

VETERA MONIMENTA

A. R. Chanam

November 2022

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Training

Spiritual Advisor Training-Sr. Paule
St. Callistus

Saturday 11/5, Mass 9:00 AM

Workshop 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 11/15, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting

Spirituality and Formation Committee

Tuesday 11/15, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Event

District Council

An SVDP Thanksgiving

Thursday, 11/24, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Event

SVDP One Warm Coat Kick-Off

All Day

Event

Spanish Language Day of Reflection

Saturday 12/3, 8:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 12/13, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting

Spirituality and Formation Committee

Tuesday 12/13, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Meeting

District Council Meeting

Saturday 12/17, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Bob Liles Corner

OUTPUT vs OUTCOME

At this year's National Assembly one speaker said that many foundations that award grants now want to know not only the output of the organization they are giving money to but also the outcome.

If your conference paid the rent for a family, that is the output. The outcome is that they were not evicted and possibly homeless. That outcome would probably rank high with donors.

But is everything that your conference does have such a direct and positive outcome? What if an organization handed out free vegetable seeds and fertilizer to families in the hope that they would plant a garden and enjoy fresh vegetables?

Can they even measure the outcome of that action? What percentage of people would even do it or could even do it successfully?

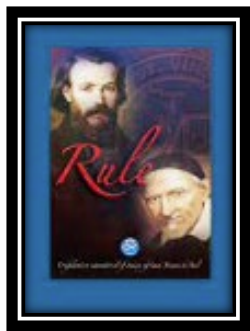
I have seen some organizations spend a lot of time and money on something, that sounded like a worthy action, but when it was all over, I wondered what it accomplished.

I am not questioning what any conference does. I am just suggesting that prior to doing something you might ask yourself is it just the output that is the good idea or is the actual outcome worth the output?

Bob Liles Corner continued

A Key Role of the Conference Treasurer

Primarily the treasurer needs to be following the guidelines approved by the conference on who can approve expenditures and by how much. The treasurer is the gatekeeper. If the president of the conference can only approve up to \$500 then it is the treasurer that has to remind the president of that when the request is for \$600. If a home visit team can only approve \$200 then the treasurer has to enforce that limit. If it is only the full conference that can approve any expenditure then the treasurer has to make sure that is what happens. Only the treasurer should be writing checks though it is understandable that the treasurer gives a blank check to the person who goes to the grocery store to restock the pantry, provided that person has the approval to do that.



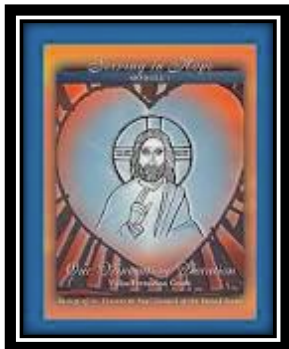
Rule 3.1 Membership

The Society is open to all those who seek to live their faith loving and committing themselves to their neighbor in need.
(See Article 6.4 of the Rule).

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.

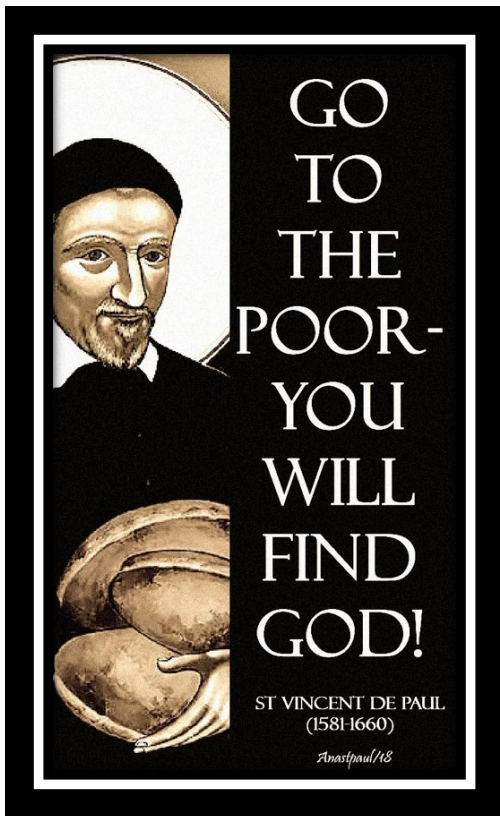


Hope Funding Availability

The Hope Application, Release, and Forms necessary to submit your completed applications are available on our SVDP Contra Costa website <https://www.svdp-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 HopeConference at hopeconference.svdp@gmail.com or Vincentian Support Services at s.krank@svdp-cc.org.





Our Vincentian Home Visit

by The Contra Costa County
Spirituality and Formation Committee

Home Visits are at the core of the Vincentian Ministry

Not only did Vincent urge all the members of his Family – lay women and men, priests, brothers, and sisters – to make home visits; he also wrote detailed instructions about how to make the visits well. On the bottom line, the members of Vincent’s Family were to regard those whom they visited as their “Lords and Masters”. Vincent urged his followers to reverence those visited as they revered Christ.

CCD:II:140;X:215;X:268;XI:297;XI:349;XII:4;XIIIb:

The following are his (Vincent’s) detailed instructions:

“Then, after preparing their dinner, they will take them, at nine o’clock, some soup and meat in a pot, some bread in a white cloth, and some wine in a bottle. They will do the same for supper around four o’clock in the afternoon. When they enter the patient’s room, they will greet him or her in a friendly way; then,

drawing near to the bed with a cheerful expression, they will encourage him to eat, raising the head of the bed, arranging the cover, setting up the little tray, the white tablecloth, plate, and spoon, rinsing out the glass, pouring some soup on the bread, putting the meat on a small plate, saying grace with him and feeding him the soup. They will cut up the meat and help him to eat it, while saying some little-hearted, consoling word in an effort to cheer him up. They will also pour him something to drink, inviting him once again to eat. Lastly, when he has finished eating and the dishes have been washed, the tablecloth folded, and the tray removed, they will say grace with the patient, and leave him right away in order to go serve someone else”.

What do you notice about these instructions?

- Vincent went on many visits
- Vincent was very insistent about how to perform visits
- He believed that you will see the face of Christ in those you serve
- Prayer was very important
- Be kind and take your time during your visit
- He believed in planning before the visit
- What else can we say about Vincent’s home visits?

What can we learn that can be applied today?

- ❖ Remember spirituality begins and lives in the home visit
- ❖ When you receive a call for help, take time to review the request
- ❖ Pray with your partner and then with your Neighbor in need
- ❖ See Christ in the poor and the poor in Christ
- ❖ Serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them and respecting their wishes
- ❖ What else can we apply to today’s visits?

Based on the example set by Vincent is it any wonder that Frederic followed his love for the home visit.

Ozanam



Orientation

At the October 1, Ozanam Orientation at St. Isidore's, our presenters needed some support and Maria Nguyen, the youngest Vincentian from St. Callistus, stepped up to help Stephen Krank with his presentation.



Following Mass with Father Matthew Murray, Pastor, Jose Yanes, President of the St. Isidore Conference kicked off our Ozanam Orientation with a gracious St. Isidore welcome. Claudia Ramirez attended to welcome new Vincentians from St. Joan of Arc and the rest of the attendees.

The Breakfast Burritos and Fresh Fruit that were provided for all the attendees were cooked and served by Alfonso Boukouzia and friends from St. Isidore. The Formation and Presenters for the Ozanam Orientation included Formators: Shawnna Costanzo, and Joyce Ohanesian, and Presenters Stephen Krank, Monica Wnuk & Frank Wnuk.

What's Happening at the Family Resource Center?

By Claudia Ramirez, Executive Director

Raise your hand if you have ever visited the Family Resource Center (FRC) our main office in Pittsburg. I don't see too many hands raised. I would personally like to invite all of our Vincentians to visit the FRC and learn about the many ways we can help our neighbors in need, beyond all of the ways that you help at your conference. Danny Vu, president of the Conference at Our Lady Queen of the World in Bay Point and recent visitor, said that he had no idea of all that goes on here.

In addition to being the central hub for our support of the 29 conferences in Contra Costa County (you can see where Stephen Krank works!), we house a medical clinic, a dental clinic, a dining room, our Transportation department, one of our thrift stores, an emergency food pantry, a daytime shelter, our administrative offices and more!

You can turn one of your conference meetings into a field trip to the FRC and we'll host you for a tour and presentation on the many ways that we support your conference and the community. If you give us enough notice maybe we'll have some señorita bread from Starbread Bakery or lunch from New Mecca Café. Better still, maybe your conference could provide lunch for our dental clinic volunteers or dinner for our medical clinic volunteers.

Please contact Stephen Krank, s.krank@svdp-cc.org or 925-635-3202 to schedule your visit!

When will we see you?

Servant Leadership and Upcoming Election

by Ron Costanzo, Nomination Committee Chair

Anne Crisp, Ken Mendonca, Carol Brazil, and Ron Costanzo are heading up a nomination committee for District Council President. Our bylaws require that we have a team in September the year before the president's term expires. The term starts in October 2023 and goes through September 2026. The President is elected by the Conferences and serves the Conferences as our leader. The absolute requirements are that they be an Active Vincentian and have attended Ozanam Orientation within three years. We add that it is most important to have the Vincentian charism. Being comfortable with the leadership roles and with a few absolute responsibilities: prepare agendas for and Chair the District Council & Board of Director Meetings and as Supervisor for the Executive Director. Bob Liles noted that he was engaged in SVdP President activities for more than 12 hours in a recent month. It is valuable for the President to connect with Conferences (West, East and Central county) to understand their interests and needs. There are plenty of documents that further define the role of the President, the Council, and the Board of Directors for anyone wanting more information.

Please call or write any of us to suggest Vincentians whom you would consider a good candidate for a DC leadership role. We will do some follow-up.

Nominating Committee

Anne Crisp, annecrisp@yahoo.com, 925-787-0857 (St. Catherine of Siena)

Carol Brazil, carolbrazil@sbcglobal.net, 510-685-4906 (St. Callistus)

Ken Mendonca, kgmendonca@gmail.com, 805-440-9635 (St. Ann)

Ron Costanzo, rcostanzo@astound.net, 925-487-4986 (St. Bonaventure)



St. Callistus SVDP Conference, San Pablo

by Carol Brazil

President SVDP St. Callistus

As I was walking over to the folks waiting for me to pass out numbers for our food distribution at St. Callistus Conference on Monday, 9/26, all at once, they started singing happy birthday to me.

These are folks from all different countries, and English is not their first language. I'm not sure how they knew it was my birthday, but they did!

I was almost brought to tears, and to top it off, they handed me a big envelope. Inside was a Birthday card with about 30 signatures and \$96.00 they had collected amongst themselves.

These folks wait hours for food, and I'm sure they don't have much money, so for them to collect money to give me a gift was truly overwhelming.

I will cherish this birthday card forever. I am so Blessed!

I see the face of our Lord in every one of these people. I donated the money they gave me to our Friends of the Poor Walk at the end of the week.

That following Monday, I went over the weekend; I had my nails done and showed them off, letting them know how their gift made me so happy.

Carol





A Vincentian Commissioning at St.Bonaventure

By Ron Costanzo

St Bonaventure Conference got some Vincentians together for mass, recommissioning, and a brunch for the SVdP feast day. I think there's an April tradition for this. It's a great practice whenever. The photo shows about 22 that were at mass. Fr. David Lawrence SJ included the history of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in his homily. The point is.... that we did it and when we do the recommissioning it is a celebration in our being together.





The Spiritual Advisor As Guide for your Conference

Hosted by:

Contra Costa County Spirituality and Formation Committee

When:

Saturday, November 05
from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM PT

Where:

St. Callistus Catholic Church
3580 San Pablo Dam Rd
Richmond,, CA 94803

RSVP: <http://evite.me/uy8kR1BYN3>

Spiritual Advisor

Me as a guide for my Conference?

This is a personal invitation to reflect on the role of a Spiritual Advisor as part of an in-person St. Vincent de Paul Spiritual Advisor Workshop on Saturday, November 5, 2022, facilitated by

Sr. Paule Freeburg D.C., Spiritual Advisor SVDP Western Region, United States.

"All Vincentians are called to journey together towards holiness because true holiness is perfect union with Christ and perfection of love which is central to their vocation and the source of its fruitfulness. They aspire to burn with a love of God revealed by Christ and deepened their faith and fidelity."

Think about it, Pray, Invite new members, or Invite those who you think might be interested in being the heartbeat of Vincentian Spirituality for your Conference.....

We will start the day in Mass with Rev. Dante Biala Tamayo, Pastor, St. Callistus followed with a lite Breakfast and Morning in the Spirit with Sr. Paule Freeburg D.C.



SUCCESSION PLANNING WHY GO INTO LEADERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY?

By Ruben Aureliano Rodriguez

Every three years our Conferences hold elections for their Presidents. Every six years the leadership of each Conference changes. Starting this month (November 2022) our Vetera Monimenta will begin a series as an example of this process of Succession Planning for our Conferences.

- Leadership provides an opportunity to grow closer to Christ.
- God has given us talents to serve others – we should use them.
- Christ expects us to lead our fellow Vincentians as a part of our commitment to the Vincentian vocation.
- Leadership allows us the opportunity to nurture the spiritual growth of members.
- It allows us to see Society's spiritual mission being played out in a wide variety of ways.
- It allows us to interact with other leaders and nurture each other's spiritual growth.
- It allows us to develop skills to help others grow and in doing so to grow ourselves.

Ruben Aureliano is the Conference President at St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg, CA. He has submitted to the Vetera Monimenta and given us permission as he begins his transition now in his fifth year as Conference president to share his process of Succession Planning and his transition from Conference President.

Hi Stephen!

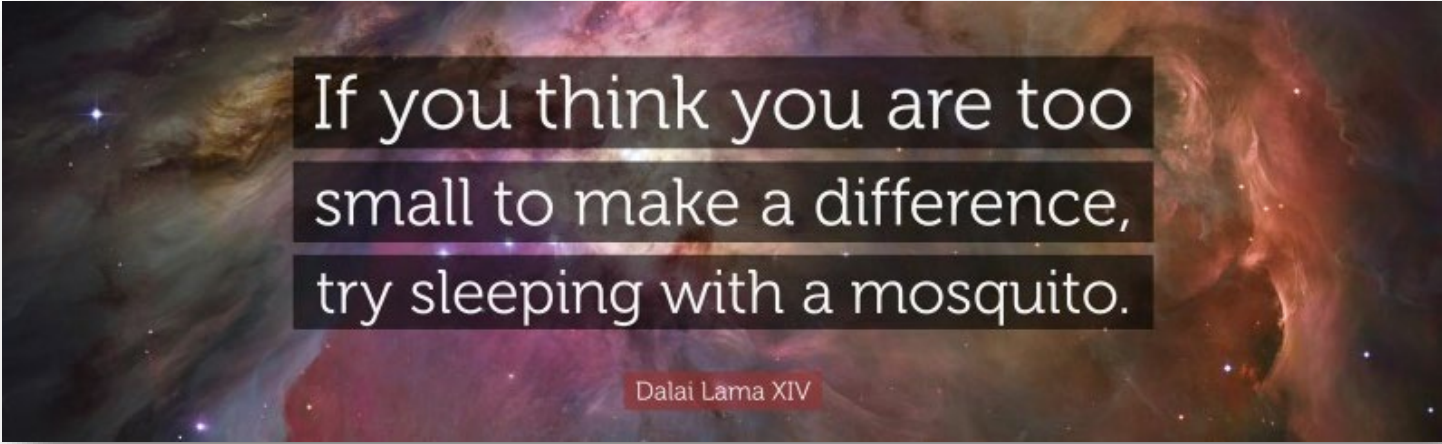
***As mentioned, my term as President of the St. Peter Martyr Conference will end in 2023.
Below is my plan for the transition:***

Appreciation dinner for the Vincentian volunteers on Thurs. Nov 17 @ 6/7 pm at the church hall.

- A. Recognize loyal volunteers***
- B. Announce the end of the term***
- C. Scope of work***
- D. Set the date for the vote***

Spring 2023: Spanish Spiritual Retreat - Sat. Apr 22/29 @ 10- 2pm

Ruben

A quote by Dalai Lama XIV is displayed in white serif font on three dark, semi-transparent rectangular bars. The background is a vibrant, colorful nebula with shades of purple, pink, orange, and blue, featuring wispy clouds and small white stars.

If you think you are too
small to make a difference,
try sleeping with a mosquito.

Dalai Lama XIV

A WORD ABOUT CANCELED CHECKS

By Bill Hurley

I am starting to get questions about handing voided checks in the Seattle System. One Conference entered the reversal of a voided check as a deposit in the system. The complaint was "I cannot see the reason for the entry in the system." That is true so I want you to enter a voided check this way.

Go to the Treasury page and open a new payment. Enter "check's the reason for the entry and then in the description space, type "Void CK Number" and then enter the amount as a negative amount (-200). That will result in two things. It will reduce expenses (positive expense) and show the reason for the entry in the details (Void Ck 1234).

If you already corrected the reversal of a voided check by entering a deposit, leave it alone and correct voided checks as detailed above in the future. When you enter it as a deposit, make sure you entered it this way.

1. Type - Deposit by Conference
2. Date - the date you decided it would not be cashed or it was reported lost.
3. Source - Type in - Void check number >>>>>.
4. Amount - a positive number
5. Category - Make sure that you enter the same code number as the expense.
- 6.

This will result in a zero balance in that category if that was the only charge.

Handling voided checks has been an issue discussed since I started helping with Conference Financial reporting in 2013. If you handle it the way I showed above, it will not be an issue anymore.

God bless,

Bill Hurley
Audit Committee