



The Society Scoop | April 2024 | Issue 4



The Society Scoop

1310 Papin St., St. Louis, MO 63103 | <https://svdpstlouis.org>

A Message From John Foppe -

Dear Vincentians:

On this auspicious day, as we commemorate the feast of our founder, Blessed Antoine Frédéric Ozanam, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for each of you. Your dedication and service to the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in St. Louis embody the spirit of Blessed Ozanam and inspire us all.

In today's Gospel reading from John 3:16-21, we are reminded of the profound love of God, who sent his Son to save the world. The imagery of light and darkness speaks directly to our mission. We are called to be bearers of the light of Christ, illuminating the lives of those in need and dispelling the darkness of despair and suffering.

As we continue our work, let us fervently pray for the light of Christ to protect and guide us. May it shine brightly in our actions and endeavors, leading us to serve with compassion, humility, and love.

Though I am temporarily away for medical reasons, please know that I carry you in my heart and thoughts every day. I eagerly anticipate my return to join you in our shared mission once again.

Thank you for your continued efforts and sacrifices in serving our community. Together, let us keep the flame of Blessed Ozanam's vision burning brightly.

With warm regards and blessings,



John Foppe

Executive Director,
St. Louis Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Program Updates & Resources

Thank YOU Vincentians!



April is Volunteer Month and we extend our deepest gratitude to all Vincentians for the crucial contributions you selflessly make serving those in need.

SVdP Vincentians are truly the lifeblood of our organization and the hands and feet of the body of Christ to which we are called.

Thank you for your time, your effort, your thoughtfulness, your perseverance, and most of all: your caring and compassion.

How do you help someone with mental illness?

Most of us know very little about mental health. We all probably research and try to understand illnesses like heart disease and

cancer but due to the stigma of mental illness, when it comes to our neighbor or family members mental health, we know very little.



Most Sacred Heart's Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference (Eureka) is sponsoring a presentation on Mental Health and everyone is invited.

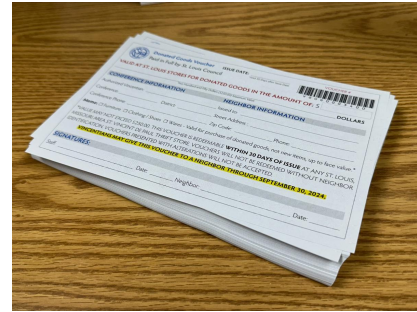
Join us Tuesday, April 23 in [Father Dowling Hall](#) from 6:30-7:30 pm.

There will be a 60-minute interactive presentation that includes a discussion on common mental health conditions, mental health facts & statistics, signs of a mental health condition, and signs of suicide. You will learn how to help and communicate with someone who may be ill.

The presenters are trained mental health professionals from the **National Alliance on Mental Illness St Louis**. The presentation is for any individual who would like to learn about mental illness.

Voucher Best Practices

- If your Conference needs additional Donated Goods Vouchers, please contact your District President.
- Please make certain to **spell out the name of your Conference and District on each voucher.**
- Donated Goods Vouchers can be used for donated clothing, housewares, and furniture. **While each voucher has a maximum value of \$250, you may also use them for smaller amounts if needed.**



4/17 - Pregnancy Care Partnership Zoom



Working with a pregnant neighbor?

Join us on the third Wednesday of each month to learn more about the Pregnancy Care Partnership.

[Every 3rd Wednesday, 1 – 2 p.m.](#)

[APR 17](#)

[MAY 15](#)

[JUNE 19](#)

This partnership helps support pregnant women during and after their pregnancy.

SVdP is seeking Conferences willing to provide support and friendship to these women and their children.

For more information, contact Julie Komanetsky at juliek@svdpstl.org.

Get Link for
Zoom

Learn About Transportation Programs



The Car Purchase and Car Repairs Programs are now available **outside** of St. Louis City and County.

Guidelines are available in the Online Program Handbook:

[Car Purchase Program](#)

[Car Repair Program](#)

Resources: Free Tax Preparation for Our Neighbors



[Learn More About St. Louis TAP](#)



[Learn more about METRO](#)

Upcoming SVdP Events At A Glance

Register Now to Attend 2024 Spring Assembly



Register for Spring Assembly!
**"Vincentian Hearts Ablaze:
Igniting Hope and Joy"**

Saturday, April 27
8 AM – Noon

Mass Celebrant & Homilist:
Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski

Keynote Address:
John Foppe, Executive Director

Join us for a morning of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration! This annual event will draw hundreds of Vincentians from across our Archdiocese.

- Location: **SLU High School**
- Two table discussions
- Friendship & Spirituality
- Sharing great ideas to take back to your conference!



REGISTER NOW!

Formation and Training Events

Apr 10 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm - **TODAY!**

Know Your Resources: Meet Your Vicariate Social Outreach Coordinator and Catholic Charities Navigator

APR 27 | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Featured

Spring Assembly 2024

MAY 7 | 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Home Visits Workshop at Most Sacred Heart, Eureka

MAY 8 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Know Your Resources - College Church Outreach ID & Birth Certificate Assistance Program

MAY 15 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Vincentian Wisdom Series: Working Smarter, Not Harder to Help Our Neighbors

JUNE 4 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Vincentian Wisdom Series: FUN in Fundraising

JUNE 8 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Ozanam Orientation at Holy Infant Church

4/10 - Know Your Resources - Meet the Dream Team: Your Vicariate Social Outreach Coordinator and Catholic Charities Navigator

Meet Your Vicariate Social Outreach Coordinator and Catholic Charities



Navigator via Zoom!

Register for Zoom Link to be sent to your email.

Join today's meeting!

5/7 - Home Visit Workshop

The Home Visit Workshop is a foundational offering open to all Vincentians. Rooted in our essential elements of spirituality, friendship, and service, the workshop provides guidance for meeting with our Neighbors in their homes and offering support.

May 7 | 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Most Sacred Heart
Eureka, MO

Register for May
7

5/8 - Know Your Resources: College Church ID and Birth Certificate Program

Join us on Zoom at 4pm for an informative session on the St. Francis Xavier College ID and Birth Certificate Program led by Christine Dragonette. Discover how this program assists individuals in obtaining crucial government-issued documents. Christine will also discuss training opportunities available for parishes and Catholic agencies within the Archdiocese of Saint Louis.



Register for May
8

VINCENTIAN WISDOM SERIES



5/15 - *Vincentian Wisdom Series:*

Working Smarter (Not Harder) to Help our Neighbors

presented by Voice of The Poor

Join us to discuss ways that we as Vincentians can:

- Access community resources
- Collaborate with other churches and groups
- Apply what we learn from our neighbors and each other to encourage change.

Featured Panelists:

- Mike Carosone
- Andy Graf
- Prudence Kramer

Register to
Attend

Working Smarter Not Harder to Help Our Neighbors

A Vincentian Wisdom Series Webinar hosted by the Voice for the Poor Committee



Wednesday, May 15, 2024
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.



To register, visit bit.ly/SVDPWorkingSmarter or scan the QR Code.

Join us to discuss ways that we as Vincentians can:

Access Community Resources
Collaborate with other Churches and Groups
Apply what we Learn from our Neighbors and Each Other to
Encourage Change

Featured Panelists

Mike Carosone
Seven Holy Founders
Conference
Affton

Andy Graf
St. Vincent de Paul
Conference
Perryville

Prudence Kramer
St. Margaret of Scotland
Conference
Saint Louis

VOICE
for
the POOR

The Voice for the Poor Committee
Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis
Questions? Contact vopstlouis@gmail.com.

6/4 - *Vincentian Wisdom Series:* FUN in Fundraising



Fundraising is an activity of importance at both the Council and Conference level. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul relies upon the generosity of our donors for much of our funding. Our donors are inspired by what you do every day in serving God and your Neighbors.

Fundraising is also an important spiritual component of your glorious service to your Neighbors in Need.

Hear from fellow Vincentians on insights, strategies, and tips on how to put the FUN in Fundraising!

Register for June 4

7/9 - *Vincentian Wisdom* *Series: Recruitment*

Volunteer recruitment can be a major challenge. Finding, screening, and eventually onboarding new volunteers is not always easy. We want to help set your conference up for success. This event offers insights and tips on how to recruit outstanding volunteers for your conference events and programs.

Register for July
9

8/6 - *Vincentian Wisdom* *Series: Servant* *Leadership*

A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong.

Learn how a servant-leader shares power, discover the importance of putting the needs of others first, and help the members of your conference develop into the future leaders of the Society.

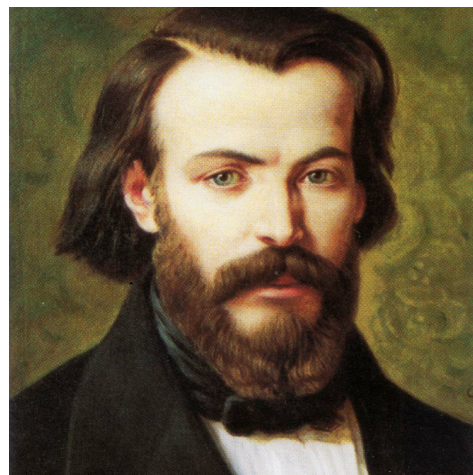
Register for August 6

6/8 - Ozanam Orientation at Holy Infant Church

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.

Register to
Attend



Servware Instruction - Mondays & Thursdays



Have questions about ServWare? Do you want to know more about best practices, key features, useful reports, and much more?

The council office is now offering a new bi-weekly, open-forum style Zoom meeting to discuss all things ServWare. These meetings are open to all Vincentians, and the topics of discussion will be directed by you, the ServWare user.

In an effort to accommodate as many people as possible, we will initially offer

two weekly opportunities to join:

Monday evenings at 6:30PM:

[APR 15 | 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm](#)

[APR 22 | 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm](#)

[APR 29 | 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm](#)

Thursday afternoons at 3:30PM:

[APR 11 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm](#)

[APR 18 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm](#)

[APR 25 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm](#)

SVdP News

Homeless Outreach at Crystal City

Vincenians from Sacred Heart in Crystal City and Good Shepherd in Hillsboro supported our unhoused Neighbors at an event organized by Jefferson County Coalition for the Unhoused.

Tim Massey, SVdP liaison to the Southern Vicariate, also participated in the event.



Way to go, Vincenians! SVdP Awarded \$50k



THANK YOU! Your participation in February's Rise and Shine event garnered SVdP \$50,000 to

spend on utilities in support of Neighbors in Need.

Neighbors can be awarded up to \$500 from this fund.

To request and apply for assistance (monies), submit a program form for all areas in the St. Louis Council Proof of income and last 4 digits of the social are is also needed for St. Louis City residents.



Forms can be submitted to:
requestcouncilprogram@svdpstl.org



Save the Date Reminder! Give STL Day on May 9



The St. Louis Community Foundation's Give STL Day celebrates and supports the nonprofits that make our region a wonderful place to call home.

Over the past decade, Give STL Day has raised more than \$30 million for over one thousand local nonprofits.

Now, we're getting ready for the next Give STL Day on May 9, 2024.

Early giving begins April 24!

Friends of Honduras Mission Trip Update

The trip went better than we had expected for such a massive distribution of goods, but our systems worked, thank God. So many stories to tell.

One miracle story concerns an 18-year old boy who is deaf, blind, and unable to walk. He was carried to the village by his mother. He was pointed out to us by his grandfather, and we went to see him and talk to his mother to understand his situation.

As it was, we had brought two wheelchairs in our shipment, and, despite requests, we hadn't yet committed them to anyone. This boy was meant to have one.

So we drove him home along with a wheelchair, and I'm sure his situation will be much improved (see photo with family).

Thanks again to you, Albert, and the SVDP Society for helping us to make this project a success!



[View Video](#)



Spring Fling / Bake Sale at Seven Holy Founders

The Ladies Auxiliary of St. Vincent de Paul
are hosting a
Spring Fling/Bake Sale

Join us for an afternoon of games. Please bring cards, dominoes, board games, or any game of your choosing and come home with some goodies. You might also win a Pot of Gold jackpot or a raffle item!

Thursday, April 25, 2024
Seven Holy Founders Parish Hall
6741 Rock Hill Rd. St. Louis, MO 63123

Doors Open at 12:30 p.m./Play is from 1-3:30 p.m.
Snacks and drinks will be served.

Cost: \$10.00 - All proceeds will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

To reserve your spot, please call or text:

Linda Schwartz
314-202-9121

Denise Lundry
314-832-2556

Payment will be collected in advance. When making your reservation, you will be given the address to send it to. However, your check will not be deposited until after the Spring Fling.



North District Golf Tournament

Save the Date: Friday June 14, 2024

St. Vincent de Paul North District 11th Annual Golf Tournament

Florissant Golf Club
50 Country Club Lane
Florissant, MO 63033

Proceeds to benefits St. Vincent de Paul North District Charitable Aid to Neighbors in Need.

Watch for more details to come!

Save the Date: Friday June 14th 2024
St. Vincent dePaul North District 11th Annual Golf Tournament

Florissant Golf Club: 50 Country Club Lane, Florissant MO 63033

Shotgun Start: 4 Person Scramble

Proceeds to benefit St. Vincent dePaul North District Charitable Aid to Neighbors In Need

Watch for additional details to follow!



Vincentian Meditation

Is Your Heart on Fire?

by Julie Komanetsky, Director of Vincentian Services



“What do you do besides talk to prove the faith you claim is in you?”

This was the challenge presented to our founder, Frederic Ozanam in 1833.

Frederic responded by serving the poor and establishing a network of charity worldwide!

Charity, in our secular world, has come to mean nonprofit—which the Society is. Charity also means giving help to those in need—which the Society does. But as Catholics, we know that charity is love.

Our charity is so much more than a bag of groceries or assistance with a utility bill...

[Read the Full Meditation!](#)

Mission Moments

Caring for Our Customers as Neighbors

by Aretta Jones, Assistant Store Manager, Florissant Thrift Store

The other morning, I received a call from a neighbor in need asking for a donation of clothing so that he and his wife could attend church. I invited them

in and provided each an outfit.

In talking to them, they said they were homeless and living in their car behind St. Ferdinand. They are working with St. Ferdinand and as they did not have placement options for them at the moment, we referred them to 211 and other local parishes in Florissant.

They were very grateful for the assistance they were provided. The gentlemen said, "I'll be back when I get myself together as a man".

I could tell he was down in his spirit, and I told him that he is a man to stay prayerful, and to please feel free to reach out at any time for assistance.

This past Monday one of our regular customers was at the register checking out, so as usual I joked with her asking, "Mrs. Riley who you be shopping for, because I know you don't need all this stuff."

And she responded, "Girl I be buying stuff for my co-worker. She had a fire and lost everything". She said this happened about a month ago and that she still needed things.

I asked her for her coworkers zip, and I looked on the conference finder, found Saint Norbert, wrote down the info, and also wrote down Sacred Heart North information. I told her to have her coworker reach out to see if one of them could possibly help.

Although I don't know the outcome, Mrs. Riley seemed to be grateful that I took the time to give her that information.

Extending Grace With Dignity

by Anayla King, Assistant Store Manager, Cool Valley Thrift Outlet

At around 5:45 on a Friday at the Cool Valley Thrift Outlet, a family of 7 came in searching around for some items. I did not know they had a voucher until it was 6:00 and they were frantically still searching for things.

I didn't think much of it, until I caught the odor of smoke on their clothes and noticed the looks on their faces - they had been through a fire and a very tough time.

They rushed to the register ready to check out and I told them, "No, keep shopping. It's okay you need these items, and we are here to help." I went outside to grab carts and I noticed a huge Penske truck on the lot, and I knew they were driving that, and I know they wanted to get what they could.

They had a 6-year-old boy and a newborn baby with them. I then gave them some easter items and toys to the kids. It was nice to put a smile on their face when they needed it the most.

To support Conferences, the Council has prepared a thorough compilation of Conference Merger Materials, which is available online to all Vincentians.

Click the link below to access the resources.

We continue to depend on you, our Vincentians, to let us know what is going on in your parishes and how we can better support you!



[Access Conference Merger Resources](#)

From the Voice for the Poor

VOICE *for*
the **POOR**

*Urge Your Senators to Pass
the Child Tax Credit*

The expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) has been stuck in the Senate since January, when the House passed it with an overwhelming bipartisan majority.

It is critical that Senators pass the expanded CTC before it is too late.

The legislation would expand the CTC so that lower income children and families receive the full credit. The proposal prioritizes children whose families currently receive only a partial credit or no credit at all because their incomes are too low – **approximately 16 million children will benefit from the expansion.**

We have a narrow window to pass a strong Child Tax Credit bill. Inaction will kill the bill.

Please contact Senators Hawley and Schmitt and ask them to pass the Child Tax Credit bill now!

*Take
Action*

Benefits Cliff Update

Last year, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation which would allow recipients of public assistance benefits (TANF, SNAP, and child care subsidies) to continue to receive benefits at a reduced rate if they took a pay raise or promotion, rather than being cut off altogether.

The point was to encourage work and help people out of poverty.

Although the Governor included money in his proposed budget to prepare state computer systems for the program, it was expected that the federal government would fund the benefits themselves.

In March, the federal government agencies that administer these programs told lawmakers that the language passed doesn't match federal requirements and that the state would have to fund the program with state general revenue. Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle are working with the federal agencies, along with the Governor's administration, to find a way to make this program a reality this year.

There is a federally-supported avenue for raising SNAP income and asset limits, called broad-based categorical eligibility, that 41 other states have implemented to provide reduced SNAP benefits above the current cliff at 130% of the Federal Poverty Level and/or to increase SNAP asset limits to encourage savings.

It is unclear if Missouri will opt for a broad-based categorical eligibility approach, but time is running out to find a solution this legislative session.

Reminder... Rosary Every Wednesday Night



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

[Click Here to Join](#)

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

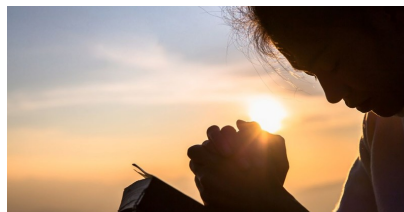
Please Keep in Your Prayers

Please Pray for The Sick:

Gene Murphy, Seven Holy Founders

Nancy Page, St. Charles Borromeo

Marty Bligh, Holy Name of Jesus



Fr. Dan Thiess, Spiritual Advisor

Jeanette Aubuchon, North District President

Prayers for the Deceased:

[Michael W Berra, St. Clement](#)

[Steve Vitale, St. Charles Borromeo](#)



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

Click the icons below to follow us on social media
and stay up-to-date with what's happening at SVdP!



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