



The Society Scoop

Program Updates

Resources for Vincentians

For many free [resources](#), [COVID updates](#), and program information, don't forget to check the Vincentians page on our [website](#)!

Evictions and Foreclosure Update

The CDC eviction moratorium has been extended through March 31, 2021. In addition, the President extended the foreclosure moratorium on federally backed mortgages through June 30, 2021. Information regarding help for homeowners and renters can be found through the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at [Help for homeowners and renters | Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \(consumerfinance.gov\)](#)

Rapid Rehousing Pilot

Our Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program began on January 11, 2021. The pilot is currently serving Neighbors in St. Louis City and County. Vincentians have referred seven Neighbors who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness to the pilot. If your Conference is located in St. Louis City or County and you are interested in using this program, a member of your Conference must participate in a SVDP Council training session. Our next training will occur on Thursday, March 25 at 6 pm. To join, please click the link [here](#).

Volunteer Needed at the Council Office

The SVdP Council Office is seeking a volunteer to help with administrative duties

to process donations on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Approximately 8 hours per week. Time is flexible. Just like volunteering at a SVdP Thrift Store, the volunteer hours can be applied to your Conference credit account.

We would be so grateful for your help!

Please contact Claire Arends at 314-881-6035 if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

March Vincentian Superstars



MARCH 2021

Honoring and celebrating your Vincentian call to serve those in need.

Thank you to all Vincentians!

We wish to promote and recognize SVdP Vincentians throughout all Districts.

We are not just one District; we are many. and that is wonderful.

Every month we will have "11 Stars" giving an *'extra thank you'*
to our fellow Vincentians!

11 Star Vincentians for the Month of March, 2021

- Southwest - Gayle Wright – Mary Queen of Peace
- Southeast - Dave Figge – St. Agnes in Bloomdale, MO
- Festus - Sandy Bohnert – OLQP
- Gravois - Peggy Bauer – Assumption Parish
- West - Tom McQuiggan – St. Anthony in Sullivan, MO
- South Central - Dorothy Stratman Lucy – St. Cronin's
- North - Fran Ventimiglia – Blessed Theresa of Calcutta
- Mid Central - Mama Short (oldest Vincentian at St. Matthews)
- South - Ken Harangozo – St. Martin of Tours
- North Central - Ed LaFaver – All Souls
- Northwest - Linda Eisenbath – Sacred Heart-Troy, MO

**A Video Message from John Foppe:
Changing Direction this Lent**

Click the image below to watch the video.



[Click Here to Learn More about Lectio Divina](#)

A Letter from Fr. Mark

Dear Vincentians,

How many fresh starts do we get? Think about it. New Year's Day is one. Back to school, even for those of us who haven't gone back to school in a long time, feels like another, right? When is your birthday? That's another moment of starting anew. July 1 or October 1 is the beginning of the fiscal year for many organizations. Clean columns, new budgets, another start. The First Sunday of Advent is the start of another liturgical year, another opportunity to dive in, to start over. And then there is Ash Wednesday with its "Repent and believe the Good News" message. Talk about starting fresh. Again.

I can't enter Lent without recalling my childhood experience of it. Each year our mother and father would give up smoking for Lent. Whatever suffering they endured, my brother and I had it far worse. They were not fit to live with until Easter Sunday morning when they got out of bed and lit-up! Years later we laughed about this.

Is that what Lent is about? No. For all my parents' sincere intentions and teeth-gritting discipline, precious little changed because they gave up smoking for Lent.

Lent means springtime (literally). If spring isn't about fresh starts, I don't know what is. Starting fresh does not take heroics. It takes openness. Let us open ourselves to God's presence in prayer and worship, in our deepening friendships, and our encounters with neighbors in need. This fresh start is God's gift. Let us be thankful.

Fr. Mark Pranaitis

Voice of the Poor



From the Voice of the Poor Committee: The Family is Foundational for Flourishing

The Catholic Church has a beautiful body of teaching on marriage and family. With Christ elevating marriage to a sacrament, and St. Paul comparing the union of husband and wife to that of Christ and His Church, it is fitting that the family is referred to as the Domestic Church and the fundamental cell of Society.

[Read more about family structure by clicking here.](#)

Lenten Retreat - Thank You!

We had a wonderful Lenten retreat over Zoom on Feb. 20th with over 100 Vincentians participating. The theme was on hope and we reflected upon 1) Reconciliation 2) Unity 3) Hope. We are so grateful to our presenters: Sr. Mary Kathleen Ronan, Joseph Willis, Brenda Vanderford, and Fr. Steve Giljum. They truly helped us grow in Christian hope! For those who weren't able to join us we made a recorded version available [here](#).

Formation Events

Ozanam Orientation: March

Weds., March 10

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To be held virtually via Zoom.

Register Here

Home Visit 101

Weds., April 14, 2021

2:30-4:30pm

To be held virtually via Zoom.

Register Here

2021 Spring Assembly

Sat., April 24, 2021

9:00 a.m. - noon

To be held virtually via Zoom.

We are very excited to invite **YOU** to the **2021 Spring Assembly!**

You probably remember the great success of our 2019 Spring Assembly at St. Louis University High School with 500 of your best Vincentian friends. With Covid we can't do an in-person event in 2021. But the **good news** is with Zoom you don't even have to leave the comfort of your living room. **Everybody** will be there!

You may also remember a BIG question from 2019 was, "How do I get my children, grandchildren, or anyone else back to the Church?" We are blessed to be able to address this vital question through our Keynote Speaker, Curtis Martin, Founder and CEO of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). Curtis will address this through the perspective of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul being founded by a group of....**College Students!** Curtis will also highlight the Society of St. Vincent de Paul being a beautiful road back to the Church for anyone seeking a closer relationship with Christ, or just looking for a volunteer opportunity. He will also be available to interact with our Vincentians. Here's a link to a video and more information on Curtis: <https://www.focus.org/about/leadership/curtis-martin>

Stay tuned for more information on the dynamic presentations and interactive events at the Spring Assembly. And **don't forget to register right away**. We'll "See" you on April 24th! Register here: [Here is the registration link: <https://conta.cc/38Ly6RK>]

Register Here

Ozanam Orientation: May

Tues., May 4, 2021

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To be held virtually via Zoom.

[Register Here](#)

Church Bulletin Announcements: April - June

Click below to get church bulletin announcement suggestions for April - June 2021. Please work with your Parish's bulletin creator/coordinator to submit the copy. Placement in your Parish bulletin will help get visibility and support for your SVdP Conference. Of course, you can always customize these to meet your specific Conference needs.

[Click here for April - June bulletin suggestions](#)

At SVdP Thrift Stores: Mattress Sale!

MATTRESS SALE!

MARCH 1 - 28



Save \$100

**POCKET SELECT
QUEEN SET**

\$299

- No Sales Tax
- 5-Year Warranty
- Ask about
doorstep
delivery!



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Mission Moments

Passing Along Kindness

We are always grateful to our donors, whose generosity helps us tend to our Neighbors in Need. Every now and then, we get to hear from donors whose loved ones are or have been Neighbors in Need themselves!

Recently, a donor called to express his thanks for how SVdP had helped his daughter. Like so many folks, she had lost her job due to COVID, and struggled to

pay her rent and utilities. St. Vincent de Paul helped keep her afloat until she was blessed with a new job early in 2021.

Touched by how SVdP had impacted his daughter's life, this donor said he hopes to pay that kindness forward by donating back to SVdP.

"We'll never forget how kind you were," he said. "You have made such a huge difference in our lives."

To all of our donors and all of our Vincentians, we thank you for your kindness and generosity for making these stories of hope a reality.

"We're Lucky"

In the Dellwood area, Vincentians helped provide and deliver mattresses to a family in need. The mother, father, grandmother, and three kids, aged 7-12, were living in a garage at the time. At one point, the father told a Vincentian, "We're lucky, because we have a roof over our heads."

Before receiving their mattresses, again he said, "We're lucky. We were sleeping on pallets with newspapers."

The delivery of these mattresses was a special gift for the grandmother, as well as for the children, who had never slept on real mattresses in their lives.

During times of extreme weather, of sickness, of loneliness, let us take time to reflect and identify the many ways we are lucky. Thank you, Vincentians, for the way your work blesses our Neighbors in Need every day.

Stopping for Warmth

John Walters, Director of Stores, and Michael Goering, Assistant Director of Stores, make it a priority to spend a lot of time in our thrift stores. To them, it's an opportunity to see the people SVdP helps firsthand.

A couple of weeks ago, while at the Cool Valley Thrift Outlet, John noticed a Neighbor picking up trash in the parking lot. Later, he saw her sitting in a corner in the store, so he stopped by and asked if she needed anything.

"Nope," she replied. "I'm good."

The next week, John encountered this woman again, and once again asked if she needed anything. She said no.

“We’re here to help people,” John said. He gave her his card and told her to let him know if she needed anything at all.

The conversation led the woman to open up a little bit. She talked to John about her living situation in her car, and how she would come to the store to warm up.

“I do need a few things,” the woman said. “I could use a pair of shoes and a new sweater, but I don’t have a lot of money.”

John shook his head. “I don’t want your money. Pick out whatever you want.”

“You know,” she said, “you’re the first person who’s sat down to talk to me in a long time.”

He directed the woman to the nearby parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in case she needed further assistance.

John says that this attitude of generosity can be seen everywhere in our thrift stores. He often sees staff members and store managers going above and beyond to meet the needs of Neighbors who are in truly dire situations.

“We have this human side to our stores,” said John. “If someone needs a coat, a pair of shoes, whatever, we give it to them, no questions asked. It’s just what they do – staff will ask, ‘What do you need? How can we help you?’ Their priority is taking care of the families who come into our stores.”

Thank you Vincentians for always being there for our Neighbors in Need.

Do you have a story to share?

If you have a mission moment you'd like to share with us, or if you know of someone who has helped out a Neighbor in Need in an extraordinary way, we would love to share that story in a future newsletter!

Please email catherineb@svdpstl.org for more information.

ServWare



Elizabeth Barbieri, President of the St. Louis Council Board of Directors, is an enthusiastic promoter of the benefits of ServWare. Here she is seen at a training session for St. Nicholas' Conference. ServWare enables you to serve your Neighbors more effectively. The Council currently has approximately 60 Conferences with ServWare – with more signing up weekly. If you would like to learn more about ServWare, please contact Tom Matoushek at tomm@svdpstl.org or 314-881-6025



Vincentian Leadership Workshops in the Time of COVID



The Vincentian Leadership Workshops were originally a two-workshop series conducted in January and February of 2020 with about 20 participants. This year, the workshops moved to Zoom, with over twice the amount of participants compared to 2020!

The four workshops covered topics such as “Servant Leadership,” “Building

Consensus and Solidarity,” “Vincentian Leaders, It’s Who We Are!” and “Vincentian Storytelling and Formation.”

To all who participated and those who shared their wisdom, thank you! We are grateful for your work as Vincentian leaders!

Reminder... Rosary Tonight!

Join us --
SVdP St. Louis
Rosary Wednesday
8 p.m. tonight!

via Zoom.



[Click Here to Join](#)

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

Keep in Your Prayers

Please Pray for The Sick:

Monsignor Greg Schmidt
St. Peter's, Kirkwood

Kay Vrlenich
St. Anthony, High Ridge

Please Pray for The Deceased:

Dan Rosenthal
St. Martin de Porres

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



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