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The Society Scoop | July 2024 | Issue 7

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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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### SVdP St. Louis Council Update

Dear Vincentians:

As we have previously shared, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in St. Louis has experienced cash flow challenges brought on by many factors: a quicker-than-anticipated spend-down of bequest monies, rising costs due to inflation, retail staffing challenges, and a turnover of the accounting finance department. Your St. Louis Council is remedying the matters we are facing. In the meantime, to help ensure financial stability and liquidity, the Board of Directors approved the closing of the Cool Valley Thrift Outlet and Processing Center, effective immediately. The staff was notified Monday.

Regrettably, further changes were made at the Council Office.

The following positions have been eliminated:

- o Marketing Specialist, Luke Lindberg
- o Manager of Vincentian Data, John Doyle
- o Manager of Conference Growth and Revitalization, Tom Matoushek
- o Receptionist, Judi Webb

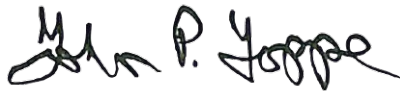
At the same time, Director of Stores, Mike Goering has decided to voluntarily resign his position. Mike will work with SVdP through the end of this week to assist in the transition. We are extremely grateful to Mike for his time with us and commitment to the SVdP mission. We also feel much gratitude for those whose positions were eliminated.

In addition to these changes, ALL blue donation bins located at parishes within the area will be discontinued. Pickups will begin the week of 7/15 and be completed by 7/31. Also, there will be changes in Council Programs, details will follow in future communications.

We understand that this news is disappointing. Collectively, we are grieving the shift in our organization. These decisions were not made lightly. We have considered all possible options, but ultimately, these actions are necessary to restore financial liquidity with St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis and will position our organization with more strength in the future.

Thank you for your kindness to the SVdP St. Louis staff as they encounter a great change. We ask for your understanding and patience as we move forward. Please pray for those impacted by these changes.

SVdP in St. Louis is 179 years old. Despite these changes, we remain committed to serving and supporting our volunteer members and our Neighbors in Need, continuing His work to the best of our ability.



John Foppe  
Executive Director  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis



Carole Johnson  
Council President  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis

## Should Homelessness Be a Crime?

VOICE *for*  
the POOR

*Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Statement on Supreme Court  
Decision in Grant's Pass Vs.  
Gloria Johnson*

The [Society of St. Vincent de Paul](#) expresses concern regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in [City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson](#). 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.

"Reasonable people may and will disagree about this decision, but the fact of the matter is it doesn't get to the heart of the homelessness crisis," said [John Berry](#), National President at Society of St. Vincent de Paul. "Neither stricter nor more lenient criminal laws sufficiently address the problem — which has vastly more to do with skyrocketing housing costs and inflation than it has to do with how local governments regulate homeless encampments." . . .

## Report to the Community

### Report to the Community FY '23

See the impact of your support on the Mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in St. Louis.

Read the report below to learn more!

[View the Council Office's Annual Report to the Community '23:](#)



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### St. Louis Council Office Open House

Join us at the upcoming **Council Office Summer Open House!**

**Tuesday, July 23, from 9-11 a.m.**

Enjoy coffee, donuts, and great





prayer at 9:30 a.m.

conversations with our staff and Vincentians.

Learn more about how St. Louis Council supports you and helps you help our Neighbors in Need.

Start your visit and join us for morning

[Register Now!](#)

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

**Saturday, September 21, 2024**

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 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 snowcones, 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

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## Seeking Bi-Lingual Volunteers to Support Communication



Do you speak another language aside from English? Or multiple?

We are seeking Spanish and Bosnian-speaking Vincentians to assist with Neighbor communication.

Please [email Dave Little](#) if you can help!

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## 6/19 - 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.

[Every 3rd Wednesday, 1 – 2 p.m.](#)

Future sessions:

[JULY 17](#)

[AUG 21](#)

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





ALL blue donation bins located at several Parishes within the area will be discontinued. (See the letter above from John Foppe and Carole Johnson.)

Pickups at relevant Parishes will begin the week of 7/15 and be completed by 7/31.

Thank you to all Parish Conferences that hosted the bins!

## Vincentian Meditation



### We Are Whole

by Julie Komanetsky, Director Vincentian Services

I've talked frequently with Vincentians about the parable of the Good Samaritan. In his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis tells us, *"The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbors, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good."*

We are that community. The call to action is great, but achievable with faith and help from each other.

Pope Francis continues, *"Let us not do this alone, as individuals. The Samaritan discovered an innkeeper who would care for the man; we too are called to unite ..."*

[Read the Full Meditation!](#)

## Upcoming Formation Events

### 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.

## Formation and Training Events At A Glance

AUG 3 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Ozanam Orientation at St. Charles Borromeo**

AUG 6 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Vincentian Wisdom Series: Servant Leadership**

AUG 20 | 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

**Home Visits Workshop at St. Gabriel**



### 8/20 - Home Visits Workshop at St. Gabriel

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.

Register for August 20 @ St.  
Gabriel

# VINCENTIAN WISDOM SERIES



## 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](#)



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 for August 3 @ St. Charles  
Borromeo

### SVdP in the News

#### SVdP Seeks Donations on Show Me St. Louis

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was on Show Me St. Louis!

Julie Komanetsky represented the SVdP mission well, as you can see in the video at right.

The St. Louis Council is seeking donations to fund programs and operations to better serve Vincentians.



Click Here to  
Donate



You can give today at:  
[svdpstl.org/help](https://svdpstl.org/help)

#### Michael Carosone Nominated for 2024 Catholic Man of the Year Award

Michael Carosone, Vincentian from Seven Holy Founders parish, was amongst the nominees for Catholic Man of the Year 2024. Michael was recognized on June 9 by the St. Joseph Evangelization Network - St. Joseph Radio at their annual dinner and awards ceremony.



Archbishop Rozanski wrote, "I am very grateful to these men who have given their time, their energy, and their dedication to serve their communities. I am sure that they are each deserving of this recognition, and I congratulate the recipient of the Catholic Man of the Year Award for 2024 as well as all of the worthy nominees."

**Congratulations, Michael on your recognition!**

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## New Air Conditioning Units picked up from Ameren



SVdP picked up brand new air conditioning units from Ameren!

Pictured above: Doug Chukukere and Timothy Massey stop to pose with two pallets of new air



conditioning units.



At left: Julie Komanetsky, Director of Vincentian Services was also there to help with the pick-up!

Contact Tim Massey for information about the A/C window units at [timothy@svdpstl.org](mailto:timothy@svdpstl.org)

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## 11th Annual North District Golf Tournament a Success!



### 11th Annual Marty Bligh North District Golf Tournament

This year's tournament was a great success. We honored the founder of the tournament, Marty Bligh, an avid golfer and the friend of everyone he met. Marty's wife Annette and her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren who joined us for a recognition of Marty and the many wonderful contributions that he gave to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We said that Marty had 3 passions in his life...His family, trucks, and golf. He parlayed those passions into serving the poor through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

- Family...served his Neighbors in need arm-in-arm with Annette for 20 years
- Trucks...he negotiated a great deal on a truck for the North District to haul food, clothing and furniture to those in need. That truck was in Marty's funeral procession to Jefferson Barracks. A poignant picture was displayed at the tournament of the SVDP truck at Jefferson Barracks with the American flag in the background at half-staff.
- Golf...Marty started the North District Golf Tournament 11 years ago to raise awareness of SVDP, create friendships, and raise funds for the poor.





With the help of the golfers and our sponsors and benefactors we raised more than \$32,000 for our Neighbors in Need in the North District.

The golfers and sponsors came from all over the archdiocese to support this great cause. We had 36 teams with 144 golfers join us for a great day of golf! There were 60 gold, silver, and hole sponsors.

With the support of our fellow conferences, businesses, and individual Vincentians we were able to turn this 11th annual tournament into the most successful to date. We had 15 volunteers to support the tournament from our North District conferences and are so thankful for their help.

We encourage conferences and golfers to mark their calendars for the 12th Annual SVDP Marty Bligh North District Golf Tournament on Friday June 13, 2025.

Thanks to everyone who participated in making this a wonderful tournament.



## 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:

**Peggy and Gary Frank,  
St. Joan of Arc**

*Peggy (one of our volunteer receptionists) and her husband were in a bad car accident and suffered serious injuries. They are now home recuperating.*



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!



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