

VETERA MONIMENTA

A. F. Ozanam

August 2022

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Training

Ozanam Orientation

Saturday 8/6, 8:45 AM – 3:45 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 8/16, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting

Spirituality and Formation Committee

Tuesday 8/16, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

National Assembly

Event Agenda at

Wednesday 8/31 - 9/3 All Day

Event

Tuesdays with Vincent

St. Louise de Marillac: Sr. Paule Freeburg

Tuesday 9/6, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (ZOOM)

Event

Bocce Tournament

Saturday 9/10, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 9/13, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting

District Council Meeting

Saturday 9/17, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Training

Home Visit Workshop

Tuesday 9/20, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Event

Friends of the Poor Walk

Saturday 9/24, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Bob Liles Corner

HOW DO YOU SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST IN THE PEOPLE THAT YOU VISIT?

Different people interpret this expression differently. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus talks about feeding and clothing the poor. He says, "As you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me".

So, do we help the poor because we believe that we are helping Christ, or do we really see the face of Christ in the poor when we help them?

This past week I came to a completely different view of this expression. Fifteen months ago, my first grandchild was born. I don't have to tell the other grandparents what a fantastic experience it is and how suddenly, your love is boundless for this little bundle of joy. It is very easy to see God's love for us in her face. She was supposed to go camping with us over the 4th of July weekend, but her entire family got Covid.

However, I ended up having three interactions with children about her age. With each of those children I could see a resemblance to my granddaughter and see Christ in them even though she is lot cuter and smarter than they are. So, I interacted with them like I do with her. Is that the way that I should see the face of Christ in the people that I help?

I know a high school teacher who has a very troubled student. He has a student that will randomly run up to another student and punch him. The teacher says that when he looks into the eyes of this student, he sees Charles Manson. He sees someone who is crazy and wants to hurt people. *Not the face of Christ.*

Bob Liles Corner Cont.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST IN THE PEOPLE THAT YOU VISIT? (Cont.)

St. Vincent de Paul says that everyone is like a two-sided coin. When we look at the poor, we only see one side of the coin and it may be dirty, ugly and all scratched up. But the other side is shiny, bright, and beautiful. I know that I need to work hard to see that side of everyone.

So how do you see the face of Christ in the people that you help? E-mail me at b.liles@svdp-cc.org and I will print the responses in a future newsletter. Perhaps this will help everyone see Christ in the people that we help.



RULE 2.4 The Spirituality of Blessed Frederic Ozanam

The spirituality of one of its founders inspires Vincentians profoundly.

The Blessed Frederic Ozanam:

- Sought to renew faith, among all people, in Christ and in the civilizing effect of the teachings of the Church through all time.
- Envisioned the establishment of a network of charity and social justice encircling the world.
- Attained holiness as a layman through living the Gospel fully in all aspects of his life.
- Had a passion for truth, democracy, and education.



Videos from the Western Region May Meeting are now available on YouTube.

Western Region had a very successful **meeting in May 2022**. Each of the workshops and sessions were recorded. Here is a link to the Western Region YouTube channel with the videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcb9QieWkSYgaHr0tv10EwA> They can also be found on the Members page of the DC website.



SERVING IN HOPE

For those Vincentians and Conferences going through the different Serving in Hope Modules, the District Council has a new aid for you.

The videos associated with modules 6 and 7 are on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCMKjgpCZOYqdmXRF0kn0tUg You can also get there by going to the DC website: www.svdp-cc.org. Click on members and then scroll down and click on the [DC YouTube channel](#). We are working to get all the modules there.

2022 Vincentian Recognition & Top Hat Awards



Gwen Watson, Rick Richardson, Patty Lynch, and Larry Lynch were recipients of the Top Hat Award. Also recognized with a Top Hat was Doris Snyder who was unable to attend.

On July 16, 2022, the District Council of Contra Costa County hosted the 2022 Vincentian Recognition & Top Hat Awards. This was the first opportunity to gather since the 55th Anniversary of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County three years ago. The Committee wanted to add additional recognition to the Top Hat Awards. *The Blessed Rosalie Rendu*, *St. Louise de Marillac* and *Elizabeth Ann Seaton Awards* were added with the caveat that the Council would adhere to the following criteria:

1. *No more than two (2) Blessed Rosalie Rendu Awards to be presented in any calendar year*
2. *No more than two (2) St. Louise De Marillac Awards will be presented in any calendar year*
3. *No more than (4) four St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Awards to be presented in any calendar year*

This was done so that when Vincentians from Contra Costa County were recognized they truly understood their recognition is exemplary and embodies the best in our culture Countywide.

“When we last met in a similar event, it was three years ago – but it seems like a lifetime ago. We are so happy to be here today acknowledging the special dedication and commitment that our Vincentians have for Society and those whom we serve. Their perseverance and adaptability proved what is stated in our Rule – No work of charity is foreign to our Society. We continue to serve all with dignity,

compassion, and without distinction while growing in holiness and deepening our friendships,” said Claudia Ramirez, Executive Director, when welcoming our guests.

With this criterion in mind, we honor and recognize the following Vincentians and their Conferences:

Top Hat Award

The Top Hat award, named in honor of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, known as “The Apostle in a Top Hat”, is the highest recognition offered in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It is presented to Vincentians who live their Vincentian vocation every day and emulate what our founders believed was our mission.

Larry and Patty Lynch – Conference of SVdP at St. David of Wales

Alfred “Rick” Richardson - Conference of SVdP at St. Joan of Arc, Co-Founder Hope Conference, and Past Board President of the District Council Contra Costa County

Doris Snyder – Conference of SVdP at St. John Vianney

Gwen Watson - Conference of SVdP at Christ the King, Founder -Winter Nights, Co-Founder Hope Conference, and Past Board Member of the District Council Contra Costa County

Emmanuel Bailly Award

2022 is the first year the Emmanuel Bailly Award is being presented. This award is dedicated to honoring those Vincentians whose commitment to building the structure to serve the Society and the Conferences. There is a task of understanding that without a sustainable system to support Vincentians, and their Special Works, the hope provided by the Society is a fleeting wish and an unfindable refuge.

Ed McMillan, St. Joan of Arc

Member and former Chair, SVdP Stores Committee

Additional Awards Presented:

The Blessed Rosalie Rendu “Zeal for the Poor” Award: The “Zeal for the Poor” Award is offered to a Vincentian that shows a drive past meeting the basic needs of the poor to including education, care for infants, the elderly and the organization of works of Charity.

Denise Dal Colletto, Vincentian and President, St. Agnes Conference
Mark MacMahon, Vincentian, St. John Vianney Conference
Ed O'Toole, Vincentian, St. Catherine of Sienna Conference
Annie San Nicholas, Vincentian, Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference
Larry Sanchez, Vincentian, St. Mary Conference

The St. Louise de Marillac Award: St. Louise de Marillac, inspired by her spiritual advisor St. Vincent de Paul, co-founder of the Daughters of Charity as a mechanism to serve the poor. This established the importance of the role of Spiritual Advisor that The Society utilizes to this day. This award recognizes our fellow Vincentians in their role of Spiritual advisors who exemplify the dedication to the spiritual growth of our Society.

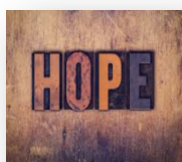
Audry Gonsalvez, Vincentian, Spiritual Advisor
Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference

District Council Staff Awards:

In appreciation for service above and beyond to help our neighbors in need and our Vincentian and other volunteers during the recent pandemic.

Bonnie Casey, Transportation & Facilities Manager
Linda Bilbay, Volunteer Coordinator, Family Resource Center Food Program
Barbara Hunt, Development Director

Thank you to St. Steven Catholic Church for the opportunity to host our event, the Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa Culinary Arts program for our delicious food, the Knights of Columbus at St. Ignatius for setup, clean up, parking, and Joyce Ohanesian, Joanne Masino and Audry Gonsalvez from the conference at Immaculate Heart of Mary for the centerpieces



Hope Conference Update

The Hope Conference has updated their application to a friendlier and more comprehensive version.

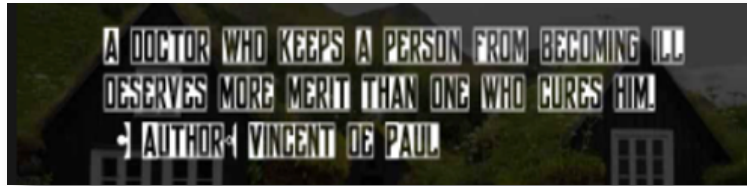
Here are some of the changes:

- clearer explanation for what documents are required – this is critical to meet the specific requirements set by each funder
- a new area for entering funder required information for gender and ethnicity
- expanded area to enter household information such as children living in the home
- more space for the Neighbor to tell their story about their need for help
- a section that identifies the current housing situation and if the neighbor is in Section 8 housing
- expanded section to enter requested funds for rent/mortgage, utilities, etc.
- expanded section to identify other agencies that assisted, such as Catholic Charities
- a cleaner section for entering and totaling Income and Expenses

The new application as well as an updated Release of Information are now available on the SVdP CC website. Also, these updated documents will now be accepted by Catholic Charities. In addition, a new document entitled SVdP Application Missing Documents Checklist is also on the website.

More efficient means we can better help our Neighbors!

The new Hope Application, Release, and Forms necessary to submit your completed applications are available on our SVDP Contra Costa website <https://www.svdpc-cc.org/>. If you haven't been on, go to the Members Dropdown Menu and select Applications. Hope will only accept the new application and release form moving forward. If you have any questions, please contact The Hope Conference at hopeconference.svdpc@gmail.com or Vincentian Support Services at s.krunk@svdpc-cc.org



Tuesdays with Vincent – A return engagement on September 6

For the Month of August 2022 as we prepare for this return of “Tuesdays with Vincent” our study for the presentation will focus on the book *St. Louise de Marillac - A Light in the Darkness* by Kathryn B. LaFleur, S.P. Our guest presenter on Tuesday September 6, 2022, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, is no stranger to The Daughters of Charity or St. Louise de Marillac D.C. [also Louise Le Gras]. St. Louise was the co-founder, with Vincent de Paul, of the Daughters of Charity. She is venerated as a saint by the Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church in the United States of America.



Sr. Paule Freeburg D.C. our presenter was gracious enough to postpone this presentation earlier in the year and return this September to provide the intimate interchange us on the person of Louise Le Grass from August 12, 1591, through St. Louise de Marillac D.C. You are in for a surprise and a treasure when we spend an evening embracing her vulnerability, personality, character and passing March 15, 1660.

If you are interested in a deeper pre-interchange study, we have a Saint Louise de Marillac: Bibliography to Present Day edited by our friend Fr. John E Rybolt, C.M., DePaul University available from the Vincentian Support Services at s.krunk@svdp-cc.org. We have planned to purchase copies of Kathryn B. LaFleur’s book and will have them available on request for the month of August.

Copies can also be purchased: <https://www.biblio.com/>

Copies can also be purchased: <https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?isbn=9781565480759>

The Zoom Link for Tuesdays with Vincent will open at 5:45 PM on Tuesday, September 6:

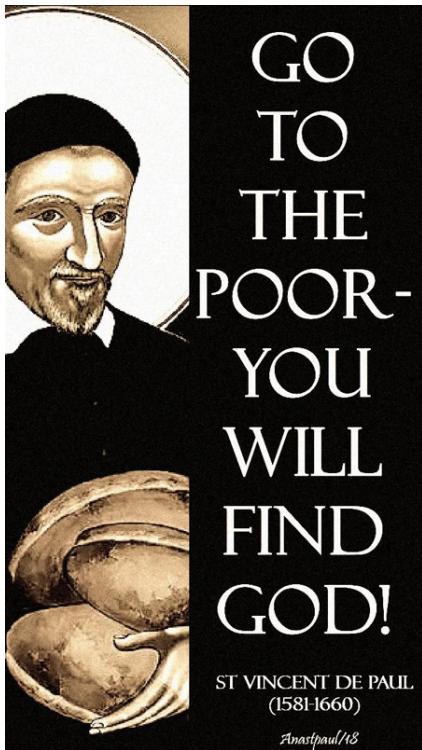
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87211598430?pwd=QnVOZG9Nc2R3N1VWamd2aDZsSm9wQT09>

Meeting ID: 872 1159 8430

Passcode: 927838



Question: Why is the painting in between the pictures of St. Louise de Marillac?



Our Vincentian Home Visit

by The Contra Costa County
Spirituality and Formation Committee

Reprint from June 1, 2022 – Presentation at Christ the King

Let us begin with a reading from James 2:1-5.

My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Sit here, please,” while you say to the poor one, “Stand there,” or “Sit at my feet, “ have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil design?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?

Home Visits in the Vincentian Tradition

Unpublished work by Fr. Robert Maloney CM “Home Visits in the Vincentian Tradition” affirms the ongoing cultivation of the Vincentian heart through the home visit encounter.

Vincent de Paul insisted:

When you go to visit them, rejoice, and say to yourself, “I am going to these poor people to honor in their person the person of Our Lord. I am going to see in them the Incarnate Wisdom of God.” CCD:X:103.

A little history about home visits from Vincent's life

Two by Two ... for 400 Years our Society has been doing Home Visits.

In 1617 when he founded the Confraternities of Charity, Vincent directed members to go two by two to the homes of the sick and disadvantaged.

In 1625 when he founded the Congregation of the Mission Vincent wrote: “We ... always go out two by two” during missions to visit the homes of the marginalized.”

In 1633 when Vincent and Louise de Marillac founded the Daughters of Charity, He placed a huge emphasis on visits to the sick and poor. Such visits were among the most striking characteristics of this new community of sisters.

Save the Date – HOME VISIT WORKSHOP

Why do Home Visits? Don't we have more significant numbers and more people helped by doing things to scale?



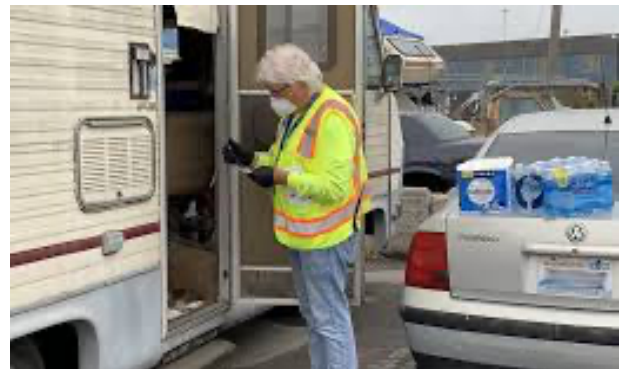
The answer is simple: During the Home Visit, we meet God, and our neighbors get a chance to meet God through our love for them.

Every Program, Vincentian, Conference, Every Special Work, Our Disaster Services, Thrift Stores, Family Resource Center, and District Council are here to support our Vincentians doing Home Visits and work in their local Community.

No matter where their home is it is only through the Home Visit that we can hope the poor might forgive us for the bread we bring

There are good ministries at each of our Churches that help people.

This is our Vincentian Ministry; it is more demanding, is a huge commitment, and can be so inconvenient...but it is this Ministry that Vincentians from The Society of St. Vincent de Paul do. AGAIN...WHY DO WE DO HOME VISITS.? COME FIND OUT.



**In Person-Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 6:00 PM
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Walnut Creek**

FREE FOOD NEAR YOU



SCAN ME

We are committed to providing you with healthy food. Use our Find Food Map to locate places nearby to get free food from the Food Bank and our partners.

COMMUNITY PRODUCE PROGRAM/PLUS

Families and individuals can pick up 15-20 pounds of FREE fresh produce and a variety of perishable and nonperishable food* twice a month.

*At Plus sites only

SENIOR FOOD PROGRAM

FREE groceries twice a month to individuals aged 55 or older. Bring a picture ID that shows age, and proof of address (PG&E bill, for example).

PARTNER AGENCIES

Neighborhood partners offer FREE food and services to the public. Find your local pantry or soup kitchen to check their current hours and offerings.

CALFRESH OUTREACH

CalFresh is a grocery assistance program that helps you purchase food. Our friendly staff can help you find out if you are eligible and apply for benefits.



www.foodbankccs.org/findfood
1-855-309-3663 (Toll Free)

COMIDA GRATIS CERCA DE USTED



Escanéame

Estamos comprometidos a proporcionarle alimentos saludables. Utilice nuestro Mapa de búsqueda de alimentos para localizar lugares cerca de usted que ofrecen alimentos gratuitos del Banco de Comida y nuestros socios.

FRUTAS Y VERDURAS FRESCAS

Las familias e individuos pueden recoger 15 a 20 libras de frutas y verduras frescas y una variedad de alimentos perecederos y no perecederos GRATIS dos veces por mes.

PROGRAMA DE ALIMENTOS PARA PERSONAS MAYORES

Comestibles GRATIS dos veces al mes para personas de 55 años o más. Traiga una identificación con foto que muestre su edad y un comprobante de domicilio (por ejemplo, factura de PG&E).

AGENCIAS ASOCIADAS

Nuestros socios del vecindario ofrecen alimentos y servicios GRATUITOS al público. Encuentre su despensa local o comedor comunitario. llame para verificar sus horarios y ofertas actuales.

ASISTENCIA CON CALFRESH

CalFresh es un programa de asistencia de comestibles que le ayuda a comprar alimentos. Nuestro amable personal puede ayudarlo a averiguar si es elegible y solicitar beneficios.



www.foodbankccs.org/findfood
1-855-309-3663 (Sin Cargo)

FOOD BANK - FIND FOOD POSTCARD

Here is something that the Food Bank has developed to help people find food. They can just scan the QR code with their smartphone and find every place near them where they can get food. The card is 4" X 6" and has English on one side and Spanish on the other. You can just print this out and make your own to hand out or contact your Food Bank rep.

FRIENDSHIP - One of the elements of being a Vincentian

By Joyce Ohanesian, Formator, Vincentian – Conference at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Brentwood

What is Friendship to a Vincentian? It should be more than having lunch with someone, occasionally. Friendship has a component of caring – caring wholeheartedly for another person. It also means empowering someone to grow (maybe you too) in service to the community. Caring means being there when a person needs you, like in grief, sickness, or depression in all its forms. When it's a friend, these things might be easier, but how about a stranger? Can we be friends with someone we just met? The Vincentian friendship must be for all people, especially for the poor. That's what **Home Visits** are all about. Friendship, extending yourself in service with a caring spirit. Being friends with the Vincentians in your Conference might be easy for the most part but extending it to those we serve.... maybe not as easy, but not impossible, perhaps even easier than you think! *Try it...couldn't hurt.*

Joyce

St. Paul's SVdP Conference, San Pablo

by Maria Sanchez, President, SVdP Conference at St. Paul

Our active work reaching the families in need in the San Pablo Community had been put on hold to do to how the pandemic affected the area. The high number of Covid19 cases made it difficult to work even just to distribute of food to those in need. This year, [2022] with no funds available, starting with new members, we didn't exactly know where to start. With God's grace and help, we started our first food drive to collect food. Using neighboring Conferences' resources and guidance to help make our first food drive possible.

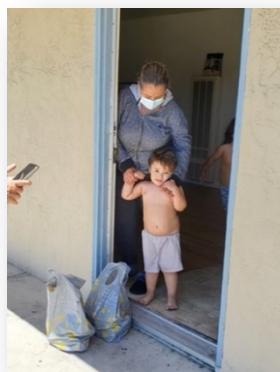


One of our neighboring Conferences had a little extra food in their pantry to share and gave it to us. The next day we were able to bring about 30 bags of food to the homes of families in need this past to about 25 families. By delivery, to their homes, we accommodated elderly people and needy families who did not have access to a vehicle or don't drive. One thought that came through my mind from this July 8, distribution, was to put some green vegetables and produce in the bags.



The next day Saturday, July 9, we opened with Food Distribution, Flu Shot, and COVID19 Vaccine Clinic. We were looking at a big day ahead of us, and by God's grace we started work early, people started showing up early that morning before our stated time to serve the community trying to access vaccination and food. With only 3 Vincentians to start God did not forget about our worries, about how we were going to cover those areas that needed hands to load and serve. As the clock kept moving God sent me 3 volunteers to help, then 2 other Vincentians come as well; we had what we needed to cover the areas to handle the distribution of the food drive.

We were able to distribute all the food and serve about 100 + families with the access of these 300 boxes of pantry items that were provided by The Food Bank of Solano and Contra Costa County donated to give out to the families in need. With a few donations, full hands, and God's Grace, we were able to host our first food drive, and distribution to provide for those in need.



Our Conference might run out of funds, but it is good to remember and most important that by reaching out to each other and other organizations we can still provide to those in need. We were able to alleviate the hunger of these families by proving the basic need for food for their table. Our community was made aware of the event by 1) announcement during mass, 2) being shared by others, 3) flyers 4) through the media. With the help of God and the donations provided to us by the local food bank and neighboring organizations we hope to continue to provide monthly pantry goods to those in need, let's keep in prayer.

"Oh yes! About my thought on green produce, the Food Bank sent a huge container full of netted bags that contained a mix of fruits, potatoes, and onions"~ Maria



Please RSVP to
Shawna Costanzo,
Shawna57@gmail.com

On August 6, 2022, join us *in person* for
an **Ozanam Orientation**

Hosted by the Catholic Community of

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church

5562 Clayton Road

Concord, CA 94521

Mass at 8 am

Ozanam Orientation from 8:45 am – 3 pm
(Continental breakfast and lunch provided)

Ozanam Orientation is an opportunity for
Vincentians to learn, connect with one
another, and to develop a deeper
understanding of and appreciation for
Vincentian life.

The Ozanam Orientation is a one-day
workshop that covers the essential elements
of what it means to be a Vincentian.

One Society – What our brothers and sisters in need see in our friendship teaches what we believe as Vincentians, Catholics, and neighbors.

One Society – What our brother and sister Vincentians see in our friendship with each other teaches what we believe about them, the Conference, Vincentians, and Catholics.

One Society – What our brothers and sisters in our Parish see in our friendship as Vincentians teaches what we believe about each other, our neighbors, our parish, and our Church.



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

FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK/RUN SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL of CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Feed,
Clothe,
Shelter & Heal
Our Neighbors in Need

They're Worth the Walk

To register a walker or to support one visit:
www.fopwalk.org

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

