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The Society Scoop | Aug 2023 | Issue 8

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## The Society Scoop

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

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### New SVdP Resolutions from the Board

Dear Vincentians,

Greetings to all. We want to update you on Board resolutions about fiscal sustainability passed at last week's Board meeting.

**These resolutions address:**

- Changes in Council Program assistance: Council will assist with a maximum of one month rent/mortgage assistance and is temporarily pausing the Car Purchase & Repair Programs. Effective August 1, 2023.  
[\(Click here to read the resolution\)](#)
- Changes to BDF funds: Districts will only receive BDF funds for special projects (such as a refrigerator for a food pantry). This will effectively end the 50-25-25 split. Effective August 1, 2023.  
[\(Click here to read the resolution\)](#)
- Conference Spending Resolution and Twinning Policy. Effective no later than October 1, 2023.  
[\(Click here to read the Conference and Council Spending resolution\)](#)  
[\(Click here to read the Twinning Policy\)](#)

These new resolutions are necessary to address SVdP St. Louis' current cash flow situation.

[Click Here to Read the Full Letter from Carole Johnson and John Foppe](#)

## Additional Background on Resolutions

Several years ago, the Council was the beneficiary of a very generous bequest that allowed SVdP to provide significant financial support to Conferences for Neighbors.

### Two things happened as a result:

1. Those funds have since been depleted. (This is a good thing! After all, the money given to SVdP belongs to the poor.)
2. Many Conferences (not all) have seen an increase in their treasuries because of the extra support provided to them by District and Council. The March CAR report balances indicated almost \$5 million in Conference funds. This money (unless restricted by the donor) should be used to serve our poor. The resolutions passed by the Board encourages this.

### The Board Resolutions were approved to:

1. Encourage Vincentians to spend their Conference funds to help the poor.
2. Encourage Conferences to turn to twinning when more funds are needed. Your District President can assist with that.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam wrote to his mother in 1836:

*"We have reason to hope that the (Society) will prosper. Indeed, when it was founded, it seemed to me a great folly, since we had only 180 francs. Providence has provided. I am now very much convinced that to do works of charity, it is never necessary to worry about pecuniary resources, they always come."*

**Contact your District President or  
email Julie Komanetsky with any questions: [JulieK@svdpstl.org](mailto:JulieK@svdpstl.org)**

## Safeguarding Requirements for Vincentian Members

Society of St. Vincent De Paul Archdiocesan Council (SVdP) seeks to ensure that, not only is abuse prevented and reported, but also works to create safe and respectful environments to protect the human dignity and confidentiality of our Neighbors-in-Need. Whether we visit with Neighbors or provide support for our conferences, as Vincentians it is important to know how to report abuse and support the Archdiocesan Code of Ethics.



### Requirements:

All **NEW** Active and Associate Conference members must complete the Archdiocese Safe Environment Training Program within 14 days of joining a Conference and comply with the Archdiocesan updating requirements.

**Current** Active and Associate Conference members who have not yet completed the Archdiocese Safe Environment Training Program must do so before November 1, 2023, and report the relevant completion dates to their Conference President and the Council Office who will ensure the information is entered into the Member ServWare page.

The Training Program is all online and easy to complete in just 20-30 minutes.

[Click here to register for the Archdiocese Safe Environment Training Program](#)

[Click here for "how-to-register" screenshots . . . Which are \(hopefully\) helpful.](#)

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More help needed . . .

## 2023 National Assembly - [Still Seeking 100 Volunteers](#)



### Volunteers Needed! Sign up Today!

SVdP is seeking volunteers to fill the following roles for the upcoming National Assembly in St. Louis:

- Greeters
- Host City Table
- Registration Support

**SVdP National Assembly  
In St. Louis  
"Where It All Began"  
September 5 – 9, 2023**

Several time slots are available, so click below to register to volunteer!

[Sign Up to  
Volunteer](#)

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## SVdP Rapid Rehousing



SVdP Rapid Rehousing is unable to accept new referrals until a case manager is hired and trained.

***We will update you when we have more information.***

## Pregnancy Partnership Monthly Zoom Meeting

Join us to talk about the pregnancy partnership!

Ask questions. Learn about resources. Share support and pray for these mothers and their unborn children.



Wednesday, Aug 16 from 1-2 PM

[Go To Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 883 4273 2618

Passcode: 301266

## Thrift Stores Seeking Furniture Donations



Have furniture you no longer need? Give it a new purpose and make a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

We're seeking good, usable working order, free of breakage, rips, stains, pet hair and damaged parts, and donating furniture is easier than ever!

Drop off your furniture at the SVdP [thrift store nearest you](#) or [schedule a donation pickup](#) and let us handle the logistics, while you experience the joy of giving

## All Things New



**ALL THINGS NEW**  
STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

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.

In addition, our Council Office team is continuing to contact each merging Conference to support you and navigate changes with you.

We are depending 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](#)

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## Join Us This Afternoon for a One-hour Zoom Session Vincentians Fully Alive: Guidelines for Formation

“Membership in the Society involves lifelong formation” (Manual 2.1).

As part of the Vincentian Wisdom Series, this workshop will cover the 4 areas of formation, formation guidelines, and the Vincentian Lifelong Engagement Model.



**Wednesday, August 2**  
**3:00 - 4:00 PM**  
**Zoom**

[Click Here to Register](#)

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## Next Wednesday: Home Visit 101

Home Visit 101, a foundational offering open to all Vincentians, builds on the brief home visit section in the Ozanam Orientation. This introductory session, created specifically for St. Louis area Vincentians, covers home visit basics, the spirituality of the home visit, the why of the home visit, the how of the home visit, and self-care.

**Wednesday, August 9**  
**6:15 - 8:45 PM**  
**St. Patrick (Wentzville)**

[Click Here to Register](#)

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## Ozanam Orientation



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.

**Saturday, Aug 12**  
**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**St. Joseph - Imperial**

[Click Here to Register](#)

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## New Beginnings and the Way Forward: Transformation and Reimagining Our Future

All Things New goes beyond Conferences merging, it touches all of us in different ways.

Though these changes come with challenges, they also present an opportunity for growth and renewal.

Your SVdP Council is here to help and support you, as we strive to meet that opportunity.

Join us for informational Zoom sessions and learn more about the steps to take to make a successful collaboration. How-to's, checklists and Q&A's.



**Wednesday, Aug 30**  
**6:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**Zoom**

[Click Here to Register](#)

### Upcoming SVdP Events At A Glance

Aug 2 | 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[Vincetians Fully Alive: Guidelines for Formation](#)

Aug 9 | 6:15 pm - 8:45 pm

[Home Visit 101 at St. Patrick Wentzville](#)

Aug 12 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

[Ozanam Orientation at St. Joseph Imperial](#)

Aug 30 | 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

[New Beginnings and the Way Forward: Helpful Guidelines for Merging Conferences](#)

Sep 5 | 8:00 am – September 9 | 5:00 pm

[2023 National Assembly](#)

Sep 8 | ALL DAY

[Memorial of Bl. Frédéric Ozanam](#)

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**Vincetian Meditation:**



We've been through a lot of change since early 2020. With the constraints and isolation of COVID, the announcement All Things New, and now the closure of our parishes – many have suffered. But we cling to hope because we know all is not lost. If we follow Jesus as our example, we know that our suffering can be turned into a gift of sacrificial love. Through our daily life with family, friends, and our fellow Vincentians, that sacrificial love can be a powerful source of peace and joy in our hearts – if we draw close to Jesus.

As our parishes and Council continue to move through All Things New, we will have daily opportunities to offer our sacrificial love in transforming and re-building our SVdP Council. Starting with our own transformation, one thing we must preserve and strengthen is our Vincentian JOY! The joy of living our vocation and serving Christ in the poor is what binds us together as Vincentians and sustains us in serving our Neighbors. Every day we will have a chance to accept God's love, increase our joy, and share that precious joy with others. So please, don't let a day go by without sharing and spreading the hope and joy of your vocation.

## National Assembly

### 2023 National Assembly - Register to Attend



### SVdP National Assembly In St. Louis “Where It All Began” September 5 – 9, 2023

This year's Assembly will be held at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch, St. Louis. The SVdP group rate is \$145 per room, per night, plus taxes.

Please use the booking button to make your reservation instead of calling the hotel directly. This will ensure that you receive the correct rate for the meeting.

[Book Your Hotel Room](#)

NOTE: The group rate expires August 9, 2023! Don't wait to make your reservation, especially if you are coming early, we have limited inventory over those dates.

If you have any difficulty making your room reservation, please contact Christi Watts at:

[christi.watts@inlinemeetings.com](mailto:christi.watts@inlinemeetings.com)

[Register to Attend](#)

Once you've completed your registration, you will automatically be directed to the group booking page.

**Questions regarding Scholarships?** Please contact Michele

## Friends of the Poor Walk



**St. Vincent de Paul  
Saturday, September 23, 2023**

if anyone would like to get more information on hosting a Walk, or how to tie in to an existing Walk, to contact me at [stever@svdpstl.org](mailto:stever@svdpstl.org) or 314-881-6018.

<https://www.fopwalk.org/>

## From the Voice of the Poor



*The knowledge of social well-being and reform is to be learned, not from books, nor from the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor's man garret, sitting by his bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces him, sharing the secret of his lonely heart and troubled mind.*

~ Frederic Ozanam

Through our home visits, we Vincentians have unique insight into the complexities of poverty and the myriad reasons that our Neighbors find themselves in it. This insight is invaluable to our Voice of the Poor Committee, which advocates for policies and programs that empower our Neighbors to move from poverty to a better, more sustainable life.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our Voice of the Poor table at the recent Open House. If you are interested in learning more about the Committee's activities and how you can help, we invite you to do any and all of the following:

- Check out the **Voice of the Poor** resources on the St. Louis Council website.
- Contact Voice of the Poor Committee co-chairs Bernie Sammons (314-853-6391) and Mary Kreienkamp (314-852-2305); or email [vopstlouis@gmail.com](mailto:vopstlouis@gmail.com).
- Click below to find out more about Who We Are and Our Current Priorities

[Learn Who We Are](#)

[Our Current  
Priorities](#)





RFT Ranked our Cool Valley Thrift Outlet #1 in STL!

*"Absolutely undefeated. She's an icon. She's a legend. She's the moment. She's so beloved to us she's like a person. ... You pay for your stuff based on its weight. But it's even cheaper here. And unlike any of the other thrift*

*stores, this place has genuinely cool stuff that has gone unpicked over unlike in those thrift stores in south and west county."*

They also had great things to say about our stores at Christy, Ballwin, Fenton, Lemay Ferry, and St. Ann!

*"Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores, as far as thrift store chains go, are generally better than others. The prices are lower, the furniture selection far more expansive, and charitable aspects more robust."*

[Read the Full Article](#)

## 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:**

Ted Fanson, St. Roch

Danielle Massey

Sam Tremont,  
St. Joseph, Manchester

Father Dan Thiess,  
Council Spiritual Advisor

Marty Bligh,  
Holy Name of Jesus

Debbie Rupp  
wife of Steve Rupp, Council Office



**Please Pray for The Deceased:**

Betty Newberry, Our Lady of Guadalupe

Roy Maurer, Mary Queen of Peace

*Roy was an Ozanam Orientation and Home Visit 101 facilitator and former Southwest District president*

To add a name to the list, please contact Steve Rupp at [steve@svdpstl.org](mailto:steve@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!

