



The Society Scoop



Spring Assembly 2022 - Always Give Witness

New Vincentian connections and friendships were made at the March 26, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Spring Assembly. The day was inspiring and spirit-filled. More than 300 members were in attendance. Did you miss it? Catch up on some of the features of the assembly captured on video:



Homily

St. Louis Auxiliary Bishop Mark Rivituso



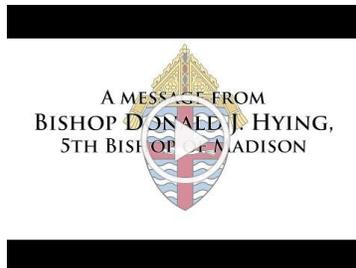
Keynote Speech

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary President
Father James Mason



Message

Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski



Message

Bishop Donald Hying



Mission Moment

Pat & Miss

Program Updates

Heat Up St. Louis Awards Funds to SVdP!

The Council Office has received an award from Heat Up St. Louis for utility assistance! This is the direct result of Vincentians volunteering at Rise and Shine! If you have a Neighbor in need of utility assistance, please complete a Council Program Form and submit it to requestcouncilprogram@svdpstl.org. For Neighbors residing in St. Louis City, please provide proof of income or a Certificate of Zero Income Form.

Help for Conferences Working with Pregnant Women

Join us to share resources, ask questions, and get the support you need to best serve these women and their unborn children.

The Council Office is **seeking Conferences interested in serving pregnant women and their unborn children!** If your Conference is interested in this Special Work and wants to learn more about the opportunity to provide support, encouragement, and prayer to mothers in need, please contact Steve Rupp at SteveR@svdpstl.org or Julie Komanetsky at Juliek@svdpstl.org

Pregnancy Care Partnership Informational Zoom Meetings:

Wednesday, April 6 at 1 PM

Meeting ID: 862 0761 5064
Passcode: 333431

[Click here to Join Meeting on
4/6](#)

Wednesday, April 20 at 1 PM

Meeting ID: 871 0864 0354
Passcode: 023599

[Click here to Join Meeting on
4/20](#)

Rapid Rehousing Update

SVdP remains committed to helping our homeless Neighbors! Since January 2022, we have received 8 referrals. Seven of those are currently working with St. Patrick Center. We welcome referrals from Jefferson County, St. Francois County, Ste. Genevieve County and St. Louis City and County! Eligible Neighbors must:

- have a dependent
- be homeless for less than 30 days or be at imminent risk of homelessness
- have some form of income or the ability to obtain some form of income.

For more information on the program, please email Juliek@svdpstl.org.

Earn Store Credits for your Conference!

SVdP Thrift Stores are our largest program! From October through March, **stores processed 2,106 vouchers** given to Neighbors for FREE thanks to Vincentians like YOU! To help our stores continue to best serve Neighbors:

1. **Consider volunteering at one of our stores!** Volunteers who work a minimum of 8 hours/month will receive \$10/hour in thrift credits for their Conference to use! To volunteer, please complete our online application at [Volunteer | Society of St. Vincent de Paul \(svdpstlouis.org\)](#)
2. Our Neighbors are best served when our stores have a wide variety of gently used items such as clothing, housewares, and furniture. **Please donate your items to our stores!**
3. **Shop with us!** Every dollar spent in our stores keeps our stores running and allows us to serve our Neighbors! SVdP Thrift Stores are currently offering 20% off mattresses and all bedding accessories! Excludes frames, pillows, and Promo Plus mattresses. [Click](#)

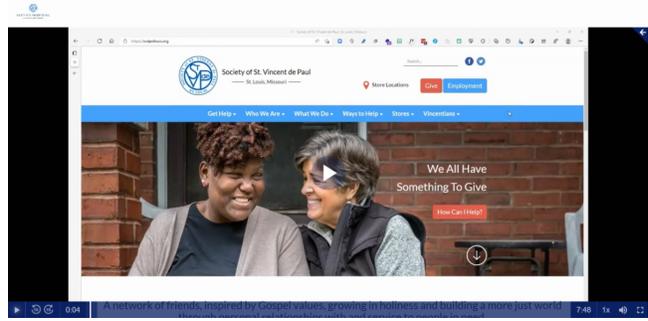
[for more details!](#)

Vincentian Formation and Support

New formation resources and training materials!

Please take some time to view how Vincentian Formation and Member Support has expanded our web presence with new resources and trainings!

[Click to Watch Video](#)



It's Back! In-Person Ozanam Orientation!

We are excited to offer our first in-person Ozanam Orientation since the start of the pandemic! It will be held **Saturday, April 9 from 9:30 – 2:30** at **Immaculate Conception in Dardenne Prairie**. Breakfast items and a boxed lunch will be provided. The session is open to all Vincentians. We'd love for you to register and join us!

The Ozanam Orientation is a foundational offering for all Vincentians covering the spirituality, purpose, history, approach, and structure of the Society. New Vincentians are expected to attend an Ozanam Orientation within their first year in the Society. This session is being offered by the St. Louis Archdiocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

[Register Here](#)

Join the St. Vincent de Paul Young Adult Conference!

Needed . . . young adults to make a difference for Neighbors in Need!

The founder of SVdP, Frederic Ozanam, was a college student himself when he started the Society. Young adults are a key part of the transformational work that the Society is doing in our area. This is an excellent time for them to grow in fellowship and in their faith as they volunteer to serve those in need.



For more information, please email Bryan Kirchoff at bryankirchoff@att.net

Vincentian Meditation

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." – Matthew 22:37-39

Over the last few years, we have made an important shift in how we refer to those we serve. Following Christ's (and Mister Rogers') example, we use the term "Neighbor in Need" or, simply, "Neighbor." This is an expression of our Essential Element of Friendship.

We refrain from referring to Neighbors as clients (or NINs). Clients don't have clients, but Neighbors have Neighbors. A Vincentian-client relationship is one-directional. A Neighbor-Neighbor relationship, on the other hand, flows both ways. We seek to be and see the face of Christ in our engagements with our Neighbors, and we, in turn, grow as Vincentians. It is a mutually beneficial exchange.

Volunteer Story: Lighting the Way

It's a common problem with donated items – some people give items that aren't so gently used. In particular, the Christy store was stocked with dozens of candles with wicks that were already burned.

But instead of throwing away these used candles, SVdP Volunteers Terri Philippi and Ed Mantia saw an opportunity. Back in 2015, Ed proposed collecting old candles, melting them down, giving them new wicks, and returning them to the store in their new, useable conditions.

"It takes about two days to make a candle," says Terri. "But it's very relaxing!"

The first time that they melted and recreated candles for the Christy store, Ed and Terri set out 186 candles. All of them sold, and fast. Their candles were in high demand!

Now, they sort through donated candles, looking for ones that have been used but are still in good enough condition to be melted down. From there, they're sorted into scented, unscented, and holiday varieties. Around Christmas time, Ed and Terri set out their refurbished Christmas candles for SVdP customers.

By making new candles out of old wax, Ed and Terri are keeping candles out of the landfill, and giving Neighbors in Need a thoughtful product, made with care.

"When it comes to donations, don't donate something that's broken or doesn't work. Treat others like you'd want to be treated," says Terri.

The time they spend making candles is filled with music and conversation—but the hours also earn them credit for vouchers for our Neighbors in Need.

Consider volunteering at one of our stores! Volunteers who work a minimum of 8 hours/month will receive \$10/hour in thrift credits for their Conference to use! To volunteer, please complete our online application [here](#).

If you are interested in volunteering to help Terri and Ed making candles, they would love to teach you how! For more information, you can email Terri at tphil@swbell.net.

From the Voice of the Poor Committee

Missouri Bill Could Roll Back Medicaid Expansion

In August 2020, Missouri voters approved a constitutional amendment that extended Medicaid eligibility to adults earning up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. For example, a single adult earning up to \$17,774 annually is now eligible, as are adults in a family of four earning up to \$36,576 annually. These adults were previously ineligible for both Medicaid and subsidized healthcare through the Marketplace.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Reminder... Rosary Every Wednesday Night!



Join us --
SVdP St. Louis
Rosary Wednesday
8 p.m.
via Zoom.

[Click Here to Join](#)

Meeting ID: 989 8066 7271 **Passcode:** vincent
or dial in: (312) 626-6799

Keep in Your Prayers

Please Pray for The Sick:

Doug Burkemper
Immaculate Conception, Old Monroe

Julie Hogan
Mary Mother of the Church

John Wich
Mary Mother of the Church

Please Pray for The Deceased:

Adele Merkel
St. Catherine Laboure



Jack Moore
Cathedral Basilica

Marilyn Morrison
Annunziata

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

