



The Society Scoop | Aug 2024 | Issue 8



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

## SVdP St. Louis Council Open House



On Tuesday, July 23, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Louis Council hosted a successful Open House, welcoming more than 80 Vincentians. Thank you to all who attended!

Vincentian visitors had the opportunity to pray together, meet with the Council Staff, the Voice for the Poor Committee, the ServWare Committee Chair, Pregnancy Partnership Vincentians, the hardworking Thrift Stores Staff and Board Members.

The open house was a great way for Vincentians to join in friendship, share ideas, and learn more about serving those in need throughout the community.

Vincentians were polled about why they love being a Vincentian. We are creating several feature videos. Thank you to those who participated! Here is a sample of one already made. Click below to watch.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Vincentian Volunteers  
Tell Us Why They Love  
Being a Vincentian

## Upcoming District Meetings



All Vincentians are invited to attend their District Meeting. These meetings are a great opportunity to meet other Vincentians, hear about District business, and learn more about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

For more information, check with your Conference or District President or email Steve Rupp at [stever@svdpstl.org](mailto:stever@svdpstl.org).

- **South Central**, Tuesday, September 17, St. Ambrose 6:00 pm.
- **South East**, Thursday, September 26, Immaculate Conception, Park Hills, 6:00 pm.
- **South West**, Saturday, October 5, Sacred Heart, Valley Park, 8:00 am Mass.
- **North**, Saturday, October 12, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, 8:00 am Mass.
- **Northwest**, Wednesday, October 16, location TBD, 6:00 pm.
- **Mid Central**, Saturday, October 19, Annunziata 2:00 pm.
- **Gravois**, Wednesday, October 23, St. Simon 6:00 pm.
- **North Central**, Thursday, October 24, Our Lady of Lourdes, 6:30 pm.
- **Festus**, Saturday, October 26, St. Joseph, Imperial, 8:00 am Mass.
- **West**, Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, Immaculate Conception, Union 1:00 pm.

## Vincentian Services Restructuring

With fewer staff, the Vincentian Services team is restructuring to ensure we are responsive to you and the needs of your Conference. This means that some responsibilities have shifted. If you need assistance from the team, please use this for guidance.

[Click Here For The Resource  
List](#)



**The unsheltered can be arrested for sleeping outdoors.**

## **A St. Vincent de Paul Response**

In response to the Supreme Court's decision in the City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul expressed concerns by the decision and its impact on the homeless population going forward. By ruling in favor of the plaintiff, the Supreme Court has signaled that local governments can make it a crime for someone to live outside and unsheltered if they have no home. A link to the response from SVDP is here: [Supreme Court Decision](#).

The Court's decision is a setback for unhoused people and communities nationwide working to solve homelessness. It is believed that this policy will only worsen homelessness.

What can we as Vincentians do to support our homeless Neighbors in Need? The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has successful homelessness prevention programs in place by providing rental assistance when needed along with other programs to help families have access to shelter. We must continue these programs, and in addition, we need to work on addressing the root causes of homelessness which includes that lack of affordable housing, address the backlog of people waiting for Section 8 housing vouchers and grow the number of landlords that are willing to accept them, and lastly, consider organizing Community Land Trusts (CLTs). A CLT is often managed by a non-profit that acquires multiple lots in a neighborhood and the trust uses grants or loans to acquire land. The CLT then sells homes and sometimes businesses at an affordable price. This is a tool that can be used to combat gentrification in neighborhoods that can result in displacement of low-income families. A link to the article from the Catholic Labor Network with additional details is here: [CLT](#) (see page 4. Taking Initiative On Affordable Housing).

Access to affordable housing continues to be an acute need across America and the current decision by the Supreme Court is a call for Vincentians to have increased focus and attention on working to address the root causes of homelessness.

## SVdP Events

### Mark Your Calendars for the Friends of the Poor Walk

#### **Various September Dates**

With the hot weather settling in, it's okay to have an eye for those cool, fall mornings when the trees are beginning to change, and the dog days of summer are behind us. It's a time when we want to get outside and



of summer are behind us. It's a time when we want to get outside and enjoy the weather, and each other. The perfect time for the Friends of the Poor Walk!



Last September we had Walks that began with prayer. Walks that began with the Stations of the Cross. Walks that included Mass. We had sno-cones, face-painting, memorial yard signs, Fredbird, chicken dinners, golf carts, dogs, neon t-shirts, games, donuts, cookies, hot dogs, fun, laughter, exercise, Priests, parishioners, friends, Deacons, families, and God...and He blessed us with great weather!

[Click Here to Register Your Conference or District Event](#)



[View List of Walk Sites](#)

[View Walk History](#)

[Click above for the list of 2024 Walk Sites with Walk Coordinator information](#) on each site. Coordinators are happy to answer questions if you'd like to tap into their site.

Or, you can create your own Walk site. I'd be happy to help in any way I can.

God Bless,  
Steve Rupp  
email: [SteveR@svdpstl.org](mailto:SteveR@svdpstl.org)  
phone: 314 881-6018

## Upcoming Formation Opportunities

“From the Society’s beginning, the central and most basic activity of Conferences has been the visitation of the needy in their homes.

This is the clearest symbol of our Vincentian charism, which dictates the highest respect for the dignity of the poor.” (Manual, 2.1)

# HOME VISITS WORKSHOP



Register for an upcoming Workshop

## 8/13 - Home Visits Workshop at St. Gabriel

Register for Tues. Aug. 13, 6 - 8:30 pm at St.  
Gabriel

## 9/21 - Home Visits Workshop at Sacred Heart in Florissant

Register for Mon., Sept. 9 from 6 - 8:30 pm at Sacred Heart in  
Florissant:

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## 8/21 - Next 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.

[Wednesday, August 21, 1 – 2 p.m.](#)

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](mailto:juliek@svdpstl.org).

Get Link for  
Zoom



# Upcoming Feast Days



## Monday, September 9, Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Blessed Frederic Ozanam's feast day would be a perfect day to attend Mass and share fellowship as a Conference! Please email Julie Komanetsky at [juliek@svdpstl.org](mailto:juliek@svdpstl.org) to let us know your plans for Blessed Frederic's feast day.



## Friday, September 27, St. Vincent de Paul

Join the Council Staff for noon Mass at St. Vincent de Paul parish in South St. Louis City!

More details to come.

# Vincentian Meditation



## What are the benefits of Conferences meeting regularly?

**“Manual 2.1 Conference...Conference Meetings:** Conference meetings are privileged occasions during which members manifest Christ's love to one another and experience his healing presence. Conferences meet regularly and frequently, at least twice a month, in celebration of mutual friendship and out of a passion to serve the Lord.

Unlike other organizations within and outside the Church, the Conference meets less to conduct business than to celebrate and deepen its unity for essentially spiritual reasons. Opening and Closing Prayers, together with the Vincentian spiritual reflections, heighten our awareness of the Holy

Spirit's presence.”

Meeting only once a month lessens the ability to achieve the spiritual and fraternal components mentioned in the Rule and Manual. And, if a Neighbor needs help and the Vincentians helping them need to bring the case up to the members at the next Conference meeting, that Neighbor may have to wait 30 days before their case is reviewed.

Meeting at least twice a month and doing home visits have been standards from the Society's beginning.

These standards are why the Society has been around for 191 years.

Here's a quote from M. D'Hendecourt, SVDP President-General, 1915, "Thus the Society of Vincent de Paul was constituted a charitable society: charitable in the widest meaning of the Term—loving God and one's neighbour. Hence the association of prayer and good works which is the characteristic of our meetings and our visits to the poor. This is so true that no one may be an active member except on condition that he attends the meetings and visits the poor. The most praiseworthy works, such as the patronages, cannot dispense from this condition. Presidents and members of Councils must also satisfy this condition."

How beautifully written. And how rewarding when these conditions are satisfied.

~Steve Rupp

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## Seeking Vincentians for Formation Trainers

Formation and Training are continuous processes, that are always ongoing.

**Please consider becoming a Formator to help with these vital events!**

Someone once said, "The best way to learn is to teach." Maybe you have a training or teaching background, or just a desire to help at a different level.

Please pray and discern if God is calling you to bring His word to others through Ozanam Orientations and Home Visit Workshops.

For more information, please **contact Steve Rupp at 314-881-6018** or email [stever@sudpstl.org](mailto:stever@sudpstl.org)

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## August Inspiration





## Young Adult Vincentians in Action!



The St. Vincent de Paul Young Adult conferences typically meet twice a month to discuss home visits, conference activities and socialize.

They also meet once a month for our social gathering, forming friendships while grabbing a bite to eat.

Much like our adult Vincentians, our Young Vincentians are drawn to the mission of growing closer to God through service to those in need. They visit with Neighbors in Need and bring joy to their communities by growing in holiness, encouraging their friends to get involved, and by serving others.

Examples of past Young Vincentian events include, but are not limited to:

- Spring Trivia Night
- Box Fan Giveaway
- Blessing Bags of Toiletries Giveaway

Know of a young adult interested in joining this Conference? Email [soulard.svdp@gmail.com](mailto:soulard.svdp@gmail.com) for more information.

Photo above -- young adult Vincentians (and one very young Vincentian to be) with Father Dan Thies.





On August 1, SVdP's Christy Thrift Store became a Thrift Outlet.

All clothing and housewares are only \$1.99 a pound. (Furniture and mattresses are prices seperately.)

How to find the Christy store?

4928 Christy  
St. Louis, MO 63116

See all SVdP St. Louis Thrift Store locations here:

<https://svdpstlouis.org/stores/locations>



## End-Of-Summer Donation Hours Updated For All Locations

Donation docks will be closed Tuesdays and Thursdays, reopening all week beginning September 10.

## New Simplified Thrift Store Clothing Prices!

New, simplified clothing and shoe pricing at SVdP Thrift Stores. The updated price guide is posted on the Vincentian portion of the website.



[Click Here to Get the Updated Price Guide](#)

## 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 Deceased:

Glenn Abell, Christ Prince of Peace

Marty Dieters, St. Raphael

Jim Kemna, Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mary Callahan, Ascension

Charlie Clayton, St. Gerard Majella



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

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