

A. P. Ozanam

V E T E R A

MONIMENTA

"A Newsletter for Vincentians, by Vincentians"

May, 2021 | A monthly newsletter of Tools, Resources and Activities for Vincentians in Contra Costa County

Calendar

- Ozanam Orientation Part 1**
Saturday, May 8th
9 AM - Noon on Zoom
- SVdP Food Distribution - Richmond**
Tuesday, May 11th
9am - Noon
- Ozanam Orientation Part 2**
Saturday, May 15th
9 AM - Noon on Zoom
- SVdP St. Patrick Conference Food Distribution - Rodeo**
Saturday, May 15th
9 AM - Noon
- Western Region Meeting: Introduction to the Society**
Monday, May 17th
10 AM - Noon on Zoom
- Western Region Meeting**
Monday - Friday, May 17th - 21st
4 PM - 6 PM
- Tuesdays with Vincent**
Tuesday, June 1st
6 PM - 8 PM on Zoom

All Links to Above Sessions on Page 8

Bob Liles' Corner

Go To Phoenix

In March I had the chance to travel to Phoenix. I was able to visit family, take in a spring training game and have some fun. I also took the opportunity to visit the National thrift store and the Phoenix Diocesan Council offices.

The director of the National Store gave me a tour of his store. A lot bigger than any of ours and jammed pack full of items to sell. When he took it over it was losing \$20,000 each month, but now turns a profit. He did this by getting the employees on board with his vision and got them working efficiently.

The Phoenix Diocesan Council is the largest in the Unites States with 81 conferences and over 3,500 Vincentians. It extends from Phoenix to Kingman, which is a three-hour drive. Its campus encompasses 11 acres. It has a chapel, shelter, dining room, medical clinic, dental clinic, community garden and a kitchen that prepares 4,000 meals every day.

They have regularly scheduled tours every Wednesday at 3:30. I was the only participant. They gave me a bunch of their literature, a 144-page book on the history of their council and a Vincentian Life shirt. I think they were only being nice to me because they want to come here and have me take them to a Diamondbacks – Giants baseball game!

I strongly recommend adding Arizona to your travel plans and stopping in to check them out. They show what is possible if you just strive to improve a little every couple of years. If anyone wants to borrow the book on their history let me know.



St. John Vianney: Rental Assistance and the Pandemic

by Kathy Dasso



The Pandemic has challenged all of us in many ways, especially when it comes to helping those we serve to stay in their homes and to avoid eviction. Rule 1.6 of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul tells us that we must strive for renewal, constantly adapting to the ever-changing world conditions; that we must seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. All of our conferences have done our best to do just that – to adapt to our changing world conditions to meet the needs of those we serve during this challenging time.

At St. John Vianney Conference, we moved quickly to address the crisis of eviction. Eight of our members quickly stepped up to form a rent team. We attended the rent assistance training offered by the District and quickly learned how to help our neighbors apply for rent assistance through Seasons of Sharing, Catholic Charities, various grant organizations, and through the Hope Conference. Since the rules were constantly changing, we tried our best to stay on top of the changing eviction moratorium rules and tenant rights. We worked many tireless hours with families to obtain over \$110,000 in rent assistance.

Recently, we have had another opportunity to adapt, as the State of California has stepped in to provide the following rent and utility assistance:

Read more by clicking the link below:

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/rentalassistanceSJV-1.pdf>



“Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favorable light at all times and under all circumstances.”

-St. Vincent de Paul

Camps and Missions A Great Way to Connect

by Ron Costanzo



I have participated in Protestant prayers, Buddhist Chants and Muslim Prayers. It is appropriate to encourage folks to have and find a faith home. Many Vincentians experience wonderful prayers that are offered by our neighbors in need. As Vincentians, we pray before, during and after home visits. We recognize our Lord Jesus Christ and do have an opportunity to share our faith.

Considering families that the St. Bonaventure Conference have walked with, I have seen many examples of folks coming back to church and faith.

There have been a number of children from families we served that have attended St Bonaventure Summer Bible Camp. The week long experience includes prayer, bible stories, games, crafts, Christian songs and helps establish a sense of community. Pre-COVID-19, there were close to 600 participants for the week.

The campers are through the 5th grade. Sixth graders are in transition and 7th and older youth act as counselors for the youth and supported by adult leaders. Close to 20 children, teens, and grandchildren of families aided by SVdP have attended by invitation and received scholarships to participate. Close to a dozen high school age teens from our families in need have participated in the week long La Morita Mexico Youth Mission (once called St. Agnes Mexico Mission) sponsored by Catholics mostly from the Concord Deanery.

They build homes for (and with) families in Mexico with daily faith sharing and prayer to build a Christian community. Children from a family that had been away from church, who participated in one of the missions in Mexico, returned to be baptized and confirmed at an Easter Vigil.

Neighbors we have served have attended mass with us and I see some of them participate in Holy Communion. There is no expectation for this. We bring our faith and the rest is in God's hands to touch their hearts.



Ozanam Orientation Helps Develop Vincentian Skills

by Shawna Costanzo

As Vincentians, we must strive to improve the way we approach our mission of providing succor to the needy. This desire to improve is a quintessential part of being a Vincentian.

Our playbook, Our Rule says:

3.12 Formation of Members

“It is ESSENTIAL that the Society continually promote the formation and training of its members and Officers, in order to deepen their knowledge of the Society and their spirituality, improve the sensitivity, quality and efficiency of their service to the poor and help them be

aware of the benefits, resources and opportunities that are available for the poor. The Society also offers members higher training in order to better help to raise the cultural and social level of those who request this support.”

The Ozanam Orientation presentations were updated and improved in 2016, 2018 & 2021.

If you feel like you are missing tools that can help you and our neighbours, an Ozanam Orientation can help you develop them!

We will have a 2-part Ozanam Orientation on two consecutive Saturdays: May 8 and May 15, from 9AM-Noon, with the option to stay on after for discussion.

Please log in at 8:45AM. The Meeting Id is **925 439 5060** and the Passcode is **Ozanam**. Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9254395060?pwd=N3BxU0w4RjFiUnlQZ1BYWGVVcHIRUT09>

Please call 925-487-4986 for help logging in, if needed, Ron will help you.





2021 Virtual Western Region Meeting “Seek and Find the Forgotten” May 17 – 21, 2021

The past year has been very challenging for all of us, but we will not let events stop our spiritual growth as Vincentians. Please join us for our annual Western Region Meeting, held virtually, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM (PT) on May 17 through 21.

Although we will not be able to come together as a group as we usually do, this format allows you to attend more easily. No need to fly somewhere; login for live presentations, most of which will be presented in English and Spanish.

You will learn about the Society's breadth, from innovative housing solutions to incarceration reentry programs, and attend a Mass with Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento. With the knowledge and enthusiasm you gain, you can make your home Conference and Council stronger.

Don't miss the special Introduction to SVdP, Monday, May 17, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. PT in both English or Spanish. This session is an overview of our Heritage, Mission, and Spirituality with a focus on the tradition from the earliest days of the Vincentian Family to the practices of our Conferences and Councils today. Both new and experienced members will gain new insights into the work that we do and the vocation that we share.

Click here for the Western Region Meeting Itinerary:

<https://www.svdpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/itinerary.pdf>

Free Introduction to St. Vincent de Paul:

<https://meetingsvdpcusa.regfox.com/western-region-intro-to-svdpc>

Full Western Region Meeting Program:

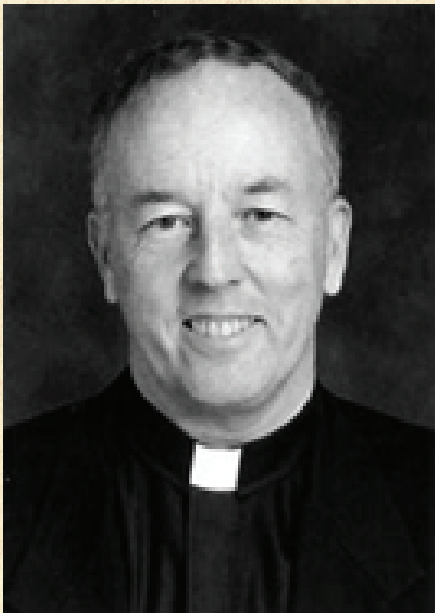
<https://meetingsvdpcusa.regfox.com/2021-western-regional-meeting>

Tuesdays with Vincent The Congregation of the Mission

On June 1st, Tuesdays with Vincent will focus on the topic of “The Congregation of the Mission,” and how St. Vincent de Paul brought people together to help those in need.

The Reverend Thomas F. McKenna, C.M. will be our guest host to follow up on our study for the June 1, Workshop from 6 PM - 8PM on the Spirituality and work of the “Congregation of the Mission.” The link to attend is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83218451763>

Presenter Bio: Rev. Thomas F. McKenna, C.M.



Thomas F. McKenna has been a member of the Congregation of the Mission since 1963. He grew up in Brooklyn, New York and attended schools there, in New Jersey and in Pennsylvania until his ordination in 1970.

He received an M.A. in philosophy from St. John’s University in New York in 1973 and a Th. M. from Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, Pennsylvania in 1974.

He spent fifteen years in seminary work including time as the Director of Novices for the Eastern Province of the Vincentians, as well as Rector of their college seminary in Niagara Falls, New York.

He earned a doctorate in systematic theology from the Catholic University of America in 1982. For ten years, he taught Spirituality as a tenured member of the theology department at St. John’s University. He has published a book on St. Vincent de Paul, articles in various theological journals and has been involved in retreat work nationally and internationally, especially within the Vincentian Family.

For more than twenty years he was part of his Congregation’s leadership team, serving as the Assistant Provincial then as Provincial completing his term in 2008.

Since then, he has taught theology at Tangaza University in Nairobi, Kenya, and also at Niagara University. Additionally, at Niagara he functioned as Assistant to the President for Mission. For six years he served in St. Louis as the Provincial Director of the St. Louise Province of the Daughters of Charity. Most recently he has worked as Formation Director for the Vincentian major seminarians in Philadelphia as well as again taking up the role of Assistant Provincial.

The Congregation of the Mission

In order that he might better respond to a wide variety of needs, St. Vincent de Paul brought together as many people as he could, rich and poor, humble and powerful, and used every means to inspire in them a sensitivity to the poor, who are the privileged image of Christ. He moved them to help the poor directly and indirectly (Constitutions of the Congregation of the Mission, Introduction, p.19).

The purpose of the Congregation of the Mission is to follow Christ evangelizing the poor. This purpose is achieved when, faithful to St. Vincent, the members individually and collectively: (1) make every effort to put on the spirit of Christ himself (Common Rules I:3) in order to acquire a holiness appropriate to their vocation (Common Rules XII:13); (2) work at evangelizing the poor, especially the more abandoned; (3) help the clergy and laity in their formation and lead them to a fuller participation in the evangelization of the poor (Constitutions, #1).

From the time of its founder, the members of the Congregation of the Mission recognized that they had been called by God to continue the mission of evangelizing those persons who are poor.

Click here to read more about “The Congregation of the Mission.” :

<https://www.svdp-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/congregation.pdf>

Click Here for Suggested Readings and Hightlighted topics:

<https://www.svdp-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/syllabusmay.pdf>



May 17, 1658

**St. Vincent de Paul gives the Rules
to the Congregation of the Mission**

Links

First Tuesdays with Vincent

June 1, 2021 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83218451763>

Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yfj70vzjy3bj5ky/AADDxY9E5ywnpl0DarZEVMrTa>

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County:

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org>

National Site for Vincentians:

<https://www.svdpusa.org/members/>

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMKjgpCZOYqdmXRF0kn0tUg>

Ozanam Orientation Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9254395060?pwd=N3BxU0w4RjFiUnlQZ1BYWGVVcHRUT09>

Meeting ID: 925 439 5060 Passcode: Ozanam

California Tenant and Landlord Housing Resources:

https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/tenant/protection_guidelines.html

<https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/landlord/resources.html>