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The Society Scoop | Oct 2023 | Issue 10

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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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### Fiscal Year '24 Budget Impacts Bring Changes at St. Louis Council, Conferences and Stores

Dear Vincentians,

On Thursday, September 28, the Board approved the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 after its review and recommendation by the SVdP Finance Committee. To achieve a balanced budget, there are some changes necessary at Conferences and in the Council that will impact FY24.

#### Why the changes?

There are four main reasons for the necessary changes:

1. Decreased/spent Bequest Funds
2. Understanding the Reality of Voucher Impact and Credits on Thrift Store Sales
3. Navigating the Ongoing Effects of Covid on SVdP
4. Rising Demand of Neighbor Needs

... Continued below.

Click through to [read the full announcement](#) and get answers to:

- What is Changing at SVdP St. Louis?
- Will this impact how we serve those in need?
- When will these changes take effect?
- What's next?

[Read the Full Announcement from John Foppe and Carole Johnson](#)

## Vincentian Meditation: Your Love Alone

September 27 marked the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul.

Vincent wisely noted:

*"You will find out that charity is a heavy burden to carry, heavier than the kettle of soup and the full basket. But you will keep your gentleness and your smile. It is not enough to give soup and bread. This the rich can do. You are the servant of the poor, always smiling and good humored. They are your masters.... It is only for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give to them."*

For your love alone. Not for paying the utility bill, buying groceries, or providing a bed. But for love alone. When we serve the poor, we serve Christ. This is the heart of our Vincentian vocation.

We do not serve the poor because we can fix all their problems. We serve the poor because...

[Read the Full Meditation!](#)

## Updates & Resources

### We Express Thanks to National Assembly Committee

The National Assembly Committee were honored at the St. Louis Council office on September 28th.

This year's Assembly was an impressive one, and it could not have happened without the extraordinary efforts of this

team! We thank you all!



## Friends of the Poor Walk Across St. Louis Area

The weather for the Friends of the Poor Walk was fantastic! The Walks took place on September 23 & 24 and saw great attendance and wonderful fellowship shared by all participants.

There were walk events at: Queen of All Saints, Festus District Council at Sacred Heart, St. Clement of Rome, Immacolata, St. Paul's in Fenton, St. Joe in Cottleville, St. Bridget of Kildare and Northwest District Council.



There were sno-cones, face painting, memorial yard signs, Fredbird, chicken dinners, golf carts, neon shirts, games, doughnuts, cookies, dogs, hot dogs, fun, laughter, exercise, Priests, Deacons, families, and God.

- The Festus District Council Walk started with the Stations of the Cross in Church, where they were all wearing their Walk t-shirts and was followed by a brief reception before beginning the Walk.
- At Queen of All Saints, the Walk started with Mass, where they were all wearing their Walk t-shirts. After Mass, the Children's Choir sang to start the walk, and the walk began, led by the color guard of their local boy scouts. At the end of their walk, attendees enjoyed tropical shaved ice from the Kona Ice truck!
- The Immacolata Walk included the Walk at 4pm, Mass at 5pm (all wearing their Walk t-shirts) and a fried chicken dinner prepared and served by the Immacolata Vincentians after Mass for all of the



Conferences that Immacolata twins with.

- St. Paul's in Fenton had a walk, and Conferences from Annunciation and Sacred Heart VP joined as well!

Talk about Spirituality, Friendship and Service!

Thank you to everyone who supports the Friends of the Poor Walk, including every walk coordinator, walker, corporate sponsor, and donor. You are making a difference for those living in poverty!



## Shoe Spectacular Sale on 10/14 & 10/15



Don't miss our Shoe Spectacular!

**50% OFF SHOES** at all locations\*,  
\*except our Cool Valley Thrift Outlet.

October 14 & 15, All Shoes\*\* will have prices slashed to half off for a limited time!

We have designer labels with only light wear, come see our awesome inventory!

\*\* Shoes only, excludes boots.

## 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:  
[contact@svdpstl.org](mailto:contact@svdpstl.org)

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## ATTN: CAR Report Instructions Update

We've updated the [CAR report instructions](#) on the website!

[View Instructions](#)

Conference Treasurers, please review the new instructions, specifically #230 and #410. Thank you!

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## Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



### What help is available?

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) may be able to help you pay your home energy bills through:

- Energy Assistance - A one-time payment for one fuel type for your heating or cooling costs from October-September.
- Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) - Helps pay your energy bill when you have a sudden, unexpected, uncontrollable loss of financial resources, life-threatening situation, or if there is any circumstance that threatens your stability if energy aid is not supplied. The amount of help you receive is based on the amount of money needed to settle your crisis with the energy provider.

### Who is eligible?

You may be eligible for help if you:

- Are responsible for paying the utilities for your home (including if you rent)
- Are a Missouri resident

- Are a United States citizen (or have been legally admitted for permanent residence)
- Have \$3,000 or less in your bank accounts, retirement accounts, or investments
- Meet or are below the **income guidelines** for your household size

[Visit MODSS Website to Learn More & Apply](#)

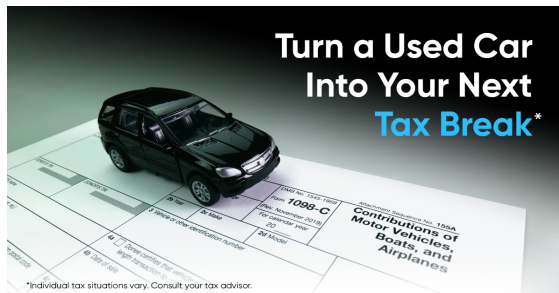
## Missouri Tenant Help

Missouri Tenant Help offers free, easy-to-use, and mobile-friendly resources to Missouri tenants facing eviction or other housing needs. Their DIY Forms are accessible to tenants, attorneys, paralegals, or anyone helping a tenant.



[Visit the website](#)

## Seeking Vehicle Donations - Cars, Boats, RV's



Have a car, boat, RV or other vehicle you no longer need? Ready to say good-bye to your used vehicle and hello to something new?

Give it a new purpose and make a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

It doesn't need to be running, or even start!

Regardless of condition, we'll accept your vehicle donation, and we make it easy to donate with free pickup and towing! No cost to the donor!

**Scan the QR code or click the button below to donate today!**



## Safeguarding Requirements for Vincentian Members

Society of St. Vincent De Paul Archdiocesan Council (SVdP) seeks to ensure that, not only is abuse prevented and reported, but also works to create safe and respectful environments to protect the human dignity and confidentiality of our Neighbors-in-Need. Whether we visit with Neighbors or provide support for our conferences, as Vincentians it is important to know how to report abuse and support the Archdiocesan Code of Ethics.



### Requirements:

All **NEW** Active and Associate Conference members must complete the Archdiocese Safe Environment Training Program within 14 days of joining a Conference and comply with the Archdiocesan updating requirements.

**Current** Active and Associate Conference members who have not yet completed the Archdiocese Safe Environment Training Program must do so before November 1, 2023, and report the relevant completion dates to their Conference President and the Council Office who will ensure the information is entered into the Member ServWare page.

The Training Program is all online and will take approximately two hours to complete.

[Click here to register for the Archdiocese Safe Environment Training Program](#)

[Click here for "how-to-register" screenshots](#)

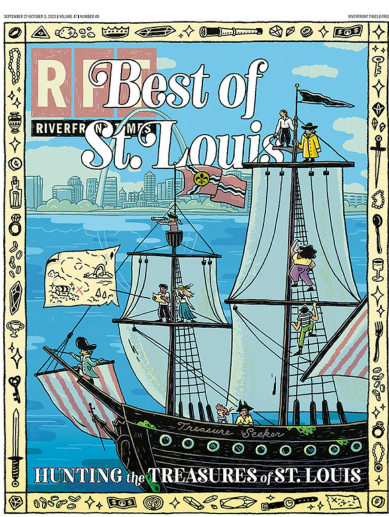
## SVdP in the News

### RFT Reader's Chose SVdP for Best Thrift Stores, Staff Pick Cool Valley Thrift Outlet for Best Thrift Store

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores Won ***Best Thrift Store***, picked by Riverfront Times readers in their Best of St. Louis contest!

We were also thrilled that Cool Valley Thrift Outlet was the ***RFT Staff Pick for Best Thrift***





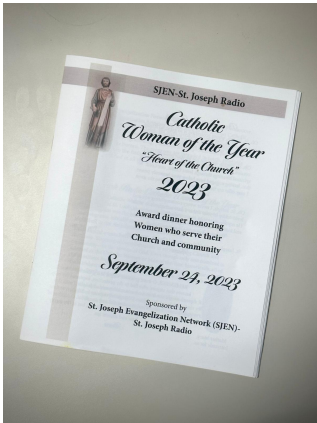
[Store!](#)

"This outlet thrift store in north St. Louis County has a wide selection of furniture, clothes and housewares, all without Goodwill or Savers prices.

You're bound to find something worth taking home, and you can feel especially good knowing that your purchase goes toward St. Vincent de Paul's mission to provide assistance to those who need it most." ~ *Monica Obradovic*

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## Catholic Woman of the Year Dinner Nominees- Congratulations to Kathleen Gantz and Mary Murphy



We had two Vincentians honored as nominees for the Catholic Woman of the Year at the September 24th Awards Dinner, sponsored by SJEN - St. Joseph Radio

**Congratulations to  
Kathleen Gantz and Mary Murphy!**

The program also included, "A Very Special Thank You" to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis!

## Upcoming SVdP Events At A Glance

### Upcoming Formation Events

Oct 21 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

[Ozanam Orientation](#)

Nov 5

[SVdP Sunday](#)

Nov 6 | 6:15 pm - 8:45 pm

[Home Visit 101](#)

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### Upcoming District Meetings



Oct 3, Tuesday | 4:00 pm

- **North** at St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

Oct 14, Saturday | 11:00 am

- **Mid Central** at Cool Valley Thrift Store

Oct 17, Tuesday | 6:00 pm

- **Gravois** at Mary Mother of the Church

Oct 25, Wednesday | 6:00 pm

- **Northwest** at St. Joseph, Cottleville

Oct 28, Saturday | 10:00 am

- **North Central** at Cool Valley Thrift Store

Nov 4, Saturday | 9:00 am (8am Mass pending)

- **Festus** at St. David

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## 10/21 - Ozanam Orientation



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.

**Saturday, Oct. 21**  
**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**Sacred Heart - Valley Park**

[Click Here to Register](#)

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## 11/5 - SVdP Sunday 2023

We are excited for **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Sunday 2023**, scheduled for **Sunday, November 5**. We're here to support your Conference planning.

SVdP Sunday is an ideal time to:

- Recruit new Conference members
- Raise funds for your Conference
- Raise visibility in your Parish: Tell your Parish who the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is and what we do
- Share the JOY of your vocation! Tell fellow parishioners about the good works of your Conference and how you serve those in need.
- Strengthen your Vincentian service to our communities with great need

**Getting Ready for November 5:**

- Meet with your Parish Pastor.
  - Introduce Conference members and talk about the SVdP mission and service to the community
  - Request permission for pulpit talks on November 5 and permission for any other activity your Conference would like to schedule, such as:
    - A collection for financial support
    - Serve donuts/coffee after mass for an SVdP informational/recruitment opportunity
- Write pulpit talk copy (copy suggestion will be emailed to your Conference)
  - Make a schedule of speakers
- Receive SVdP Sunday promotional materials: SVdP yard signs, “Join us” and “Let us help” cards
  - Call to arrange picking up the materials at your convenience
- Be sure Bulletin announcements are scheduled with your Parish Bulletin Coordinator. And remember, stories are ideal to let parishioners know our mission. And stories are only complete when they contain BOTH the Neighbors and Vincentians perspectives.

#### What to do on Sunday, November 5

- Deliver pulpit talks
- Collect funds at Mass or after Mass, donuts, coffee
- Invite fellow parishioners to join SVdP

Please keep in contact and let us know if you have any questions or need more information. Thanks for all that you do and God bless!

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## 11/6 - Home Visit 101

Home Visit 101, a foundational offering open to all Vincentians, builds on the brief home visit section in the Ozanam Orientation.

This introductory session, created specifically for St. Louis area Vincentians, covers home visit basics, the spirituality of the home visit, the why of the home visit, the how of the home visit, and self-care.

**Monday, Nov. 6**  
**6:15 - 8:45 PM**  
**Mary Queen of Peace -**  
**Webster Groves**

[Click Here to Register](#)

## 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

*The knowledge of social well-being and reform is to be learned, not from books, nor from the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor's man garret, sitting by his bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces him, sharing the secret of his lonely heart and troubled mind.*

~ Frederic Ozanam

Through our home visits, we Vincentians have unique insight into the complexities of poverty and the myriad reasons that our Neighbors find themselves in it. This insight is invaluable to our Voice of the Poor Committee, which advocates for policies and programs that empower our Neighbors to move from poverty to a better, more sustainable life.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our Voice of the Poor table at the July Open House. If you are interested in learning more about the Committee's activities and how you can help, we invite you to do any and all of the following:

- Check out the [Voice of the Poor resources](#) on the St. Louis Council website
- Contact Voice of the Poor Committee co-chairs Bernie Sammons (314-853-6391) and Mary Kreienkamp (314-852-2305); or email [vopstlouis@gmail.com](mailto:vopstlouis@gmail.com).
- Click below to find out more about Who We Are and Our Current Priorities

[Learn Who We Are](#)

[Our Current Priorities](#)

## 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:**  
Gene Murphy, Seven Holy Founders

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

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