



The Society Scoop | March 2024 | Issue 3

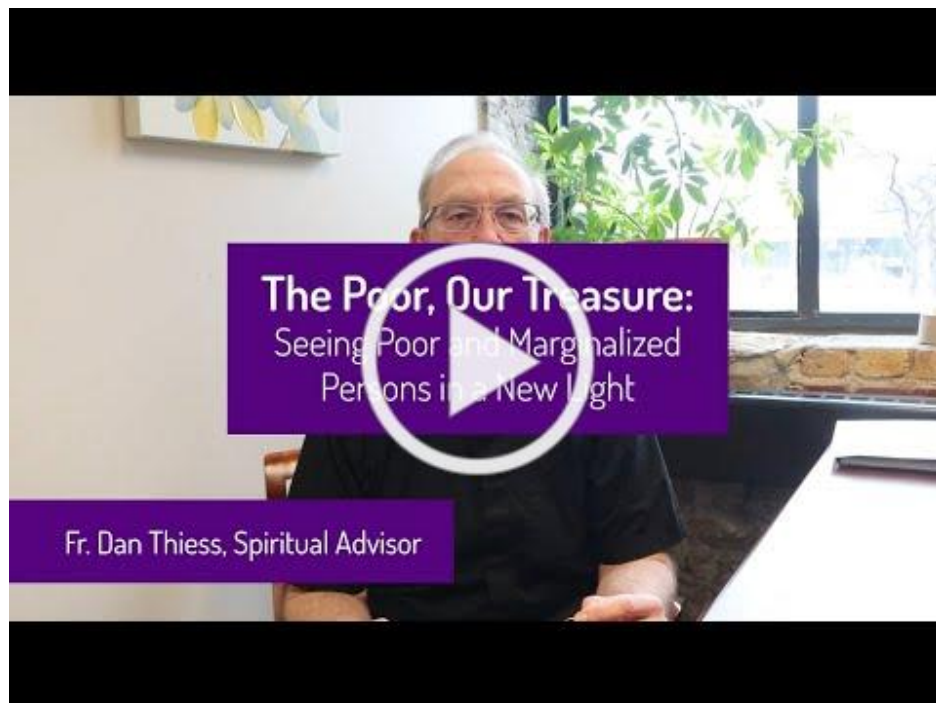


The Society Scoop

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

See a Penny, Pick it Up...

by Fr. Dan Thies, Council Spiritual Advisor



Program Updates & Resources

Skyrocket Your Conference, Take it to New Heights!

Ready to turbocharge your Conference? Learn to supercharge each member's Vincentian vocation by finding MR Right . . . In this case, MR stands for minimum requirements.

A year ago, we kicked off our [groundbreaking webinar \(check it out below\) delving into the Minimum Requirements \(MR's\) for Conferences](#) – a vital part of our Standards of Excellence. Whether you've caught wind of them in meetings or through our communications, now's the perfect time to dive in!

Some conferences have embraced ALL the MR's and launched their rocket engines, some are still fueling up, and a few are still just on the launchpad.

All Conferences need to implement the Minimum Requirements. Completing this task will make your Conference life easier, better, and more fulfilling. Trust us.

We're on the lookout for Conferences ready to skyrocket to the next level! Is it your Conference?

Catch the excitement in our original webinar and explore the Standards of Excellence Questionnaire and Minimum Requirements Checklist through the links below.

[Standards of Excellence 3/8/23 Webinar](#)

[Standards of Excellence Questionnaire for Conferences](#)

For more information or questions contact your Vicariate point person:

South Vicariate	Timothy Massey	timothym@svdpstl.org	314-881-6028
North Vicariate	Tom Matoushek	tomm@svdpstl.org	314-881-6025
West Vicariate	Steve Rupp	stever@svdpstl.org	314-881-6018

Reminder: Conference Solidarity Dues Invoices

Conference Dues Invoices will be emailed to each Conference President and Treasurer on March 15.

[Click to Read the letter sent to Conference Presidents/Treasurers](#)

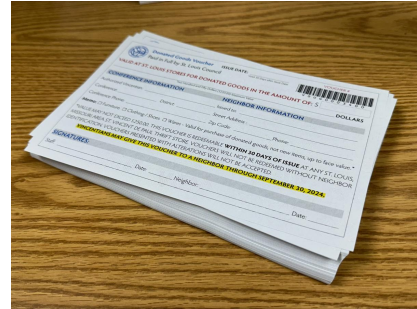
Programs - General Info

- All program guidelines can be found at:

- The Council requires the Neighbor to sign a Release of Confidential Information.

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.



3/20 - 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.](#)

[MAR 20](#)

[1:00 pm – 2:00 pm](#)

[APR 17](#)

[1:00 pm – 2:00 pm](#)

[MAY 15](#)

[1:00 pm – 2:00 pm](#)

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

Flowers are blooming, birds are singing, and the Cardinals are playing baseball. It must be spring!



And that means one thing--Parish Donation Drives are right around the corner!

- Drives are parish-wide and community-wide events. They offer great visibility in the Conference, Parish and Community.
- Vincentians want our Neighbors in Need to have a great selection of goods for their homes available at the stores through the Voucher program. Conferences can contribute to that great selection by holding drives.
- Credits have been discontinued because Conferences no longer need credits to pay for vouchers. Vouchers for donated goods are provided at no cost to the Conferences.

To setup a drive, please call:
Rob Vickers, 314-881-6048 - or - Lisa Butler, 314-881-6038.

Thanks for all that you do. God bless and go Cards!

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



Nominate Us for St. Louis A-List!



**NOMINATE
"SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT
DE PAUL ST. LOUIS"
FOR ST. LOUIS MAGAZINE'S
A-LIST AWARDS:**



**RESALE AND
CONSIGNMENT SHOP**

**LOCALLY OWNED
CLOTHING STORE**

**NOMINATE ONCE A DAY
FEBRUARY 20–MARCH 12
STLMAG.COM/ALIST**

**ST. LOUIS MAGAZINE'S
A-LIST READERS'
CHOICE AWARDS 2024**

**Nominate SVdP
Now!**

Upcoming SVdP Events At A Glance

Registration Open! - 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

Mar 16 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Ozanam Orientation at St. Josephine Bakhita

Apr 10 | 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Home Visits Workshop at St. Vincent de Paul, Perryville

Apr 10 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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 15 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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

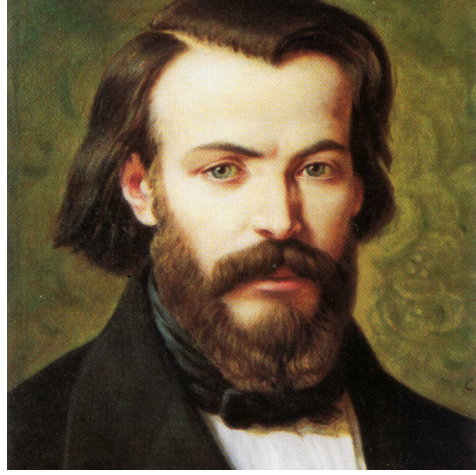
3/16 - Ozanam Orientation at St. Josephine Bakhita

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](#)



4/10 & 5/7 - Home Visit Workshops

April 10 | 9:30am - Noon

St. Vincent de Paul
Perryville, MO

A light breakfast will be provided.

[Register for April 10](#)

May 7 | 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Most Sacred Heart
Eureka, MO

[Register for May 7](#)

4/10 - Know Your Resources: Meet 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.

[Register for April 10](#)



5/15 - Vincentian Wisdom Series: Working Smarter (Not Harder) to Help our Neighbors

presented by Voice of The Poor

Vincentians are called to meet the immediate needs of the poor, but also called to identify and eliminate the root causes of poverty. Join us for a discussion about what we can do to encourage the use of other resources that

benefit our Neighbors and how can we promote change in our community that will benefit many Neighbors.

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:

MAR 11 | 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

MAR 18 | 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

MAR 25 | 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Thursday afternoons at 3:30PM:

MAR 7 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MAR 14 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

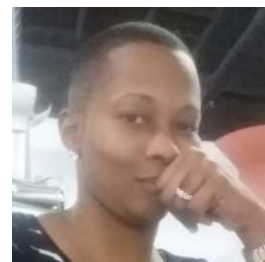
MAR 21 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

SVdP News

Congratulations Melynne Blackshear!

Congratulations to Melynne Blackshear on being elected as the new Mid Central District President!

Please celebrate Melynne with us, as we thank her for her willingness to serve, and keep her in your prayers!



SCCA Ambassadors Show Their Support

South City Catholic Academy student group, The Ambassadors, fundraised for the St. Vincent De Paul Society's food pantry at their home parish,

St. Joan of Arc.



During Catholic Schools Week, they collected canned goods through a "Souper Bowl" activity--students at SCCA would put their canned goods under the team they thought would win the Super Bowl.

The Ambassadors additional efforts to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will soon be featured as the donor highlight in *Faces of Hope!*



50+ Attended Conference President Workshops

Thank you to everyone who attended Conference President Workshops.

Conference Presidents left with renewed energy to take their conferences to new heights and vigor for their Vincentian Vocation!

New Conference Gets Off To a Great Start

Recruiting at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton resulted in 125 parishioners attending an informational meeting on Monday, Feb. 12.

Elections for Conference Officers are ongoing and

results will be forthcoming.



Rise and Shine for Heat Raised Almost \$1M



Heat Up St. Louis
and Hardee's
raised
\$955,000.00 by
February 9th

during the Annual Hardee's 24th Rise
and Shine for Heat fundraiser event.

The bi-state area advocacy,
educational and utility charity,
Heatupstlouis.org has garnered more
than \$955,000 so far.

That is up by 7% vs. last year's
campaign, which raised about
\$900,000!



Pictured Above: Seven Holy Founder's Vincentians
were at the Hardees on Lemay Ferry for Rise and
Shine! Living their vocation from L-R are Maryann
Creamer, Steve Creamer, Buzz Swanston, Don
Pieschel, Mike Carosone, Matt Coco, Genie
Swanston, Peggy Kielholz and Tom Gottlemann,
not pictured Barry Papke.

Reminder: Donation Bin Monitoring Change

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis has reevaluated and removed its donation bin electronic monitoring system due to inconsistent monitoring signal issues and as a significant cost-saving measure.

The SVdP trucks team has recently doubled truck capacity on our three largest routes which will more efficiently service the donation bins.

We thank you and your donation bin participating parishes. The donation bins play a crucial role in supplying our Thrift stores with items to serve and raise funds that help our Neighbors in Need.

If you have any questions or need a donation bin emptied, please call our support team at 314-881-6006.

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

Reaching Beyond Justice, Striving for Charity

by John Doyle, Database Administrator



“May charity do what justice alone would be unable to accomplish.” ~ Blessed Frederick Ozanam

What comes to mind when you think about charity? Personally, before becoming involved with the Society, I would have probably said that charity simply means freely helping others without expectation of payment or reward. I might have even admitted that

charity had a somewhat negative connotation for me in that it implies a deficiency or a lack of self-sufficiency. In this way, charity can seem very transactional; the “haves” giving to the “have-nots.” This of course is a very shallow understanding of what charity truly is.

A common goal of charity is to alleviate some problem and therefore promote the well-being of the other. Our motivations to act charitably are often rooted in ...

[Read the Full Meditation!](#)

Mission Moment

Answering the Call When it Comes

by Mary Theiss, Keyholder, Ballwin Thrift Store



A gentleman was standing outside at the Creve Coeur store entrance.

When the door opened, he asked me to come outside. I did and he explained he didn't want to come in, as he had all his “worldly” possessions with him.

He didn't want to leave his bags unattended, as he was homeless.

He asked if I would help him; he needed shoes. When I looked down at his tennis shoes, he had electrical tape holding his almost sole-less shoes together. His carry-all bags were ripped and torn.

I found two pairs of tennis shoes for him and a small suitcase.

I gave him information to call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and information regarding shelters.

All Things New

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 of the Poor

VOICE
of the POOR

Promote a Path to Financial Independence

Do you have Neighbors who want to gain control of their money, reduce debt, build credit, free themselves from predatory loans, or refinance high-interest car loans? Two recent Council webinars described the free services available to Neighbors throughout the Archdiocese that can help them do all that and more! The Financial Empowerment Resources for Vincentians webinar on October 25th of last year discussed the services offered through Prosperity Connection, Operation HOPE, Justine PETERSEN, and our Council's own Credit Empowerment Pilot Program. The Women's Economic Empowerment webinar on December 5th detailed the programs and services available through the YWCA. If you missed these webinars, you are encouraged to watch the recordings, review the presentations, and share this information with your Neighbors.

Watch the Financial Empowerment Resources Webinar

Read the Financial Empowerment Resources Presentation

Watch the Women's Economic Empowerment Webinar

Read the Women's Economic Empowerment Presentation

Reminder... Rosary Every Wednesday Night



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

[Click Here to Join](#)

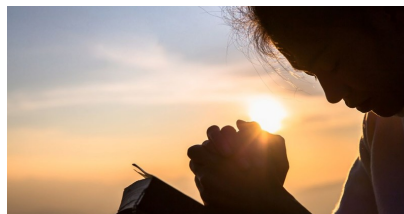
Meeting ID: 989 8066 7271
Passcode: Vincent
or dial in: (312) 626-6799

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Please Pray for The Sick:

Steve Vitale, St. Charles Borromeo

Marty Bligh, Holy Name of Jesus



Prayers for the Deceased:

[Bob Donahue, Ascension Conference](#)

[Leanne Doza, Sacred Heart, Crystal City](#)

[Joyce Edwards, Sacred Heart, Crystal City](#)



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

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