



The Society Scoop

175
YEARS of
NEIGHBORS
HELPING
NEIGHBORS



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

June 2020

Program Updates

Council Paid Bed Program



Temporarily Suspended Through End of September

- Council Office will NOT pay for beds at this time.
- Council Office will pay for vouchers issued in March before the program was suspended.
- Conferences may opt to pay for beds with Conference funds or credits.

Pharmacy Program



Our current pharmacy partner, CastiaRx was bought earlier this year by Optum. For now, Optum will continue to support the current program.

Vincentians can continue to use the forms they have.

Council Paid Car Program



Temporarily Suspended Through End of September

- Council Office will not assist with the purchase of cars at this time.

Important Home Visit Information

As “Stay at Home” directives are lifted by the State and various municipalities, we want to address the question of resuming Home Visits and the well being of our Vincentians.

HOME VISITS

Our District Presidents have recommended the current prohibition on

traditional “in home” visits continue until August 31st. At that point they will revisit this decision looking for a significant period of continuous reduction of COVID cases in the counties where our Vincentians serve. Even when the prohibition is lifted, Vincentians should still make prudent decisions about how and when to conduct in-person home visits. Until then, “home visits” should be done according to the alternatives below.

Home visits are central to our Vincentian vocation. As Frederic Ozanam reminds us, we learn about poverty by, “Climbing the stairs to the poor man’s garret, sitting by his bedside [and] feeling the same cold that pierces him.”

However, spiritual friendship and solidarity require we treat our fellow Vincentians with the same wisdom and compassion we extend to our Neighbors. Some of our Vincentians are in vulnerable groups and we must do what is necessary to ensure their safety and wellbeing. There are still many unknowns about COVID-19, including the possibility of a resurgence as people resume normal activities.

Read
more

Participate in a Listening Session . . .

We want to hear from you!

The SVdP St. Louis Council has conducted “Listening Sessions” at Conferences in the past several years. These Listening Sessions are to guide us to keep focus on developing and building a servant leader culture. In June we will hold these “Listening Sessions” by ZOOM **hosted by John Foppe, our Executive Director.**

We want to hear from you. What can you share that helps us reinforce what we do? . . . and/or point out areas where we can improve and better serve Vincentians? How has the **WHY Statement** impacted you, your Conference, your Neighbors in Need and your fellow Vincentians?



We invite you to one of the following ZOOM Listening Sessions, hosted by John Foppe:

- **Tuesday, June 16, 2:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, June 18, 7:00 p.m.**

Each Listening Session should last no longer than 90 minutes. Please RSVP to Steve Rupp at stever@svdpstl.org or 314-881-6018 to reserve a spot. Each session is limited to 24 people. Steve will give you the Zoom meeting information when you register.

This can be a great way to get to know other Vincentians . . . and work together to bring the Society of St. Vincent de Paul closer to our Neighbors in Need and bring us all closer to Jesus Christ!

Your previous feedback is important and has resulted in the following efforts.

The St. Louis SVdP Council has:

- **Formed a Housing Taskforce** to specifically address our Neighbors' needs, and we are in development a rapid rehousing program in partnership with St. Patrick's center.
- **Created a dedicated Programs and Partnership Director** position to collaborate with community resources and agencies to create and build programs that will help Vincentians better serve our Neighbors in Need.
- **Added a Recruitment and Revitalization Manager** position to assist and support District Leaders to grow and revitalize Conferences. This will help our current membership and plan for our future.
- **Increased marketing efforts** by creating a marketing campaign that reaches both our Catholic audience and also a broader St. Louis audience with print, social, digital and broadcast.
- **Implementing a ServWare Neighbor-in-Need database** that will help Vincentians more efficiently serve our Neighbors in Need.
- **Expanded formation training** so that Vincentians are supported and surrounded in a culture of Servant Leadership to carry our WHY Statement in all that we do and to all that we meet.

Thank you
as you respond to our Neighbors in Need
impacted by the COVID-19 crisis
and the civic turmoil befalling our city.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

"A Bruised Reed He Shall Not Break, and a Smoldering Wick He Shall Not Quench"

Isaiah 42:3



Life often posts ongoing challenges to our ability and willingness to live it fully. Think of the paralysis of analysis. Most things are complicated, but the KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid) can help us find the straightforward answer we've been searching too hard for. Simplicity also carries its challenges like binary thinking: good or bad, black or white, right or wrong, all or nothing. Often our expectations are shaped by our tendency to overuse binary thinking and the simple solutions it offers us.

We humans are a mixture of strength and weakness, of wisdom and foolishness, of hope and despair. The thought that life is solely a process of growth and development which only gives you outcomes better than the last suggests that we are not really meant to be a complicated mix of contrasting characteristics.

Wisdom seems to lie in accepting who we are and learning how to become more fully ourselves, knowing that this acceptance then leads to real human growth. Growth, for example, can come from wise choices and willful and faithful commitment to the good, as well as from learning from our mistakes, accepting what we cannot do or become, and building from our vulnerability. Sadness can deepen my heart and character if I allow it, even with its pain. Deep love and deep grief are absolute partners. If I choose to love, I will have to bear its costs.

[Read more](#)

Tidbits From Elizabeth Barbieri

You can immediately make new members feel part of the Conference by sharing tools and materials to increase enthusiasm for SVdP.

Zoom isn't *just* for the monthly meeting. Plan a Zoom to watch a video. Involvement in an activity gives members a feeling of purpose and friendships begin to grow. New people bring new ideas.



Elizabeth Barbieri
SVdP St. Louis Board President

Cool Breeze Fan Program: June 18

Conferences can receive a maximum of 15 fans at a cost of \$3 per fan.

Conferences must reserve fans prior to the event by contacting Steve Rupp at stever@svdpstl.org or (314) 881-6018. Fans must be paid for at pick up.

Pick up will be **Thursday, June 18 from 1-3 in the Council Office parking lot at Chouteau and 13.**



Store Updates

New Cool Valley Thrift Outlet to Open Mid-June

The Thrift Outlet will open soon! Come visit our newest outlet store at **1225 S. Florissant Rd. St. Louis, MO 63121** when it opens.

The outlet will offer discounted SVdP items available in shopping bins. Customers can select clothing and housewares items and pay by the pound.

Shop and say "hello" to our newest team members.



REQUIESCAT IN PACE Rest in Peace

John Schulte
St. Ann Normandy

Steve Fogle
Immaculate Conception (Dardenne)

Marc Braeckel
St. Anselm

Rosemary Doerr
St. Mary Magdalen

May the angels lead them into paradise, may the martyrs receive them at their coming and

lead them into Jerusalem, the holy city. May the choirs of angels welcome them and, with Lazarus, who was also poor, may they have everlasting peace.

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
St. Louis | [svdpstlouis.org]

