing Development Commission launched a program to provide relief to property owners and tenants impacted by the pandemic. ERAP offers a one-time payment of up to 6 months of past due rent directly to landlords on behalf of qualified tenants. Landlords must agree not to file eviction for nonpayment for 120 days and tenant households must be below 50% of the area median income.

For more information, visit www.mohousingresources.com/erap

Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is excited to launch a new Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program in collaboration with St. Patrick Center. The pilot is for St. Louis City and County residents with the goal of expanding to more counties at a later date. The program begins Monday, January 11 and will provide assistance to Neighbors who are at risk of homelessness or who have been homeless for 30 days or less.

If your Conference already participated in the Rapid Rehousing Zoom training, you will receive an email with additional details about the program and how to refer Neighbors in need of housing.

If your Conference is located in St. Louis City or County and has not yet participated in our Zoom training, please plan to join us for one of the following sessions:

Click to join on Wed., Jan. 13 at
10 AM

Click to join on Wed. Jan. 20 at
4 PM

Please note that a member of your Conference must participate in the Zoom training in order for your Conference to utilize this program. Eligibility guidelines, procedures, and expectations will be provided in the training. If you have any questions, please email Julie Komanetsky at Juliek@svdpstl.org

Thank you to Father Jim Cormack, C.M. SVdP's Outgoing Spiritual Advisor

Father Jim Cormack has beautifully led the Society as St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis as Spiritual Advisor for the past eight years - and generously devoted time to SVdP way beyond his term of service. Unfortunately, his tenure with the Society has ended.

We cannot thank him enough for his wisdom, selfless service, spiritual leadership, devotion to the Society and its Vincentian volunteers and his never-ending devotion to our Neighbors in Need.

We also thank Father Patrick McDevitt, the Provincial for the Congregation of the Mission Western Province for his appointment of Father Jim all these years.

Father McDevitt will appoint a new Spiritual Advisor who will be announced in February.



Dear Vincentians:

I have tried to be a good and worthy Spiritual Advisor, and within the limits imposed by my full-time job as pastor at St. Catherine Laboure have tried to offer my good services. For any lapse or failure, I ask your forgiveness.

The truth is I have been given so much more than I gave. As a Vincentian priest I need to be connected to loving service to and with the poor, to our extended Vincentian family, and to true missionary disciples of Christ. What an abundance I was able to be a part of: excellent leadership, mission driven effort, compassionate Christians imbued with the Vincentian charisma, generous, giving, faith filled Vincentians, zealous members impelled by

the love of Christ. I am a better man, better Vincentian, better priest, better pastor because of what I learned and was given as I tried to be a good spiritual advisor.

So, let me deeply and fundamentally express my admiration and my thanks to all members of the Society in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Please stay healthy and may God fill you with every good gift.

Fr. Jim Cormack. C.M.

Welcome Barry Schoedel SVdP's New Director of Vincentian Formation and Support

Barry Schoedel has joined SVdP as Director of Vincentian Formation and Support.

Previously, Barry worked with the Diocese of Baton Rouge where he served as Associate Director for the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. Prior to that position, Barry was Special Assistant to the Bishop, Diocese of Juneau, Alaska, and Director of Religious Education at St. Patrick Parish in Spokane, Washington. Barry earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Religion and Philosophy from The Evergreen State College in Washington. He then earned two Masters' degrees from St. Meinrad University (Theological Studies), Indiana, and Gonzaga University (Philosophy), Spokane.



Barry shared, "I see this position as more than a job. It involves a call to embody the Vincentian charism serving Christ in the poor and forgotten. It requires making alive that charism so that it is effective for the transformation of those drawn to this sacred service."

Welcome, Barry!

From the Voice of the Poor Committee ...

VOICE
of the POOR

Words to Live by From the Voice of the Poor Committee

Blessed Fredric gave us a legacy of compassion and service to the poor. So many of his words are applicable and inspiring to Vincentians in our work today, serving the poor in 2021. To Blessed Fredric, each man, woman and child was too precious to live in poverty.

"I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity."

"Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands."

~ Blessed Fredric Ozanam

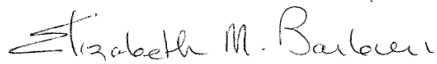
[Click here to read more inspiring quotes from Blessed Fredric Ozanam](#)

From Elizabeth M. Barbieri, Board President

My Dear Friends,

I hope you were able to connect with family and friends, if only virtually, to celebrate the holidays. Most importantly, I hope you and yours remain safe and healthy as our new year dawns and pray that the Covid pandemic will soon be over.

With all my best wishes for a happy and healthy new year . . . and gratitude for your support and friendship in these most trying of times,



Elizabeth M. Barbieri

Dr. Ralph Bidy Receives 20-Year Service Award from IHM Conference in New Melle



Dr. Ralph Bidy was recognized in December by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference in New Melle.

"Dr. Bidy has been a pillar of our conference, an active Member of the Society for 20 consecutive years. He also served two 3 year terms as President," says Conference President, Joe Willis. The IHM Conference presented Dr. Bidy with a plaque and SVdP lapel pin.

Thank you for everything you do for the Society, Dr. Bidy!

Volunteer Needed at Council Office



Due to increased call volume, the Council Office is seeking a volunteer to assist the front desk in retrieving messages and answering phones on Monday mornings 8:00 a.m. – Noon. The hours are flexible, which means a start time as late as 9:00 a.m. will work. Just like volunteering at a SVdP Thrift Store, the volunteer hours can be applied to your conference credit account! We would be so grateful for your help!

Please contact **Steve Poppe** at **314-881-6024** or stevep@svdpstl.org if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.



Click the image to the right to listen to Vincentian



Mike Carsosone from Seven Holy Founders Conference talk about how ServWare helps make his Vincentian work easier.

For more information on getting ServWare for your Conference, contact Tom Matoushek at tomm@svdpstl.org

Upcoming Formation Opportunities

Ozanam Orientation

Sat., January 30, 2021

9 am - noon

Virtual orientation over Zoom

[Click here to register](#)

2021 Spring Assembly

Sat., April 24, 2021

9 am - noon

Attend virtually via Zoom

[Click here to register](#)

2021 Zoom Lenten Retreat

Sat., February 20, 2021

9 am - 11 a.m.

Attend virtually via Zoom

[Click here to register](#)

Keep in Your Prayers

Please Pray For The Sick:

Mike Goering
Council Office

Sandy Van Mill
St. Charles Borromeo

Please Pray For The Deceased:

Bill Donnelly
Former North District President

To add a name to the list contact Steve Rupp at stever@svdpstl.org or (314) 881-6018



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
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