



The Society Scoop | Sept. 2024 | Issue 9



The Society Scoop

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

A Message From Father Dan Thies, C.M.

SVdP St. Louis Spiritual Advisor

LABOR DAY, WORK, SERVICE, CHARITY/LOVE



I come from a family of mostly blue-collar laborers. Growing up we used to get together quite often for Sunday family dinners and when we gathered My uncle Tom, who was my mother's brother would always ask "Did you get a job yet?" And I would answer: "Uncle Tom I'm only 6 years old."

This Labor Day we gave thanks for the opportunity to work and gave thanks for all those who Labor/Work for themselves and the sake of others: **All of you!**

Read More from Father
Dan

A Message from John Foppe



As we continue our mission in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, it's clear that the world around us is rapidly changing; we are even experiencing changes within our Council. New challenges arise, and the needs of those we serve are evolving.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam wrote, "The question which divides the people of our day is ... a struggle between those who have nothing and those who have too much; it is the violent clash of opulence and poverty which makes the earth tremble under our feet." These words resonate today; they are reminders of the ongoing relevance of our mission.

But how do we adapt in a world that seems increasingly complex?

[Read More from John Foppe](#)

Vincentian Meditation from Julie Komanetsky SVdP Director of Vincentian Services and Partnerships



The Society of We're All in this Together!

John Foppe and I had the great privilege of attending the National Assembly in August with 21 Vincentians from the Archdiocese of St. Louis—and another 800 Vincentians from across the country! All who attended the National Assembly returned home renewed, revitalized, and ready to serve our Neighbors in need.

During the Assembly, I visited the Phoenix Council. When I entered the lobby, there was a large sign on the wall that stated: The Society of We're All in this Together. I found comfort in those words. We are, indeed, all in this together. We are partners in this mission of charity—relying on Divine

Providence and each other.

Our work can be difficult. Our Neighbors' situations are often complicated, their resources are few, their support minimal. As Vincentians, we may feel overwhelmed after a Home Visit, but we are not alone! We have each other—our fellow Vincentians and our Council staff—to help find a path forward, a path that offers help and hope for those in need. And, of course, we have God. As John Foppe explained at our Spring Assembly: *Acknowledging our lack of control and fragility is an exercise in humility. It's the recognition that we are finite beings in need of guidance and support beyond our own abilities. Humility opens the door to seeking a higher purpose and acknowledging that there's something greater at work in the universe. As Vincentians, we are called to depend on God's providence.*

Take comfort, my Vincentian friends, we are not alone! We are part of something much greater than ourselves. We are the Society of We're All in this Together!



Sacred Heart in Valley Park Conference

Recently, the Sacred Heart in Valley Park Conference extended a compassionate hand to a neighbor facing one of the toughest battles of her life—an aggressive fight against breast cancer. The intensity of her treatment forced her to drastically reduce her work hours, a decision that heavily impacted her family.

This is a family of five where both parents work hard to make ends meet. They manage to get by each month, but with little room for unexpected challenges. The reduction in her income quickly led to financial strain, and they soon found themselves behind on their electric bill, with the looming threat of losing power—a frightening prospect for any family, especially one already dealing with so much.

But in their time of need, we were able to step in. We provided the assistance they needed to pay their electric bill, allowing her to focus on her health and her battle, without the added burden of financial worry. Thank you, SHVP for being the face of Christ to this family in need.

Please share a story from your Conference with us. Email Gena Bast at genab@svdpstl.org.

Upcoming District Meetings



All Vincentians are invited to attend their District Meeting. These meetings are a great opportunity to meet other Vincentians, hear about District business, and learn more about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

For more information, check with your Conference or District President or email Steve Rupp at stever@svdpstl.org.

- **South Central**, Tuesday, September 17, St. Ambrose 6:00 pm.
- **South East**, Thursday, September 26, Immaculate Conception, Park Hills, 6:00 pm.
- **South West**, Saturday, October 5, Sacred Heart, Valley Park, 8:00 am Mass.
- **North**, Saturday, October 12, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, 8:00 am Mass.
- **Northwest**, Wednesday, October 16, Sacred Heart, Troy, KC Hall 6:30 pm.
- **Mid Central**, Wednesday, November 6, Annunziata 6:15 pm.
- **Gravois**, Wednesday, October 23, St. Simon 6:00 pm.
- **North Central**, Thursday, October 24, Our Lady of Lourdes, 6:30 pm.
- **Festus**, Saturday, October 26, St. Joseph, Imperial, 8:00 am Mass.
- **West**, Sunday, October 27, Immaculate Conception, Union 1:00 pm.
- **South**, Saturday, November 2, Immaculate Heart of Mary, 8:00 am Mass

Conference Audits

In reviewing financial procedures across the St. Louis Council, it has come to our attention that we do not have a standard policy for conducting conference audits. The section titled “**Accountability**” in the

Rule, and specifically **Statute 27**, state that audits are a part of maintaining fiscal integrity at all levels of the Society and that Council Presidents should require audits of conference's finances under their purview as deemed appropriate. This phrase deemed appropriate has caused much confusion and interpretation across the community. Therefore, we are establishing a policy floor for the conduct of audits.

Within the St. Louis Council, audits will be required if there is a change of Presidents, a change of Treasurers or a lapse of one year since the last audit. Audits should be recorded on the enclosed form (enclosure 1) and made part of the permanent conference files as well as forwarding a copy to the applicable District President.

Who conducts the audit? At the Conference level, the audit may be conducted by:

- Two or more members of the conference who are not currently holding office.
- Two or more disinterested individuals who are members of the parish
- Two or more Vincentians from another District Conference

The conference audit should be conducted in accordance with the **Worksheet for Conference Audits**. The completed **Audit Verification Form** should be forwarded to the District President and to Steve Rupp at stever@svdpstl.org

Worksheet for Conference
Audits

Audit Verification
Form

Reminder: Vincentian Services Restructuring

With fewer staff, the Vincentian Services team is restructuring to ensure we are responsive to you and the needs of your Conference. This means that some responsibilities have shifted. If you need assistance from the team, please use this for guidance.

Click Here For The Resource
List

Benefits Cliffs Mitigation is the Law in Missouri

VOICE *for*
the POOR

Time to Advocate for Funding

What are Benefits Cliffs?

A benefits cliff, also known as a “cliff effect” is when a family’s income exceeds the eligibility threshold for public assistance programs resulting in a sudden or unexpected decrease or loss of benefits. A small or modest wage increase can trigger a cliff effect resulting in a loss

of annual net resources. The result is that people turn down increases in pay and advancement in the workplace which can trap families in poverty.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Friends of the Poor Walk -- This Month!

This September - Various Dates

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 sno-cones, 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](#)

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

phone: 314 881-6018

Upcoming Formation Opportunities



Mon., Sept. 9

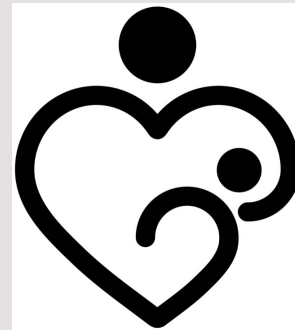
Home Visit Workshop at Sacred Heart in Florissant

6 - 8:30 p.m.

“From the Society’s beginning, the central and most basic activity of Conferences has been the visitation of the needy in their homes.

This is the clearest symbol of our Vincentian charism, which dictates the highest respect for the dignity of the poor.” (Manual, 2.1)

[Click Here To Register](#)



Wed., Sept. 18

Pregnancy Care Partnership on Zoom

1 - 2:00 p.m.

Working with a pregnant neighbor?

Join us on the third Wednesday of each month to learn more about the Pregnancy Care Partnership.

[Click Here To Get Zoom
Link](#)

Upcoming Feast Days





Monday, September 9, Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Blessed Frederic Ozanam's feast day would be a perfect day to attend Mass and share fellowship as a Conference!

Please email Julie Komanetsky at juliek@svdpstl.org to let us know your plans for Blessed Frederic's feast day.



Friday, September 27, St. Vincent de Paul

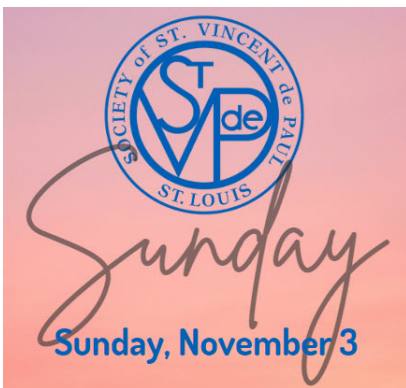
Join the Council Staff for Mass at 12:05 PM at St. Vincent de Paul parish.

1408 S. 10th Street, St. Louis MO, 63104.

To honor our patron saint, please bring a donation of individual size snacks or desserts (ex: potato chips, cookies, etc) to help our Vincentian friends provide lunch to the hungry!

Please email juliek@svdpstl.org for more information.

St. Vincent de Paul Sunday - November 3



St. Vincent de Paul Sunday is a great opportunity to:

- let people in your parish know about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- encourage parishioners to get involved and join.
- raise money for your Conference.

Now is a good time to speak with your Pastor to plan parish activities to celebrate the work of the Society and familiarize parishioners with the work of your Conference.

These activities may include:

- a pulpit talk
- a special collection after mass
- a donut/coffee gathering to speak to fellow parishioners about the Society, etc.

Volunteer Receptionists Needed



The Council Office is looking for volunteer receptionists.
4-8 hour shifts available.
Interested?
Contact Steve Poppe: stevep@svdpstl.org or 314-881-6024.

SVdP In the News



National Thrift Store Day

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores Celebrated Thrift Store Day with a successful \$5 Bag Sale all weekend, August 16 - 18.

National Thrift Shop Day is all about supporting local thrift shops and raising awareness for charitable organizations like SVdP.

- KMOV-TV news helped SVdP with visibility to our Thrift Stores and promoted our sale.

[Click Here to Watch The News Coverage](#)

SVdP Thrift Store News!



Reminder: New Simplified Thrift Store Clothing Prices!

New, simplified clothing and shoe pricing at SVdP Thrift Stores. The updated price guide is posted on the Vincentian portion of the website.

[Click Here to Get the Updated Price Guide](#)

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:

Glen Abel, Seven Holy Founders
Mary Poeshl, St. Monica



To add a name to the list, please contact Steve Rupp at stever@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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