



**January 2023**

Vincentian **Wisdom**  
Quotes • Charism



### **Training**

Conference Voucher Program (Zoom)  
Tuesday 1/3/23 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

### **Event**

Conference Holiday Grant Reports Due  
Wednesday 1/11/23

### **Training**

Conference Voucher Program (Zoom)  
Saturday 1/7/23 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM

### **Meeting**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday 1/17/23, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

### **Meeting**

Spirituality and Formation Committee  
Tuesday 1/17/23, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

### **Reporting**

All Quarterly Reporting Conferences  
Wednesday 1/18/23 DUE

### **Event**

Walk for life  
Saturday 1/21/23

### **Training**

Ozanam Orientation  
Saturday 2/11/23, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
Queen of All Saints, Concord

### **Training**

Home Visit Workshop  
Saturday 2/15/23, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM  
St. Anthony, Oakley

### **Bob Liles Corner**

#### **WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TO THE POOR?**

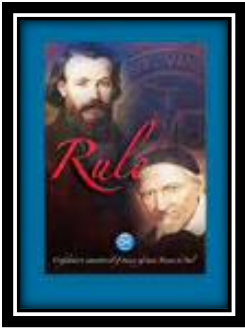
“I am for doing good to the poor, but...I think the best way of doing good to the poor, is not making them easy in poverty, but leading or driving them out of it. I observed...that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves, and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer.” --- Benjamin Franklin

What emotion did you feel when you read that statement? Were you offended that Franklin would be so harsh towards the poor, especially the aged and disabled that are not able to support themselves? Or did it bring to mind someone that came to you for help, and you could not understand why they were not working?

***Should Franklin have rephrased it and said, “the best way of doing good to the poor that are young and healthy, but lazy, is not”?***

Their reality is that the poor and the homeless are individuals and each one has their own story. We need to love all of them, but some need tough love. Let’s pray that when we meet them that we know the proper way to love them.

**Bob**



## **THE RULE 3.2 MEMBERSHIP**

Equality - The Society, in each of its Conferences (the primary basic unit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul), makes no distinction regarding gender, wealth, occupation, social status or ethnic origin.

## **CONFERENCE STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

Links to the documents that your conference needs to help your conference see which areas it is strong and which it could use some work are on the DC website at the bottom of the Conference Operation webpage: [www.svdp-cc.org/conference-operation/](http://www.svdp-cc.org/conference-operation/). Start now in reviewing each of the questions with your conference.

## **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.

## **OFFICER TRAINING**

All presentations made at the December's officer training meeting are in the "Conference Operation" section of the DC website: [www.svdp-cc.org/conference-operation/](http://www.svdp-cc.org/conference-operation/)

## **CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES**

Information on how CFCS can help your conference help our neighbors in need that need funeral arrangements, but cannot afford them, has been added to our webpage which lists other organizations that will help us: [www.svdp-cc.org/help-offered-by-other-organizations/](http://www.svdp-cc.org/help-offered-by-other-organizations/)

## **SVDP THRIFT STORE VOUCHER TRAINING**

To assist our Conferences & Vincentian members to better serve our neighbors in need Monica Perez, St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County Thrift Store Area Manager, will host Thrift Store Voucher Training for all Conferences interested in having the ability to write vouchers for our neighbors in 2023. To accommodate at least one member from each Conference attending the Zoom meeting, we have set up two dates:

January 3, 2023, from 4:30 PM to 5:15 PM and January 7, from 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89117843725?pwd=SDJGaSsrcVZGejFrZUJ0ODMrMkdkdz09>



## **OUR VINCENTIAN HOME** **VISIT**

by The Contra Costa County  
Spirituality and Formation Committee

### **LOVING PRESENCE IN THE HOME**

From the Society's beginning, the central and most basic activity of Conferences has been the visitation of the needy in their homes. The Home Visit is the clearest symbol of our Vincentian charism, which dictates the highest respect for the dignity of the poor. It symbolizes our Vincentian commitment to reach out to the needy, rather than requiring them to report to an outside service site. In the home, needy persons feel most free to confide their stories of struggle. In that family setting, Vincentians are asked to listen, offer humble advice, and render assistance.

Manual: (Rule: Part 1, Articles 1.2 and 1.7- 1.12; Part III, Section 8).

## **MUTUALITY**

“Help becomes honorable, because it may become mutual, because every man who gives a kind word, a good advice, a consolation today, may tomorrow stand himself in need of a kind word, an advise, or a consolation; because the hand that you clasp clasps yours in return; because the indigent family whom you love loves you in return, and will have largely acquitted themselves toward you when the old man, the mother, the little children shall have prayed for you.”

Frederic Ozanam. (October 21, 1848)

*For you, what are the most important aspects of the Vincentian Ministry as defined by the Rule and Manual?*

### **“HAVE YOU MET ONE OF THESE NEIGHBORS?”**

Have you experienced a neighbor who has contacted more than one Conference all within several weeks or months? In the situations we are talking about, the neighbor hadn't moved. Some Conferences had done something in response to the neighbor's request. In some situations, the Conferences noted “not helped” in the Seattle Data Base. The neighbors may have been “shopping”. Some requests from areas nowhere near our Conference.

In many situations, the neighbors we serve attend more than one SVdP pantry and several others. That is not surprising; almost all the neighbors in the county eat daily and every week. In some situations, the neighbors may receive significant housing, utility, or vehicle repair assistance. A story many of us have heard, “Oh yes, we did receive assistance from SVdP, or St. \_\_\_\_ or Seasons of Sharing; we didn't realize that was them. In the requests that we hear, the neighbor says that one specific event was the cause of their current challenge. In fact, the challenges they face are closer to long term challenges.

#### **So, what can we conclude:**

- Each situation is different and there are some consistent themes.
- When the neighbor doesn't get what they “need” from a Conference, they continue to reach out to others for help.
- Our neighbors are looking for transactions or payments to address their immediate need.
- They tell us what they believe will lead to payments to address their current situation.
- They don't have a “relationship” with those who have “helped” them in the past or have been turned down by them.
- Long term planning and actions to address future needs don't get much of their attention.
- Positive outcomes are often noted by the way Vincentians feel about the experience or the gratitude expressed.

#### **What do we recommend:**

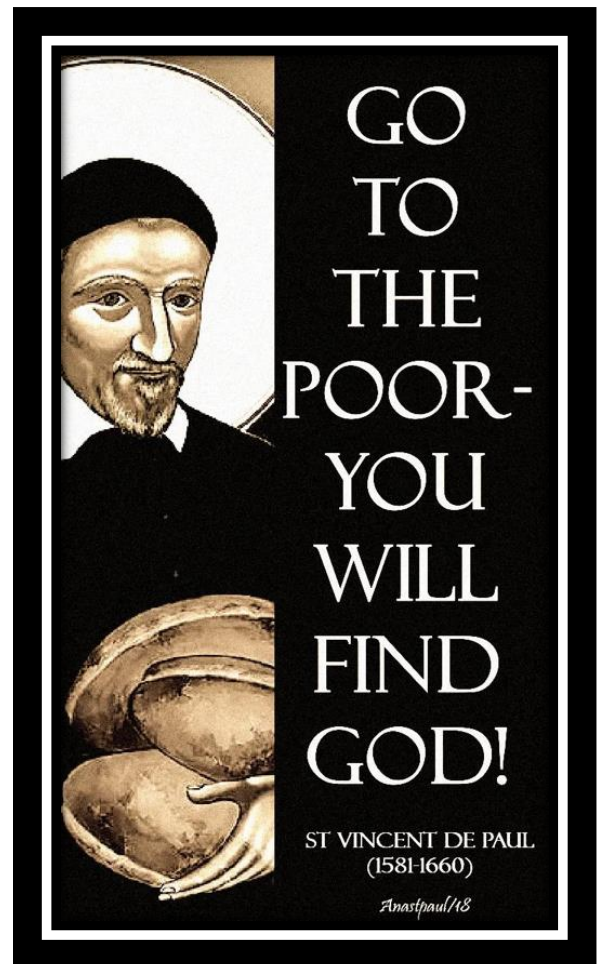
- Be aware of the challenges that a neighbor may not be comfortable sharing.
- Recognize that every situation is different (no act of charity is foreign to the Society)
- Consider looking at the work and the methods that your Conference follows.



- If you are using the Seattle DB, contact fellow Conferences, if they have entries for the same neighbor.
- If you aren't using the Seattle DB, get a demonstration to see the benefits.
- When two or more Conferences or other partners are assisting, coordinate the efforts - who is best to lead (think relationships).
- Visit in pairs and do what you can to see what can help them now and in the future.
- Study, learn, attend training and events, and evaluate your practices.

Spirituality and Formation Committee

### The Look of Poverty hasn't changed much in 200 years



### HOME VISIT WORKSHOP

Home Visits are the Eucharist of our Society. You are invited to join the Contra Costa County Formation Team to learn more about this most spiritual aspect of our work. Our Home Visit Workshop will take place February 15, 2023, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Oakley from 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM. For more information feel free to contact Vincentian Support Services at 925-439-5060 or [s.krank@svdp.cc.org](mailto:s.krank@svdp.cc.org).

## **SVDP CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OVER THE HOLIDAYS:**

**“A NETWORK OF FRIENDS, INSPIRED BY GOSPEL VALUES, GROWING IN HOLINESS AND BUILDING A MORE JUST WORLD THROUGH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH AND SERVICE TO PEOPLE IN NEED.”**

### **Food For Friends.**



The De Lasalle Soccer Team, Fr. Matthew Murray & The St. Isidore Knights of Columbus and SVDP teamed up to provide over 4 tons of Holiday Meals for low-income families throughout the County.

### **Poverty is not a problem just for adults.**



The Sixth Grade Class from St. Mary's collected warm coats for St. Vincent de Paul to distribute to the Homeless." It was so cold outside, and we just wanted to help"



**One Warm Coat for the Homeless**  
(In 2022 so far 1100 coats distributed and still counting)



Paul Kupras from St. Joan of Arc and a team from the Saints and Sinners Motorcycle Club immediately got these same coats on their way to the Homeless Encampments. Paul said, “We went there [encampment] last Saturday, and there was a mile-and-a-half-long line of people living in their cars, tents, and campers. It was so cold, and we ran out of coats.”



## Thanksgiving at the Family Resource Center



St. Vincent de Paul with the help of our Friends, Conferences, Neighbors and Loaves and Fishes Re-Opened the Free Dining Room to Celebrate Thanksgiving together.

(photo's shot courtesy of Monica Perez, St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County Thrift Store Area Manager)









**EVEN AT CHRISTMAS, OUR VINCENTIAN WORK IS ONE PERSON AT A TIME, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME, AND BEING A FRIEND ONE AT A TIME.**

It starts with a single phone call. Our neighbor got laid off, got behind on their rent, and needs a little help to make ends meet. Help and hope are on their way with the St. Vincent de Paul network of friends.



This story starts with Alexandra, our neighbor who lives in Pittsburg, California, who has a friend at St. Joan of Arc who she calls her for help. The St. Joan of Arc Holiday Food & Angel Tree Program was ending. They contacted Frank Wnuk and the St. Joan of Arc SVDP Conference for help. Frank, like all Vincentians, first called the family.

This time of year, for Conferences, it gets busy, and Frank worked his way through the local Conferences, then contacted Claudia Ramirez to see if we might have friends willing to adopt this family. One of our networks of friends is a man Dean Quiambao. "I met him once (I thought) as a Bocchie Ball partner from Armanino," said Stephen Krank. Claudia asked Dean if they might be willing to adopt the family. The family did not have the resources to provide Christmas presents for their children. Alexandria (the mom) is the sole financial provider and lost her job.



She became the provider when her husband and the father of their kids became legally blind and could not work. She has three kids, Carson, nine years old, Jackson five years old, and Bennet, three. Two of the children are special needs. All three are handsome young boys; one is deaf and autistic, and the oldest little guy was oxygen deprived at birth and has severe special needs.



When Dean learned about the family, he went out and got presents for each of the kids, and each of the parents got gifts and a food card so that their Christmas Dinner was covered.

Stephen (the Elf) met the Dean Quiambao (the Santa) and Alexandra on December 23. "Dean drove up to Concord to meet me ." In meeting Dean, "I have never met someone more Vincentian," he does not know it. When I got all the packages from Dean, I contacted Alexandra and asked her if I could come by, and she started crying before I hung up the phone.

I am so grateful to play any role in helping provide a source of hope, help, and friendship. I hope you have a terrific year ahead, full of love and good health, and a year like this to reflect like Dean, God's love.

Thank you,

Stephen Krank, Vincentian Life  
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

## WHAT DOES SUCCESSION PLANNING REALLY MEAN WITHIN THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL?

Essentially it refers to Conferences and Councils being prepared when a president's term of office nears its end to present to membership Vincentians who are qualified and willing to take on the role of Conference or Council president. Realistically, succession planning relates to all officer positions, as well as committee chairs, etc. Achieving this goal requires preparation and training. To be more specific, it requires three parts preparation and three parts training.

**Preparation Part 1:** Conference members should be exposed to regular reinforcement of the idea of growing into some role in Conference and/or Council leadership. This is something each member should be encouraged to consider from the day he/she joins the Society.

**Training Part 2:** The Ozanam Orientation is the basic formation/training that all Vincentians need to experience. The National Council recommends that all members attend an Ozanam Orientation at least once and suggests attending again every few years as a refresher.

**Preparation Part 3:** This should begin when the newly elected president takes office. He/she should identify a few members of the Conference or Council with leadership potential and begin encouraging/coaching them so they will be ready and willing to serve when the time comes. One year before the next election the need for a new president and officers, as well as the election process, should be promoted.

**Training Part 4:** Throughout the term of the president, he/she should be coaching those selected for leadership roles. The greatest encouragement (or discouragement) comes from the personal example shown by the current president and officers. How they view and perform their roles will help determine what others will think about serving in those positions.

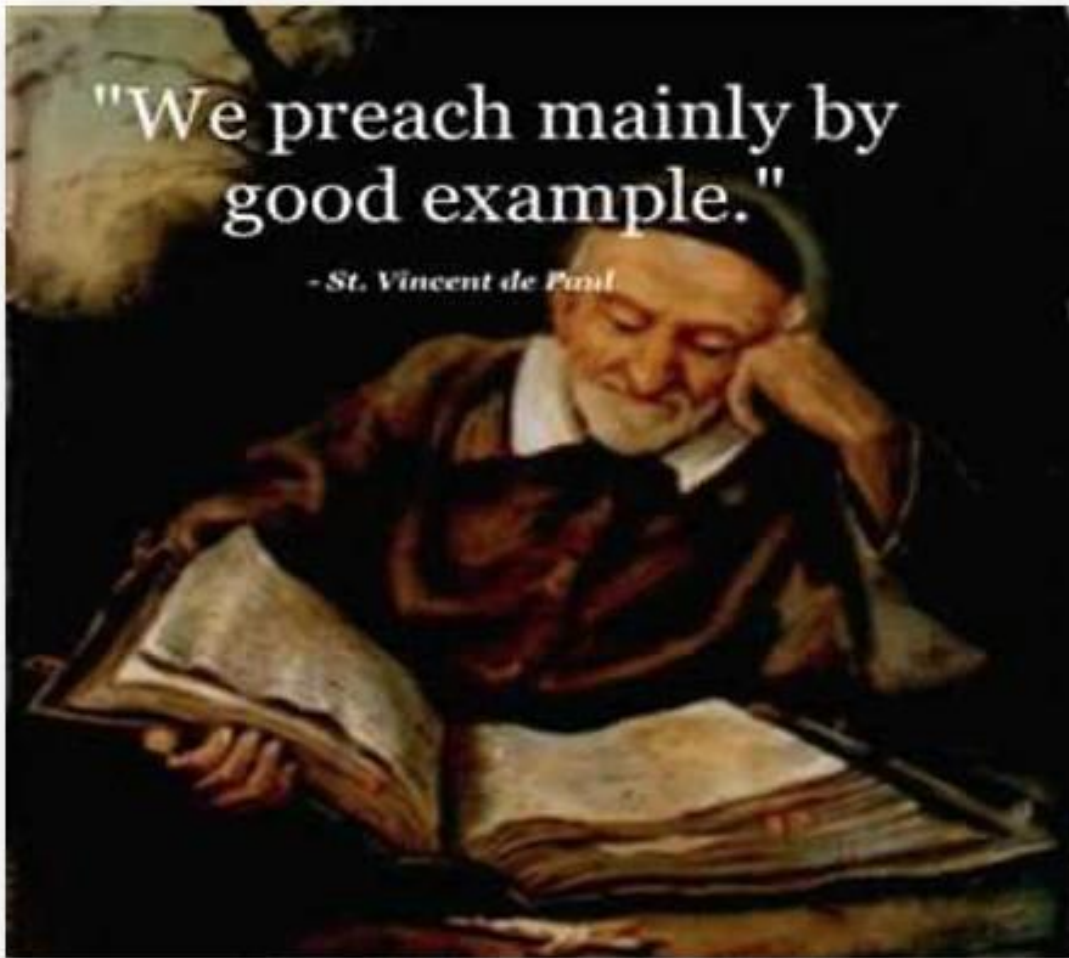
**Preparation Part 5:** The election of a president should be held at least six months before his/her term begins. This gives time for the newly elected president and appointed officers to shadow the current officers and be prepared to take on their new roles on October 1.

**Training Part 6:** Before the new president and officers take office and soon afterwards, they should take advantage of the training programs and resources available to help them understand their roles. There are many resources in this area that can be found on the National Council website such as Conference President Training, Servant Leadership Workshop, and others.

**Succession planning is not difficult, but it does require effort. Putting it off is easy but not wise. You do not want to come to election time and only have one candidate – the one who steps in because no one else will and who may not be the right person for the job.**



**PLEASE JOIN US**



**FOR OZANAM ORIENTATION  
HOW CAN WE ANSWER THE CALL TO SEE  
THE FACE OF CHRIST IN ALL PEOPLE?**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2023**

**QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS, 2390 GRANT ST, CONCORD  
9:00AM-3:30PM  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH**

**RSVP TO SHAWNNA AT 925-200-5952  
EVITE TO FOLLOW**

