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The Society Scoop | Nov 2023 | Issue 11

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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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## A Eucharist Message from Fr. Dan Thiess -

### We are a Eucharistic Community

#### Eucharist

The New Testament was originally written in the Greek language and the Greek noun εὐχαριστία (*eucharistia*), means "thanksgiving".

#### THANKS-GIVING

Traditionally during the month of November, we set aside the fourth Thursday to Give Thanks.

All of us most likely have a favorite food or a family recipe for stuffing or mashed potatoes. What kind of turkey do you like?

When we sit at table this year, I invite us all as Vincentians to say grace and pray together as part of our vocation: "Bless us O' Lord and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen."

#### "Jesus was a "foodie."

In scripture we find Jesus and food intertwined in so many passages.

#### In the Gospel of Matthew 14:15-18

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "this is a remote

place, and it is already getting late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, they do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” “We have here only five loaves and two fish, “Bring them here to me,” he said. He directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied.”

**At the Last Supper and in the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass:**

“He took bread and gave you thanks and praise. He broke the bread and said: “Take this all of you and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you.” When Supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: “Take this all of you and drink from it. “

We too are Divinely Inspired as we rely on the Providence of God to provide for us as a Eucharistic Community Giving Thanks.

Let us Give Thanks for each other, for our neighbors and these thy gifts which we are about to receive.

**Happy Eucharist! Happy Thanks-Giving!**

~ Fr. Dan Thiess

## Updates & Resources

### Vouchers - What You Need to Know

**Reminders:**

- Blue Bed Vouchers may no longer be issued to Neighbors in Need.
- White Thrift Vouchers may no longer be issued to Neighbors in Need.
- Blue and White Vouchers given to Neighbors before November 1 can still be redeemed in the stores.

**New Beds for the Bed Program:**

The new rolled "bed-in-a-bag" will soon be available to our neighbors! As soon as they are in-stock, we will send an email. Until then, we will continue to provide Neighbors with promo twin and full beds.

**Delivery Fee:**

Delivery fees for Conferences will be \$125 if they elect to pay for delivery without a Delivery Voucher.

**Voucher Updates:**

- New bed vouchers are being distributed to District Presidents no later than November 10.
- Donated Goods Vouchers are being distributed to District Presidents no later than November 10. Conferences will incur NO COST for the use of these vouchers. As a reminder, each voucher can be written for a maximum of \$250, and each household can receive a maximum of \$500 in donated goods.
- Delivery Voucher Coupons will be distributed to District Presidents no later than November 10.
- Neighbors must present the voucher(s) and identification at the time of voucher redemption.
- We ask that Vincentians NOT redeem vouchers on behalf of their Neighbors.

### Gift Cards:

- Conferences may purchase SVdP Gift Cards at the stores to give to Neighbors. These gift cards can be used on new or donated items. They can also be used for delivery.
- Neighbors can use the cards more than once and at multiple SVdP Thrift stores until the entire amount on the card is spent.
- The Council will no longer invoice Conferences for items purchased. All items should be acquired with the new vouchers or by gift cards.

### Reporting:

New, improved tracking should allow for more timely reporting of voucher activity. For the new vouchers, we will track the voucher number, Conference of origin, and cost of goods received. We will share this information monthly.

### Pricing:

Updated **Thrift Store Pricing Guide** is available on our website at:

Vincentians > Programs, Forms and Resources > Resources > [Thrift Store Information](#)

### Questions?

Please contact **Varrietta Anthony** ([varriettaa@svdpstl.org](mailto:varriettaa@svdpstl.org))  
or **Julie Komanetsky** ([juliek@svdpstl.org](mailto:juliek@svdpstl.org))

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## Join us for Voucher Q&A's on Zoom!

We will be hosting Council Webinars to teach you about the new vouchers, and to take your questions.

**Learn more about the new voucher programs and get answers to your questions!**

**Two Sessions Available:**

- **Wednesday, November 15 @ 3:00 PM** or
- **Wednesday, November 29 @ 6:00 PM**

**Click a link above for your preferred date to register and RSVP today!**

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## Welcome Jason Coleman - Acting Director of Finance and Accounting!



Jason recently joined the SVdP team, filling the vacancy left by Eric Weible's departure last week.

Jason is a resource from an accounting consulting firm and will work on improving accounting and financial functions.

Jason's email is: [JasonC@svdpstl.org](mailto:JasonC@svdpstl.org).

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## Cyber Grand Opening of 1st SVdP Online Store on eBay

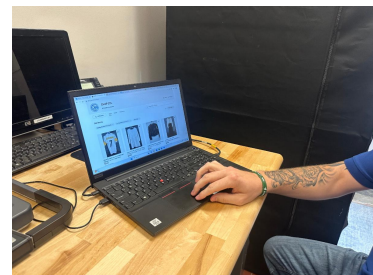


October 23rd was the Grand Opening of our new eBay store, which is offering items for auction starting at only 99 cents each to celebrate!

Our store currently features Men's, Women's and Kid's apparel, as well as specialty Sports items, jerseys, and shoes! As we gradually rollout more items, a wider variety of merchandise will become available.

More items are posted daily. So check out our store daily for new deals!

[SHOP NOW](#)



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Give the Gift of A Meaningful Christmas



*"While I am in the world,  
I am the light of the world."  
~ John 9: 5*

Are you searching for a special Christmas gift that not only eases the holiday frenzy but also represents the true spirit of Christmas?

With a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), you can receive copies of a custom created Christmas card, featuring a new painting by our Executive Director, John Foppe, who was born without arms and paints using his feet.

With a suggested minimum donation of \$250, you'll receive 5 cards with gift envelopes, making this both a convenient and heartwarming way to spread the holiday spirit.

**Your generous donations have a direct impact right here in St. Louis:**

- \$250 can provide a week's worth of meals for a family of four.
- \$500 can help replace furniture for a family who has lost everything in a fire.
- \$1,000 can cover a month's rent, offering stability to a family in need.

**Ordering these cards is simple:**

- [Click here to order](#), or
- Call us at 314-881-6003 to place your order.

**Supplies are limited, so don't delay, order now!**

As Christmas draws near, may your holidays be filled with shared moments of warmth and kindness, knowing that your generosity is making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

[Click Here to Order](#)

[Click Here to View the Card](#)

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## Rx Outreach: Free/Affordable Mailed Prescriptions

Prescription Assistance from St. Vincent de Paul St. Louis has been discontinued for the time being, however there are additional resources available to help our Neighbors!



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**Mark your calendars for -**

**Know Your Resources: RX Outreach on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 2PM.**

**Rx Outreach provides free and affordable medications to uninsured and underinsured people in all 50 states. They mail medications directly to your home. Rx Outreach carries about 1,000 medications for over 60 chronic diseases. You can search by brand/generic name or by health condition.**

There will be a presentation given to our Vincentians to ask questions to help our neighbors.

They are a fully licensed and accredited pharmacy and have helped people save over \$1B on their prescriptions



since their founding in 2010. **All their prices are listed on their website** and prices include shipping. There are no other fees.

More information coming in December!

[For more Information on Enrollment Click Here](#)

For more information you can visit their website [www.rxoutreach.org](http://www.rxoutreach.org)

## "Fill the Van" in Affton yields a "ton" of food!

The Vincentians at Seven Holy Founders (from St. John Paul II & Seven Holy Founders) took part in the Affton Christian Food Pantry's annual "Fill the Van" October 7th and 8th.

**We collected just shy of one ton of food and took in \$1,690 in donations!**  
We covered every Mass the entire weekend.



Pictured above are some of the Vincentians who took in donations from our very generous Parishioners that weekend.

## QAS' St. Louis Sluggers Return Home from Flood Recovery & Homeless Village Efforts in Tennessee

Vincentians from Queen of All Saints Conference went to Humphries County, TN to assist in flood recovery efforts and the building of a homeless village.

Many tasks were accomplished. They split crew over two weeks, week one plumbers and electricians, week two carpenters, painters, etc.

They were shown great hospitality and shared labor with Vincentians from local St. Patrick SVDP conference in McEwen, TN.

An amazing program by the Sheriffs Department, "The Workforce" has supervised trustees assisting

**ST. LOUIS SLUGGERS** 28 of our St. Louis Sluggers just returned from their fourth trip to Humphries County, TN. Work was on flood recovery operations and building a homeless village. They were hosted and assisted by the local St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Heavy lifting was by trustees from the Sheriffs Workforce. Mission 35 is scheduled for mid-April 2024.



not-for-profits in the County, and provided extra heavy lifting.

These younger men were a force multiplier. They live in dormitory housing rather than cells. Very personable, talented and hard working... some have long sentences up to 10 years.

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## Farmington Food Pantry!



Our Farmington Conference food pantry has put together beautiful food boxes for our Neighbors in Need, with fresh fruits and vegetables.

During the month of November, Neighbors at the Farmington Food Pantry with a family size of 1-3 people will receive an extra whole chicken. Neighbors with family sizes of 4 or more will receive a turkey!



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## Formation Presenters Needed!

Are you interested in being an Ozanam Orientation or Home Visit 101 presenter? Vincentians love hearing from other Vincentians!

As we continue to expand our formation offerings, we are looking for Vincentians with presentation experience to help us deliver more of our foundational offerings:

- Ozanam Orientations are usually held on Saturdays.
- Home Visit sessions are usually held on weekday evenings.

If you are interested or would like more information, please email:  
[Julie Komanetsky \(juliek@svdpstl.org\)](mailto:juliek@svdpstl.org)

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## Heat UP St. Louis Funds for City Conferences



We are happy to announce we have received a commitment of \$20K from Heat Up St Louis for use in St. Louis City!

Maximum pledge on utility is \$500.

Vincentian must submit:

- Council Program Form
- proof of income for all adults in household
- last 4 digits of SSN for all 18 and over in household, and
- total number of people in household

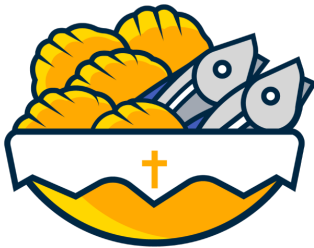
We ask that Conferences submit no more than 5 households per conference so that multiple City Conferences can benefit. Requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, based on completed applications.

### Questions?

Please contact Timothy Massey (timm@svdpstl.org)  
or Varrietta Anthony (varriettaa@svdpstl.org)

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## #iGiveCatholic - Goal to Raise \$5K this November



Join us in supporting SVdP  
through #iGiveCatholic.

#iGiveCatholic brings Catholic communities together to express generosity and support organizations that manifest the love and charity that defines our faith.

#iGIVECATHOLIC

Our Goal: \$5,000 to aid our Neighbors in Need.

Your participation or donation can make an immediate impact in the life of your neighbors in need - providing utilities, clothing, food, and other necessities.

To be a part of this transformative day, we hope you will consider being a fundraiser for Society of St. Vincent de Paul, or making a donation!

To participate, click on the below button to begin the process:

[Learn More About Donating & Fundraising](#)

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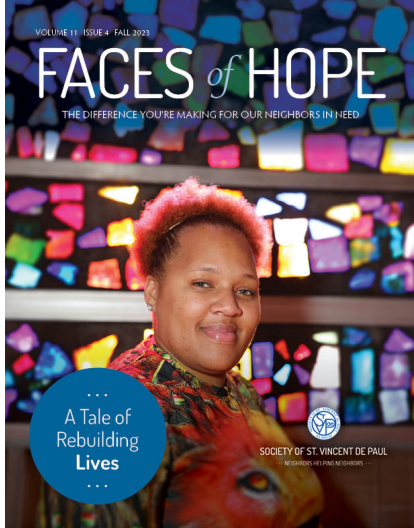
## Faces of Hope - Fall 2023 Newsletter

Our Fall 2023 issue of Faces of Hope is now available!

Learn about the difference you are making for our Neighbors in Need!

In this issue, read the inspiring story of Denise





Williams who was helped to settle outstanding housing debts, find new housing and assisted with employment!

Click below to read the full story.

[Read the Full Newsletter](#)

## SVdP in the News

### Fox 2 Coverage: St Vincent de Paul in St. Louis Launches Online Thrift Store

Read the coverage from Fox 2 News on our newest store opening: our new online eBay store!



Our initial listings went up 10/23, and more listings hit the store every morning, so **check in regularly for the latest deals!**

[Read Now!](#)

[Shop Now!](#)

## Upcoming SVdP Events At A Glance

### Upcoming Formation Events

Nov 14 | 3:30 pm

[The Joy of Our Vocation and Ministry - Zoom with Fr. Dan Thiess](#)

Nov 15 | 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[Council Programs Webinar - Thrift Store Vouchers](#)

Nov 18 & 19 | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[Book Signings with Author Maria O'Rourke](#)

Nov 27

## Feast of the Miraculous Medal

Nov 28

Memorial of St. Catherine Laboure

Nov 29 | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Council Programs Webinar - Thrift Store Vouchers

## Upcoming District Meetings

Nov 9 | 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

South East District Meeting at Immaculate Conception Church

Nov 14 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Mid Central District Meeting at Immacolata Catholic Church

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## 11/14 - The Joy of Our Vocation and Ministry



November 14, 3:30pm by ZOOM

With Fr. Dan Thiess CM,  
Council Spiritual Advisor

It can be easy to become overwhelmed and fatigued with the outsized needs of our Neighbors. It's not always easy to find the joy of our vocation as Vincentians.

Join your fellow Vincentians on Zoom with Fr. Dan Thiess exploring the joy of our Vincentian vocation as we minister to our fellow Vincentians and Neighbors.

If you feel like you could use a "helping of joy" don't miss this talk!!

**Saturday, Nov. 14**  
**3:30 PM on Zoom**

[Click Here to Register](#)

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## 11/15 & 11/29 - Webinars: Vouchers Q&A

The Council created new Bed and Donated Good Vouchers to support Vincentians in the ministry of serving our Neighbors in Need.

Council staff will be available on Zoom to discuss the vouchers, reporting, ServWare tracking, and how the thrift stores can help support Conference activity.

Register to receive link and meeting info for Zoom Session:

Wednesday, Nov. 15  
3:00 - 4:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

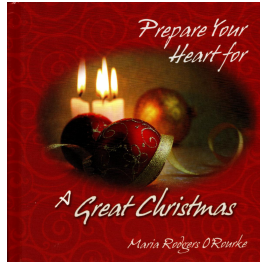
Wednesday, Nov. 29  
6:00 - 7:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

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## 11/18 & 11/19 - Book Signings with Author at Ballwin & St. Charles Thrift Stores

Meet Author Maria Maria Rodgers O'Rourke in-person and purchase a signed copy of her book, "Prepare Your Heart for a Great Christmas".



Maria's book is the gift every Catholic Mom should give herself this Christmas - warm, reflective and a resource you'll want to revisit time and again every Advent and Christmas season.

Maria will be at our Ballwin location on Nov. 18, and our St. Charles location on Nov. 19.

Both days, she will be available from 2pm-4pm to sign copies of her book, "Prepare Your Heart for a Great Christmas", available for purchase that day! Proceeds benefit Society of St. Vincent de Paul!

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## 11/27 - Feast of the Miraculous Medal

The medal of the Immaculate Conception was manifested to Sister Catherine Laboure in the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, France on November 27, 1830.

[Learn More](#)

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## 11/28 - Memorial of St. Catherine Laboure

St. Catherine Laboure was born May 2, 1806 in Fain-lès-Moutiers, France. When she was nine years old, her mother died, and she looked to the Blessed Virgin Mary to be her mother. She entered the Daughters of Charity on April 21, 1830.

[Learn More](#)

While still a novice, the Virgin Mary appeared to

Catherine and asked her to have a medal struck in her honor. Because of the many miracles that resulted from devotion to it, it became known as the “Miraculous Medal.”

Catherine Laboure was canonized in 1947, and is known as the patroness of seniors.

## 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.

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](#)

## From the Voice of the Poor

VOICE  
of the POOR

*Three Actions to Take Now  
to Help Our Neighbors Thrive*

### *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? There are free services available to Neighbors throughout the Archdiocese that can help them do all that and more! If you missed the Financial Empowerment Resources for Vincentians webinar on October 25, you are encouraged to watch the recording, review the presentation, and share this information with your Neighbors.

[Click Here to Watch the Webinar](#)

[Click Here to Read the Presentation](#)

### *Remove the Penalties for Work*

During the last session of the Missouri General Assembly, Vincentians rallied



in support of benefits cliff legislation, and SB 45/90 and SB 106 were passed subject to appropriation. If funded, these bills will allow recipients of TANF and SNAP to receive reduced benefits as their income increases, rather than being cut off altogether. Without the threat of a complete loss of benefits, low-income workers will be encouraged to accept a promotion or pay raise or to work longer hours.

But for this to happen, the General Assembly must include funding in the FY 2025 budget. That process starts with the Governor, who is currently working on the budget he will submit to the General Assembly for consideration in January.

**Please contact Governor Parson's office and ask him to include funding for the benefits cliff legislation in his proposed budget.**

[Click Here to Contact the Governor](#)

### *Protect WIC and Housing Vouchers from Cuts*

Now that a House Speaker has been elected, the appropriations process has restarted. Congress has until November 17 to agree on funding or face a partial government shutdown.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, proposed bills would result in [approximately 8,000 Missouri moms and young children being turned away from WIC and an additional 62,800 in Missouri experiencing sharp cuts to their fruit and vegetable benefits.](#)

Likewise, it will be crucial to ensure HUD's affordable housing and homelessness programs receive the highest possible funding since nationwide [only one in four households eligible for rental assistance receive it](#). Please contact your Senators and Representative to ensure that anti-poverty programs like WIC and housing vouchers are fully funded.

[Click Here to Contact Congress](#)

## Vincentian Meditation: We Give Thanks

Each Thanksgiving, we give thanks for a bountiful feast, for those gathered around our table, for our family and friends. This Thanksgiving, I will also give thanks for my Vincentian vocation and the opportunities it provides to me—the opportunity to grow my faith, to share fellowship, and to serve others.

I'm thankful for getting to know Vincentians across the Archdiocese and for the opportunity to serve those in need. St. Vincent de Paul said: Go to the poor. There you will find God. St. Vincent was right and I experienced this when I met a homeless man earlier this year...

[Read the Full Meditation!](#)

# Reminder... Rosary Every Wednesday Night

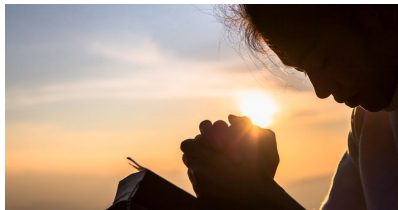


Join us --  
**SVdP St. Louis**  
**Rosary Wednesday**  
8 PM via Zoom

[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:**  
Debbie Rupp, wife of Steve Rupp from  
council office

**Please Pray for The Deceased:**  
Don Bailey, St. Joseph, Cottleville

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



Society of St. Vincent de Paul--St. Louis | 1310 Papin Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

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