



February 2023

Training

Ozanam Orientation-Queen of All Saints

Saturday 2/11, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 2/21, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting

Spirituality and Formation Committee

Tuesday 2/21, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Event

Ash Wednesday

Training

Home Visit Workshop-St. Anthony, Oakley

Saturday 2/25, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Training

Lenten Spirituality Retreat

Evite to follow with location details

Saturday 3/4, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 3/14, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting

Spirituality and Formation Committee

Tuesday 3/14, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Meeting

District Council Meeting

1st In-person meeting in 3 years!

St. Mary, Walnut Creek

Saturday 3/18, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Bob Liles Corner

**ARE YOU A FOOD PANTRY
VINCENTIAN?**

By that I mean when you are in contact with our neighbors in need are you on your best behavior and really try to see Christ in them and make sure that they see Christ in you? But once you get back to living your life in the real world and have to deal with all of the crazy drivers that cut you off in traffic, the scumbags that dump trash around your neighborhood, the coworkers that don't do their job so you have to work twice as hard and the idiots that are not as smart as you and vote the wrong way, are you still a Vincentian?

*Do you try to see Christ in **EVERYONE** that you meet **EVERY DAY**?*

*Can **EVERYONE** see Christ in you **ALL OF THE TIME**?*

Unfortunately, it is not true for me, but I am trying to improve. There is no group of people that are as good as the Vincentians that I know. Let's spread that love so that others start acting like Vincentians.

Bob

**2023 WESTERN REGION
VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS**
"Seek and Find the Forgotten"
February 16 – March 28, 2023

**Click HERE
to Register!
¡Haz Click
AQUÍ para
registrarse!**



Our Western Region is offering online (Zoom) workshops and presentations for FREE
February 16 to April 6, 2023 (2 evenings / week)

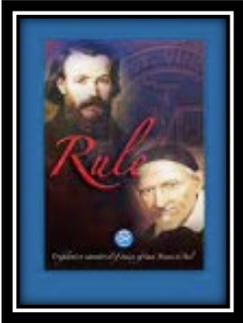
Nuestra Región Occidental ofrece talleres y presentaciones en línea (Zoom) GRATIS
16 de febrero al 6 de abril de 2023 (2 tardes / semana)

Activity	Day	Date:	Time (PT)	Topic / Título	Presenter(s):/ Presentadores
Presentation #1	Thurs	16-Feb	6pm-7pm	WR Formation Feedback (20min)	Kathy Iberle
				WR Spirituality Feedback (20-30min)	Sr. Paule
Presentation #2	Tues	21-Feb	6pm-7.30pm	Disaster Services Corporation. (15min)	Judy Dietlein
				Reentry Task Force (15min)	Judy Dietlein
				Hispanic Task Force (15min)	Aldo Barletta
				Voice of the Poor (30min)	Bertha De Alegria
Workshops					
#1	Tues	28-Feb	6pm-7pm	"What must be Done". (English)	Sr. Paule
#2	Thurs	2-Mar	6pm-7:30pm	Home Visits: The Heart and Soul of our Society. Visitas Domiciliarias: El Corazón y el Alma de nuestra Sociedad" (Este taller ofrecerá traducción simultánea al español)	MaryAnn Hunter / Shirley Smalley
#3	Tues	7-Mar	6pm-7pm	Truly Embracing Diversity Abrazando Verdaderamente la Diversidad (Este taller ofrecerá traducción simultánea al español)	Pamela Matambanadzo
#4	Thurs	9-Mar	6pm-7pm	Breathe Deeply: The Inspiration of Our Vincentian Vocation	Tim Williams
#5	Tues	14-Mar	7pm-8pm	¿Qué se debe hacer?". (Spanish)	Sr. Martha Garcia
#6	Tues	21-Mar	6pm-7pm	An Introduction to the National Member's Portal; from log-on, via the Directory to the Annual Reports. (English)	Roelof van Ark
#7	Wed & Thurs	22 & 23 Mar	7pm-8:30pm	"Capacitación del Consejero Espiritual en Español" (Spanish).	Sylvia Gonzalez / Susana Manriquez
#8	Tues	28-Mar	7pm-8pm	Respira Profundamente: La Inspiración de Nuestra Vocación Vicentina (Spanish)	Aldo Barletta

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR WESTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

The current Western Region VP's term ends on September 30th. If you are interested in this servant leader opportunity, please contact Bob Liles at president@svdp-cc.org .

Rule: 3.3 Meetings of the Vincentian members



The members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in Conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action. Spiritual bonds and friendship between members are essential, as is the common mission to help the poor and marginalized. The entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian friends.

“Reflect that in reality you have a greater need to serve the poor person than they have of your service.” St. Angela Merici

WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE IS A FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE

How we tell our story, our neighbors' stories, and how we share with the community our service to our neighbors in need, are essential parts of our communications efforts. From our newsletters to our social media posts to our e-blasts to this newsletter – what and how we say something matters. Right now I am asking for your help as we find ourselves without a *chairperson for our Communications Committee*.

You may have seen some changes over the past few years in how we share our message with the community – Vincentians, volunteers, grant providers, other service organizations, and our neighbors looking for help. These changes, sometimes driven by technology, sometimes driven by outside factors (can someone say pandemic?), are important so that we can be a better Society and serve our neighbors more successfully.

For the last couple of years, Celeste Johnson, a Vincentian at the conference at Christ the King, served as chair of our Communications Committee. Celeste and her husband recently moved out of the area and she leaves the chairperson duties to the next servant leader.

Are you that person? Do you know someone who is? The chair of the communication committee works closely with our staff (primarily Barb Hunt, Development Director, and Brian Boyle, Communications and Development Associate) to develop the communications plan and the overall messaging of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County.

Can you help us? If you are interested in learning more about this key committee position, please call me at 925-635-3219 or email c.ramirez@svdp-cc.org.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration, *Claudia*

So, what is Aggregation, or is a Conference Aggregated? Why is it important?

The Standards of Excellence for District Councils asks if all the conferences are aggregated. We have already discussed this and National gave us a list of six conferences that are not aggregated (On the record with National):

St. David of Wales

St. John the Baptist

St. John Vianney

St. Mark

St. Monica

St. Patrick

These three conferences think they are aggregated:

St. David of Wales – Confident they are, but cannot find any paperwork

St. John the Baptist – found the request, but not the final aggregation.

St. John Vianney – Confident they are, but cannot find any paperwork

The last two have no record of applying for aggregation.

St. Monica

St. Patrick



“Aggregation is the recognition your Conference and its connection directly to the SSVP in Paris and founding of the Society.” Yes, not being recognized (Aggregated) will prevent you from being able to take advantage grants offered from the National Office of SVDP. But it is much more than that. It started with Vincent. As the arms of Society grew branches beginning with the Confraternities of Charity (Ladies of Charity) began to carry our ministry all over the world, the branches wanted to seek recognition and confirmation of their connection that they were part of the seminal work of Vincent de Paul. When Rosalee Rundu was introduced by Emmanuel Bailly (the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s first President) to Frederic Ozanam and re-introduced these young men to “Go to the Poor” again they wanted to be connected to the heartbeat of our Charism.

Ten years ago, the SVDP National Office lost a great number of their records of who was aggregated and who was not. I would like to make sure all our Conferences in Contra Costa County are recognized. We have listings of some of our Conferences as being Aggregated and some not.

Last week I had the privilege of joining a bunch of the Vincentians from the St. Joan of Arc Conference for Mass. As you walk in the main door of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church directly in front of you is a wall dedicated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Conference of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Joan of Arc. Directly in the center are their articles of Aggregation.

If your Conference does not have a physical copy of the Articles of Aggregation send Stephen Krank your Conference's name, and president’s email address, and he will submit (or resubmit) your application.



Frederic's E-Gazette – is the weekly newsletter of the National Council. Yes, it comes too frequently. Yes, it repeats a lot of stuff every month. Yes, it has a lot of information you don't care about. But every so occasionally, it has something that will make you a better Vincentian. If you are not getting it, email mboyer@svdpusa.org and request that it be sent. Then quickly learn how to scan it and get the information that will help you. The one section I always read in it is the Q&A. Fortunately, they save every Q&A and keep a document that sorts them by topic. So if you have a question, the first thing you should do is go to the "Members" page on the District Council website: www.svdp-cc.org/members/. Scroll down to the "EXTERNAL LINKS" section and use the link to access National's "Questions and Answers."

Bob



Hope Funding Availability

The Hope Application, Release, and Forms necessary to submit your completed applications are available on our SVDP Contra Costa website. 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.svdp@gmail.com

Our Vincentian Home Visit

by The Contra Costa County Spirituality and Formation Committee



The graphic features a portrait of St. Vincent de Paul on the left, with a quote overlaid: "God does not consider the outcome of the good work undertaken but the charity that accompanied it." Below the portrait is the text "St. Vincent de Paul (L:205)". To the right, the text reads: "ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOME VISIT WORKSHOP", "SAVE THE DATE", "SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 FROM 11:30 AM TO 2:30 PM PT", "HOST: CCC Spirituality and Formation Committee", and "St. Anthony Catholic Church 971 O'Hara Ave Oakley, CA 94561". At the bottom, a white box contains the text "St. Vincent de Paul Home Visit Workshop".

“Jesus chose 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”.

WHY DO WE DO THE VINCENTIAN HOME VISIT?

Vincentians believe that when we visit the poor, we have the chance to meet Christ?

Frederic Ozanam stated that the home visit to the poor was “our principal work.” He reported regularly on the number of visits that various conferences had made. He saw the visitor and the visited as intimately united.

In 1836, he wrote, “We rejoice that the number of families that we are going to visit is growing because it seems to us that they form, with the members who visit them, two parts of the same society. Those who are helped provoke and revive the charity of those who help them: In this way, they assist each other, they live in the same spirit, and all find shelter under the mantle of St. Vincent de Paul.”

**Interested in attending the Home Visit Workshop? [Click here to register:](#)
[Register now for the Home Visit Workshop](#)**

As a Society -Two by Two we have been doing Home Visits ... for 400 Years.

In 1617 when he (Vincent de Paul) founded the Confraternities of Charity, (Ladies 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 (Vincentian Priests) 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 huge emphasis on visits to the sick poor. Such visits were among the most striking characteristics of this new community of sisters.

From the Society’s beginning, the central and most basic activity of Conferences has been the visitation of the needy in their homes. This 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 require 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.

2022-23

When is Your Conference Visiting the District Council & Family Resource Center?



“By offering Conferences, the chance to have a meal, or host your Meeting at the Family Resource Center, you can educate your Vincentian members on the resources available and how they, as Vincentians can advocate for our neighbors in need and help them access services.”

If each leave with an understanding of the resources available and how they can access what we do for those they serve, it would be a success and time well spent for each.

Our Agenda

- RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul. (Roughly 19,000 patient visits) this year - 553 +/-.
- Oasis - Winter Nights Day Shelter - Families with their kids.
- Workforce Development Program - Providing Reentry, Mentorship, and paid Training to folks returning to the workforce through our Thrift Stores & Recycling programs. We are in our third or fourth cycle this year.
- Dentist on Wheels Pittsburg Free Dental Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul - Our Three Chair Dental Clinic averages 25 patients per month (scope of services include: crowns, root canals, dentures, etc.)
- Free Dining Room, operated in partnership with Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa - Provides 150 - 200 hot meals daily.
- 25+ ongoing pantries across the County with (4) primary distributions, each providing for 100 + families per week: Brentwood, Pittsburg, El Sobrante, and each Tuesday serving Byron, Knightson & Bethel Island.
- Three Thrift Stores & Warehouse provide free clothing to the homeless and low-cost furniture and act as the primary worksite for our Workforce Development Program.
- HOPE - Housing, Utility Assistance, Car Repair (provided \$1,015,290. +/- FY 2021-22) through the branches in 28 local Communities in Contra Costa County)
- Emergency Food, Hygiene, Showers & Clothing for the Homeless.
- Auto Donation Program - Providing access to safe working vehicles where not having access is creating a barrier to sustainability.

To register the date for your Conference to tour Family Resource Center or host your Conference Meeting here, please get in touch with Stephen Krank, Vincentian Support. 925-439-5060 or s.krank@svdp-cc.org

In-Person District Council Meeting, Saturday, March 18

We plan is to have our **1st in-person District Council meeting in three years** on Saturday, March 18, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. We are meeting at St. Mary (1158 Bont Lane, Walnut Creek, 94596) and are invited to join in their Saturday morning Mass at 8:30 am. We will have a continental breakfast immediately after Mass and follow with our meeting.

**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**

RSVP LINK: [HTTP://EVITE.ME/5DU8QXC6MF](http://evite.me/5DU8QXC6MF)