

A. P. Chanam

V E T E R A

MONIMENTA

"A Newsletter for Vincentians, by Vincentians"

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

To Our Vincentians in Contra Costa County

We have been asked how we can help the Conferences and Councils in the Northern California areas where many of the wildfires are situated. Although SVdP does not have a presence where the fires are burning, evacuees are beginning to show up in the cities where we do have Conferences, in particular Redding, California, where the Diocese of Sacramento's St. Joseph's conference is located. The fire victims need food, gas cards, clothing, motel stays - everything you would imagine in the midst of these catastrophic disasters.

This is where the Vincentians of Contra Costa County can help. SVdP of Contra Costa can serve as a clearinghouse for your monetary donations and forward 100% of your donations to the Conference and/or Council that will be serving these fire victims. We want to help those affected get through the immediate impact from these devastating fires and help them rebuild their lives.

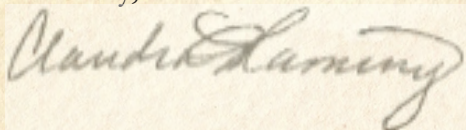
SVdP of Contra Costa is working with our fellow Vincentians at the District Council of Sacramento to ensure that we are directing any funds collected to the appropriate Council and/or Conference.

Your individual or your Conference's contribution will help provide immediate, emergency daily-living supplies and food, assist with finding temporary and permanent housing, provide clothing and shoes, and provide transportation to those who may have lost everything in these fires. Most importantly, your contribution will help restore hope to those overwhelmed by such a trauma.

Please click on DONATE, below or on our website www.svdpc-cc.org and select Fire Relief or send your check, payable to St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, CA 94565 and note Fire Relief in the memo.

Thank you for your generosity and support of our Vincentians who are helping wildfire victims.

Sincerely,



Claudia L. Ramirez
Executive Director

DONATE

Bob Liles' Corner

Won't Get Fooled Again - The Who

Recently a major news station created a GoFundMe account for a single mother of three that was about to be evicted. They raised over \$200,000. One problem: the three little kids that she was seen with were not her children. She was just babysitting them for a friend.

I have to confess that I have been fooled by some of the people that I tried to help. It's embarrassing, but what's worse is knowing that money is not going to someone it could help. It becomes difficult to look a donor in the eye and say that I was a good steward of the money given to my Conference. I am thankful for the new feature of the Seattle Database that lets me see if any other conference has helped the person that is requesting help from me now. Recently, I found one neighbor in need received help from six other Conferences. That does not necessarily mean that my Conference should not help her, but it does warrant a detailed look into the situation.

I am also thankful that the District Council periodically does training on home visits and has an entire section in the Dropbox to help people do them. Simple rules like always having two people do the home visit and getting documents to verify their financial situation go a long way to insuring that we are helping those that need help. Hope Conference's budget form is a great tool to find problems when the numbers just don't make sense.

I always tell the neighbor that I am helping that I believe them and they sound like the person that we want to help, but we have gotten so many people that are just trying to get easy money that we have to be careful. Most of the forms are filled out honestly and show a real need. I'll never forget the nice old lady who couldn't pay her rent, though she clearly was financially able to do it. After going back and forth with her several times she finally admitted that she had spent it on drugs. She was clean and was regularly attending rehab group meetings. The pandemic hit. The meetings got cancelled. She got stressed and went back to drugs. She realized that she messed up. She found a group that had started meeting again. Once again she stopped using drugs and started paying her rent, but she didn't have enough income to pay the back rent so we helped her with that. So don't be scared to press people on how they spend their money.

You may do them more help by getting them to admit the truth than just paying a bill and letting them continue to not solve their real problem. That's what being a Vincentian is all about.

Discussion on Homelessness – You're Invited

After the District Council meeting concludes at 11am on September 18th, we will be hosting a webinar featuring a guest speaker to discuss her work with the homeless. It is open to everyone so feel free to join the us at 11am on Zoom by clicking on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85498147771?pwd=Q01ma3c4dFcvclhSZEpZT1B5Q3Rodz09> or using Meeting ID: 854 9814 7771 and Passcode: 622055.

It will last about 30 minutes which includes a Q&A section. You can leave whenever you want. The speaker will be my youngest daughter, Lisa. She graduated from SF State University in 2016 with a degree in sociology and went on to get her Master's in Social Work with a focus on clinical practices at San Diego State University. Through her undergrad and graduate degrees, she worked with homeless youth and adults with severe mental illness and substance and alcohol use.

The past year she has worked with HomeFirst Services of Santa Clara County at one of their Bridge Housing Communities (BHC). Her location houses roughly 80 chronically homeless single adults. She will explain who gets to be housed there, services offered, challenges, and success rate of residents moving into permanent housing. She will also briefly touch on her time working with homeless youth in San Francisco and differences working with youth versus adults.

Calendar

Feast of Bl. Frederic Ozanam

Thursday, September 9th

All day

SVdP Bocce Ball Tournament

September 11th, Martinez, CA

Martinez Bocce Ball Courts

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Discussion on Homelessness

Saturday, September 18th

11 AM on Zoom

Friends of the Poor Walks

September 25th,

Visit FOPWalks.org

Feast of St. Vincent de Paul

Monday, September 27th

All Day

End of FY 2020-2021

Thursday, September 30th

Tuesdays with Vincent

Tuesday, October 5th

6 PM - 8 PM on Zoom

All Links to Above Sessions on Page 10

Letter to the Editor

by Anonymous

I would like to comment on Mr. Krank's commentary from last month.

I disagree strongly with the statement, "We will never be able to eliminate poverty." Allowing some members of society to live in deprivation and despair is a political decision, not a permanent state. California is the fifth largest economy in the world. Our lack of affordable housing, unlivable low wages, poor support for the elderly and the disabled, lack of childcare and exploitation of immigrants are because of political decisions, not because of lack of resources. Additionally, Contra Costa County has underfunded social services compared to other local counties.

I personally believe that accepting poverty in California and the United States as an inevitable condition is against my Catholic beliefs. Accepting poverty as inevitable seems Puritanical to me. Saying that we can't eliminate poverty suggests that some deserve their misfortune. I do not believe in the "deserving" poor. I believe that all deserve housing, food, medical care and recreation opportunities. I feel that helping my neighbors without also fighting to end poverty is irresponsible.

In my heart, I hope that we build a California where St. Vincent de Paul is no longer needed.

SVdP Conference Receives Recognition from VA

by Brian Boyle



A veteran herself, Arlesa Miles at the SVdP Conference at St. Callistus knew there was work to be done helping veterans, so she reached out to the VA to see how the St. Callistus Vincentains could help.

In August, the St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County Conference at St. Callistus Church in El Sobrante, CA received a special letter of recognition from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for their outstanding work providing food and care for veterans in Contra Costa County who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

SVdP Helps Vaccinate Contra Costa County

By Stephen Krank

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County partnered with the County and the West County Health Center in Richmond to increase the outreach being performed to the Hispanic community who continue to have low vaccination rates and a high rate of COVID-19 infections. Our health outreach to 1000 families included food, education, testing, and resources.

On August 20th, I was able to participate in the third hybrid food distribution and vaccination clinic SVdP has set up with the help of you volunteers. There are three more multiple-site vaccination days scheduled for East County in partnership with the Vincentians from the St. Anne Conference and their ecumenical partnership with the Delta Christian Community Pantry.

Why now and why is this important?

Our schools have reopened and our children are moving back out of isolation to healthy interaction with other kids their age. This is important to their social development.

Although the children may be more resilient, the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and the Delta variant provides an increased risk to their families when they return home. You can see this sense of urgency with the rising number of young people testing positive for the virus.

Two months ago, we hosted our first Vaccination day here at the Family Resource Center of St. Vincent de Paul in Pittsburg. For the last several months, we have continued hosting our "Pop-up" Central County food distributions with the Contra Costa County Health Department to provide vaccinations at the Pentecostals of the Bay Area Church in Pittsburg. On each date, we provide 300+ families boxes of food, bags of fresh produce, and the opportunity to be vaccinated at a non-government location where they already feel safe around people they know.

We want to thank the Pentecostals of the Bay Area, the Delta Christian Community Food Pantry, and the Vincentians from St. Anne SVdP Conference in Byron (who underwrite the ecumenical food pantry), and their work for seeing the need and moving to save the lives of our neighbors in need.



Volunteers and SVdP Executive Director Claudia Ramirez help families receive food and get vaccines at an SVdP Food Distribution and Vaccine Clinic on 8/20.

Ozanam Orientation - 11/06/21

Why is Ozanam Orientation Training so important?

Why would a person repeat the Ozanam Orientation Training?

These are both good questions.

OZANAM ORIENTATION introduces members to WHY and HOW our Society was started and able to continue for centuries. There is so much to learn from the presenters and the fellow participants, on HOW to grow our spirituality while helping others. After being involved in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for a few years, it can be very helpful to revisit the training, catch up on information that may be viewed in a different light. Not all

Conferences work on the same projects, not all have the same opportunities and obstacles, so one can learn from others at the training, as well as from the material presented.

The next opportunity for Ozanam Orientation Training is scheduled for Saturday November 6th, 9AM-4PM. Location to be determined. With the pandemic, we can only hope to be able to have an in-person session; giving one the opportunity to talk to fellow Vincentians, hear their stories, even share some of your own. Please mark your calendars! We hope to see you at the Ozanam Orientation Training in November, please let us know if you plan to attend, and bring one of your new members with you.

Spirituality and Formation Committee

Rsvp to: shawнна57@gmail.com

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Grants Are Open!

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl Grant program has funds available for organizations, projects and churches in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties that are working to alleviate hunger and food insecurity through direct services and advocacy.

Proposals will be accepted for up to \$1,000, however the amounts of the grants are anticipated to be lower this year due to a smaller than usual Rice Bowl collection caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, September 15, 2021

[Click Here if Your Conference Did Not Receive a 2020 Grant](#)

[Click Here if Your Conference Received a 2020 Grant](#)

Tuesdays with Vincent Bl. Frederic Ozanam

On October 5th at 6PM, Tuesdays with Vincent will focus on the topic “Blessed Frederic Ozanam,” and how he helped form and define what it means to be a Vincentian.

In this session you will learn:

All about Blessed Frederic Ozanam

SVdP National Council President Ralph Middlecamp will be our guest host to follow up on our study for the October 5th, Workshop from 6 PM - 8PM on Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

The link to attend is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87034403349?pwd=bjJjdHlMSG44RFZ2L2s5bGtKNzZCdz09>

Presenter Bio:

National Council President Ralph Middlecamp



Ralph Middlecamp has been a student of Bl. Frederic Ozanam for as long as I have known of him. He has contributed the benefit of his study of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Fam-Vin (the international Website of the Vincentian Family) and he has made multiple contributions to the Archives of Vincentian Studies at De Paul University in Chicago.

Ralph Middlecamp is a member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. He served as the CEO of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the District Council of Madison from 1999 until his retirement in July 2017. That year, Ralph was elected to serve a six-year term as the President of the National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent

de Paul. Currently, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Services Corporation and the Foundation of the National Council.

Since 2005 he has been on the presenting team of the Society’s national leadership development program, Invitation for Renewal. Ralph had previously served on the National Council’s Stores Committee and Communications Committee.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Bl. Frederic Ozanam

As we move into September, the Feast of Frederic Ozanam opens the door to our Tuesdays with Vincent de Paul Study Cycle. In the coming months we will have the gift of an abundant field of resources and the expertise of Ralph Middlecamp on October 5th to draw from.

To start us off, below is an annotated reprint from an article that was published on Fam-Vin (the international website of the Vincentian Family), as a way to introduce you to Frederic Ozanam, whom our National President, Ralph Middlecamp, will teach us more deeply.

Over the centuries, the Church has raised men and women to the altar; many have been adults, some elderly, and others vowed celibacy due to their monastic or priestly vows.

But now we are offered a young man as a model, whose brief life (April 23rd, 1813 to September 8th, 1853) was exceptionally blessed.

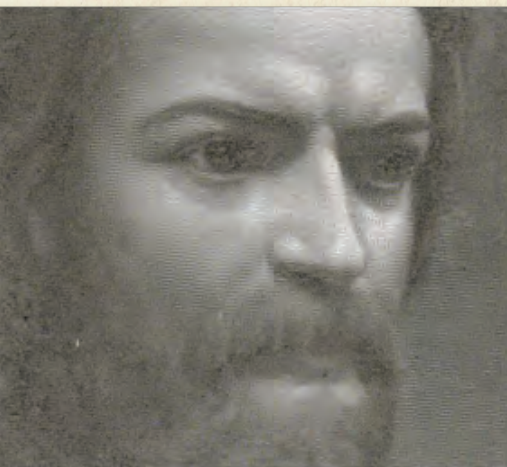
This young man elevated family, conjugal and fatherly love to a great height. His many and varied commitments, all sustained with the same spiritual vigor, were dedicated to faith and charity, the Church, the poor, science, and the democratic spirit. Last but not least, he was a man of flesh, blood, and spirit just like us, who incarnated a type of Christian with whom we can identify. He [Frederic] also incarnated an ideal that was nourished by the Gospel and provided answers both to the questionings of his contemporaries and to the concerns of our generation.

We can never forget that the 19th century, in which Bl. Frederic Ozanam lived and worked, was the preparation for our 20th century which has now ended. Similar to the last century, this century is moved by new ideas and technological, economic, social, and spiritual change.

Yet, one can say quite honestly that Ozanam's life was unique. To insensitive eyes and heart, his existence can seem to resemble many others. It has a more powerful influence over our world, this modern world that is so eager for light. When we call upon the Blessed Ozanam for help, it should not be first and foremost to obtain some favor, but above all to ask that our lives as men and women, especially the youth of the world, be invigorated by his example and his witness.

[Click Here for Further Readings on Bl. Frederic Ozanam](#)

When Ozanam was challenged by his peers to demonstrate how Catholicism was changing the lives of contemporary Frenchmen, he instinctively understood this as a challenge to both his own insulated and comfortable existence, as well as the Church's own aristocratically coddled position in French society. He interpreted the challenge as one that called him out to the dirty, garbage-strewn ghettos of Paris where he and his friends would encounter the very real human byproducts of industrial capitalism.



Free Medical Clinic Meals Needed 4th Wednesday of Each Month – Can You Help?

A little over ten years and 13,500 patients visits ago, St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County responded to the need for medical care for the uninsured. Vincentians from Conferences in Contra Costa, the SVdP District Council staff, and a volunteer team - the “Medical Clinic Steering Committee,” partnered with RotaCare Bay Area and local Rotary Clubs to open the RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul.

Each night the Clinic has been open, SVdP Conferences, Rotary Clubs, the National Charity League, and generous individual volunteers, have been providing meals for the approximately 20 clinic volunteers who staff the clinic. During the pandemic, the clinic implemented telehealth, so that both in-person and video medical visits are now offered.

Beginning in July 2021, The National Charity League has generously agreed to provide meals for the first three weeks each month, leaving the 4th Wednesday available for SVdP Conferences to provide meals for the volunteers. In June, The SVDP Conference from Immaculate Heart of Mary in Brentwood provided meals for the volunteer personnel staffing the Free Medical Clinic.

The clinic volunteers share that one of the highlights of volunteering at the clinic are the delicious meals that are lovingly prepared and presented to them so they won't go hungry during their “shift” at the clinic. Many of the clinic volunteers arrive in Pittsburg after a long day at their “real job”, and are so grateful for the meal that is offered.

The clinic needs your help! Can your Conference sign up to provide one or two meals this year? Please contact Steve Krank, s.krank@svdp-cc.org to learn how.

What: SVdP Conferences provide meals for 20 clinic volunteers

When: Deliver at 5 pm on the fourth WEDNESDAY of each month

Where: Deliver to the SVdP Family Resource Center, 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, CA 94565

How: Contact Steve Krank, s.krank@svdp-cc.org to reserve your date!

There are a couple of ways to participate.

1. Make it a Pot-Luck Event! Have your Conference members each make a dish, then bring them to Pittsburg with utensils on the day you selected.
2. Have your Vincentians buy a dinner meal for 20 people and deliver to Pittsburg to see what your Clinic does in real-time.
3. Don't Cook? Sponsor a meal by providing the date & funding \$ 8.00 to \$10.00 per person, (\$150.00 to \$200.00 to feed all clinic volunteers for one night).

The best part of our Free Medical Clinic is the care our volunteers provide to our neighbors in need. If your Conference is interested, please email s.krank@svdp-cc.org, and he will help arrange a date for your Conference to help. I will confirm the dates and return them to you.

Volunteers Needed

Microsoft Sharepoint expert - Someone who can help us migrate from DropBox to Sharepoint.

Call Claudia Ramirez at (925)635-3219 or email her at: c.ramirez@svdp-cc.org.

Safety auditor - quarterly inspect the stores to make sure we are following safety guidelines. Call Bob at (925)437-9853 or email him at b.liles@svdp-cc.org.

Store volunteers - sorting, pricing, setting items out on the floor, etc. Call the office at (925)439-5060.

For a complete list of all volunteer opportunities with the DC click on this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo3bqz44m2mqas5iuvr92v/Volunteer-Opportunities.docx?dl=0&rlkey=vf33gde9jc8jcdskdmk2cmh0t>

National Q&A

Every week in Frederic's E-Gazette, National SVdP's newsletter they have a Q&A section. The questions range from detailed interpretations of the by-laws to home visits to meetings to everything else under the sun.

They have compiled them and created an index. Check it out at: [Q&A Index](#).

<https://files.constantcontact.com/fd89f49d001/bff8d394-d465-4db9-a3aa-95c4d2f1639d.pdf>

Another great place to find this information is on their website at:

Links

Tuesdays with Vincent

October 5, 2021 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87034403349?pwd=bjJjdHlMMSG44RFZ2L2s5bGtKNzZCdz09>

Meeting ID: 870 3440 3349 Passcode: Vincent

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://members.svdpusa.org/members>

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

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

Formation & Training 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>

Hope Conference Documents:

Applications in English and Spanish:

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/1.-SVdP-Hope-Application-PRINTABLE.pdf>

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/3.-SVdP-Hope-Application-SPANISH-PRINTABLE.pdf>

Important Tenant-Landlord Information Documents:

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Tenant-Landlord-Information.pdf>

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Tenant-Inability-to-Pay-Notice.pdf>

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County The 2021 Friends of the Poor® Walks



September 25th, 2021

Contra Costa County District Council

9/25 at 9:00 am

St. Isidore Church - Grass Field
440 La Gonda Way
Danville, Ca 94526

St. Agnes

9/25 at 9:15 am

St. Agnes Church
3966 Chesnut Ave
Concord, CA 94519

West Contra Costa County

9/25 at 10:30 am

St. Callistus Church
3580 San Pablo Dam Rd.
El Sobrante, CA 94803

The Friends of the Poor® Walks gather Vincentian volunteers from across the Country in a day of unity, to raise funds for the assistance programs that help our neighbors in need!

To register to walk, or to support a walker near you, please visit: [FOPWalk.org!](https://FOPWalk.org)



FOPWalk.org



*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County*

Together we can end poverty one person, one family, one community at a time.

The St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walks are happening on September 25th.

The Friends of the Poor Walk is an opportunity to come together with your local community to help support your neighbors-in-need. The proceeds generated from the Friends of the Poor Walk help SVdP provide our safety-net services to those in need in neighborhoods across Contra Costa County.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County

&



Presents...

The BIG LA BOCCE 2021

Bocce Ball Tournament

Thank You to All of Our Generous Sponsors

Silver Sponsors



Team Sponsors



Leanne and Jim Noe



Bocce Supporters

NIN & CHRIS TIMBERS

PAM PRICE-BERGQUIST &
KEN BERGQUIST



Lunch Sponsor



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Court Sponsors

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| David & Staci Gerson | Summit Building Services |
| Karen Introcaso | Mechanics Bank |
| Kaiperm Credit Union | Safe At Home Inspection Services |

On September 11th, 2021, St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County is partnering with Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa to host "The Big La Bocce," Bocce Ball Tournament! It will be an amazing day of fun and unity as we play ball and help our neighbors in need.

Please support our generous sponsors for making this event possible.