



June 2023

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



CALENDAR

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting - FRC
Tuesday 6/13, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Training

Home Visit Workshop
Wednesday 6/14, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Our Lady Queen of the World
Bay Point, CA

Feast

Feast of the Sacred Heart
All Day 6/16

Meeting

District Council Meeting
Saturday, 6/17, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
St. Perpetua, Lafayette, CA

Training

Poverty Simulation
Saturday 6/24 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
St. Joan of Arc, San Ramon, CA

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting - FRC
Tuesday 7/18, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

RECURRING EVENT

Tuesday Home Visit Zoom Forum
Every Tuesday, 10:00-11:00 AM
<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>
Zoom Meeting ID: 925 439 5060
Passcode: Ozanam

Harm Reduction and Housing First

Recently I attended two Zoom webinars put on by the Contra Costa Continuum of Care. One was on Harm Reduction and the other on Housing First. While some of the things they said made sense there were other things that I just could not accept. e.g. they said that there is no difference between someone who drinks coffee in the morning to get some caffeine and someone who shoots up meth. Both are drug users and they just happen to choose different drugs.

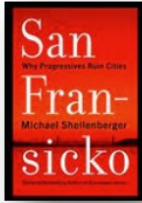
I can't accept their philosophy of enabling the destructive life style of a someone who has already ruined their life due to drugs rather than empowering the person to get clean. As the meetings went on, I got more and more upset and put in rebuttals to some of their statements in the chat box. Now that some time has passed, I have calmed down and accepted the fact that the presenters are not bad people. They are out there in the street meeting people with serious problems and trying the best that they know how to help these people. They need to be lauded for their work, even if in my opinion it is making the problem worse. I need to treat people with a different philosophy on how to solve a problem as an ally and try to convince them to use a different approach rather than as a foe that I need to fight with.

For those interested in the webinars here are the links:

Harm reduction - <https://youtu.be/197314rdekA>
<https://youtu.be/197314rdekA>

Harm Reduction and Housing First – cont.

Housing First - <https://youtu.be/3fPYTEWRZ5Y> and <https://youtu.be/3fPYTEWRZ5Y>



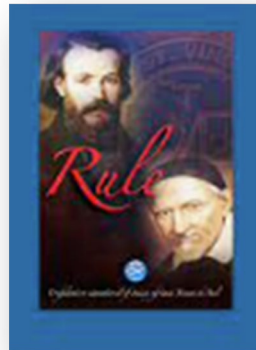
And as always, I recommend San Fransicko by Michael Shellenberger for a highly researched treatise on the weaknesses of these programs.

Bob

RULE 3.5 Preserving the Spirit

Members of all ages strive to preserve the spirit of youth, which is characterized by enthusiasm, adaptability and creative imagination. They are willing to make sacrifices and take risks for the benefit of the poor wherever they may be: by sharing their discomfort, needs, and sorrows and defending their rights.

Councils exist to serve all the Conferences they coordinate. They help the Conferences to develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsive to the needs of those who suffer.



Councils at appropriate levels are particularly called to: create new Conferences, to help existing Conferences to expand, to promote Special Works, to prepare training courses and encourage Vincentians to attend them, to foster interest in cooperation with the Vincentian Family, to promote cooperation with other organizations and Institutions, to develop friendship between members in the same area, to provide communication to and from Conferences and higher Councils. In summary, to promote the sense of belonging to a Society which encircles the world.

A NOTE FROM OUR AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

By Bill Hurley



TWINNING - From a recent issue of Frederic's e-Gazette

Q: What is the difference between Society twinning and co-pays?

A: Part III of the Rule, Statute 26 (Use of Funds) states: The funds of the Society shall be used for the works of the Society, including Vincentian twinning and collaboration in payments for people we serve. When funds are given from a Conference or Council to another Conference or Council to be used as the receiver finds appropriate, this is called twinning. The distribution should be recorded as twinning. When funds are sent to another Conference to collaborate in payments for people we serve, this is called a co-pay. When the intention for the negotiated distribution was to help a specific person or family, the co-pay should be recorded as an aid to people we serve and a case record should be established for this transaction.

I remember many years ago running into this co-pay question. It is used when one Conference sends funds for a PG&E bill as part of the total invoice for the receiving conference obligation. The supporting Conference can enter it as 6 - We serve. St. Joan receives most requests for multiple conferences to send funds so the requesting Conference can pay rent for their Neighbor. I think twinning is just for a Conference short on capital. If it is paid for a specific expense, it is a co-pay. We send a check to a Conference in the Philippines, which is twinning”.

This change will reduce the amount Conferences enter as twinning. I am not sure how many Conferences ask for money so they can operate. I discussed this item at a Treasurer's workshop several years ago. The Conference will be entering an expense for another Conference, which was dropped because nobody thought we should have expenses for another conference in our financial statement”. If you ever have a question, email me or call me.

Bill
williamhurley7798@gmail.com
(925) 389-6505

THE HOPE CONFERENCE HAS FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Hope Application, Release, and Forms are necessary to submit your completed applications. All of these are available on our SVDP Contra Costa website <https://www.svdp-cc.org/> under the members “Dropdown menu”

You can check to see if there have been any changes in funding status by going to the **BLUE Hope Conference Funding Availability **Status Update** Box**. If you haven’t been on, go to the Members Dropdown (Far right of the Home Screen) Menu and select Applications. Hope will only accept the new application with a release form moving forward.

The Hope Conference serves our Vincentian community with funds from federal and state grants and generous private donors. When allocating assistance, these funds come with unique requirements, benefits, and challenges.

The Hope Conference currently has funds for rental assistance and utilities.

We want to inform you of the conditions our funders include with these funds. To ensure we meet their requirements, it is necessary that we receive all the required documents (a complete list is included in the Hope application).

Section 5: of the application is important because it helps you review and ask questions about other resources they have explored. Please provide them with guidance on how to use these other resources. Details on these programs can be found on our website, svdp-cc.org.

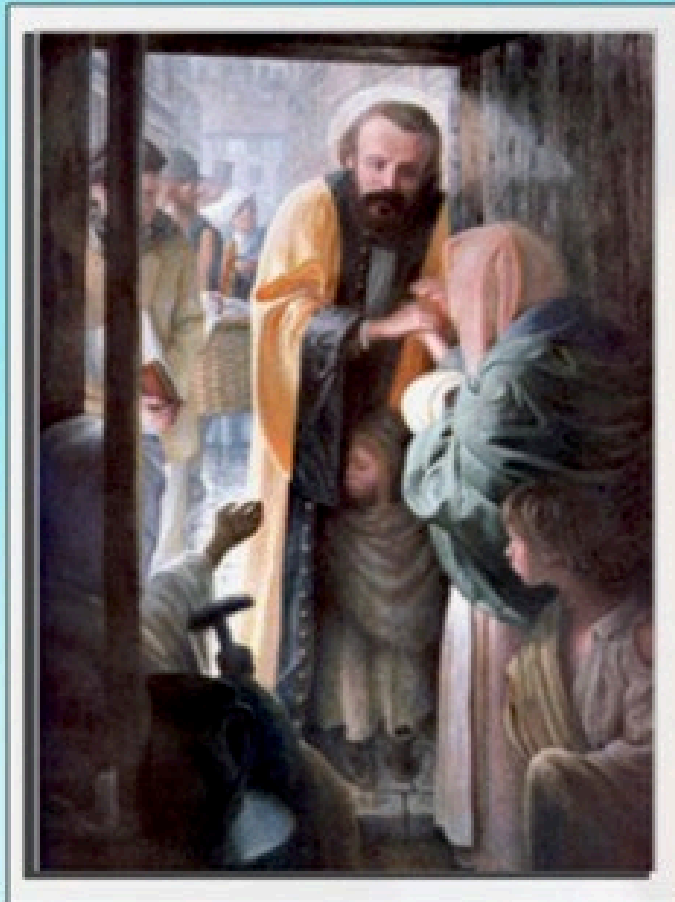
Section 6: (Income and Expense) allows for discussion by helping the neighbor to understand how they are budgeting their money. They often need to realize why and where they are possibly overspending; for example, can they save money by talking with PG&E about any discount programs they might be eligible for? Is there is way to reduce their phone bill?



Feed Me... & Volunteers

Our RotaCare Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul and Dentists on Wheels Free Dental Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul host our volunteer Dentists, Doctors, Nurses, Assistants, Staff, and Volunteers to a meal when they serve our neighbors in need. If you are willing to support the Free Medical Clinic or Dental Program by providing a meal each month or once a year, please get in touch with Stephen Krank at Vincentian Support Services at s.krank@svdp-cc.org, or you can call 925-439-5060 Ext:28

The Spirituality of the Home Visit



WHEN WE SHOW UP GOD SHOWS UP.

This interactive home visit workshop will help you see how blessed Rosalie Rendu taught our founders to see the face of Christ.

*Join us at
Our Lady Queen of the World
3155 Winterbrook Dr. Bay Point
Wednesday June 14, 2023 From 5:30pm - 8:30pm
Light supper at 5:15pm*

R.S.V.P

<http://evite.me/TBZqA8aknH> or Shawna Costanzo (925) 200-5952

Home Visits

How do we grow as Vincentian Home Visitors post training and experiences? At our Tuesday Home Visit Forums!

Starting June 7, as a trial every Tuesday (except holidays) at 10:00 AM we will have an open forum for questions, challenges, resources, ideas, etc., for several minutes up to an hour, for anyone who wishes to Zoom. Bring your experiences or questions and share them with other Vincentians weekly at this time. Depending on the response, we could adjust after a couple of months of this pilot.

Every Tuesday, 10:00-11:00 AM <https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>
Zoom Meeting ID: 925 439 5060 Passcode: Ozanam



June District Council Meeting of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County



Our meeting will be held at St. Perpetua Catholic Church in Lafayette from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM on Saturday, June 17, 2023

St. Perpetua Catholic Church
3454 Hamlin Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549

Come Early and Join in for Friendship,
Coffee & Bagels

Enhancing Collaboration and Sharing:

The Importance of Submitting Articles About Your St. Vincent de Paul Conference Services

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul plays a vital role in serving vulnerable individuals and communities worldwide. In Contra Costa County, numerous St. Vincent de Paul Conferences work tirelessly to provide essential services and support to those in need. One effective way to strengthen collaboration and foster a sense of unity among these conferences and Vincentians is by submitting articles about their conference services. This article explores the significance of sharing conference services through articles and its positive impact on the community.

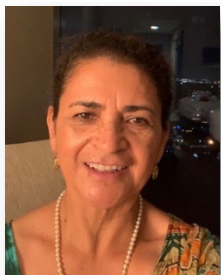
Promoting Awareness and Visibility by Submitting Articles: Increase your conference's visibility of your services among other conferences and Vincentians in Contra Costa County. These articles provide a platform to showcase the work done by each conference, highlighting the impactful programs, initiatives, and success stories. Such exposure generates interest and inspires other conferences to replicate successful strategies or explore collaborative efforts. Through shared knowledge, conferences can collectively elevate their services and expand their reach, ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our community receive the assistance they need.

Encouraging Collaboration and Networking: Articles submitted by St. Vincent de Paul Conferences catalyze collaboration and networking within the organization. Each conference has its unique strengths, experiences, and expertise. Sharing articles enables conferences to learn from one another, exchange best practices, and discover new approaches to address common challenges. By fostering this collaborative spirit, conferences can work together to develop innovative solutions, streamline their operations, and maximize their collective impact. Collaboration enables the St. Vincent de Paul Society to deliver more comprehensive and effective services to those in need.

Inspiring and Motivating Vincentians: Submitting articles on conference services is a means to inspire and motivate Vincentians involved in St. Vincent de Paul Conferences. Members seeing their work recognized and shared reinforces their commitment and dedication to their service. It creates a sense of pride and accomplishment, boosting morale and encouraging them to continue their valuable contributions. Additionally, articles can serve as a source of inspiration for new Vincentians considering joining a conference, showcasing the meaningful impact they can make by becoming involved.

Sharing Resources and Strategies: Articles provide a platform for sharing resources, strategies, and best practices among St. Vincent de Paul Conferences. Conferences often face similar challenges, such as resource constraints or navigating complex social issues. By openly sharing experiences and strategies, conferences can learn from one another's successes and failures. These shared insights enable conferences to optimize their services, identify new avenues for support, and efficiently allocate resources to where they are most needed. In this way, the collective wisdom of St. Vincent de Paul Conferences can be harnessed to make a greater impact on the lives of those they serve.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is built on compassion, solidarity, and collective action. Submitting articles about conference services within Contra Costa County strengthens collaboration, enhances visibility, and inspires Vincentians to continue their valuable work. By sharing knowledge, experiences, and successes, St. Vincent de Paul Conferences can amplify their impact and better serve vulnerable individuals and communities. Let us encourage and support the submission of articles, fostering a culture of collaboration and learning that propels us toward a more compassionate society.



Bienvenida y Welcome to Oliba Cardona

You may have already met our new Vincentian Support Associate (Central and East County) but we wanted to more formally welcome and have Oliba Cardona introduce herself. *Muchos de Ustedes han conocido a nuestra nueva Asociada de Apoyo Vicentino (para el Centro y el Este del Condado de Contra Costa) pero queríamos que Oliba Cardona se presentara a todos.*

Me he unido al Equipo de Apoyo Vicentino en el Consejo del Distrito para ayudar a brindar apoyo a las Conferencias del Condado Central y Este de St. Vincent de Paul. Bilingüe (inglés y español), he estado involucrada en el liderazgo latino con diferentes organizaciones sin fines de lucro en temas de justicia social como vivienda, salud, inmigración, seguridad y muchos más.

He sido Vicentina en San Pedro Mártir durante diez años, me formé como presentador de la Orientación Ozanam en español. Recibí una maestría en teología de Holy Names. Estoy emocionada de comenzar a trabajar con ustedes y las conferencias en el condado de Contra Costa. Planeo usar mis habilidades para ayudar a su Conferencia y a los miembros Vicentinos a crecer. También me gustaría ser un puente y fortalecer los servicios que de ayuda a nuestros vicentinos de habla hispana latina en nuestras parroquias. Puede comunicarse conmigo en el Consejo del Distrito SVdP Contra Costa en o.cardona@svdp-cc.org or 925-439-5060.

I have joined the Vincentian Support Team at the District Council to help provide support for the Central and East County Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul. I'm bilingual (English & Spanish), and have been involved in Latino leadership with different non-profit organizations on Social Justice issues such as housing, health, immigration, safety, and many more.

I have been a Vincentian at St. Peter Martyr for ten years, trained as a St. Vincent de Paul Spanish Language Ozanam Orientation Presenter, and received a Master in Theology from Holy Names. I am excited to begin working with you and the Conferences in Contra Costa County. I plan to use my skills to help your Conference and Vincentian members grow. I would also like to focus on strengthening the bridge of services that can be provided by our Spanish Speaking Vincentians providing services to the Latino community in our parishes. You can reach me at the SVdP District Council office at o.cardona@svdp-cc.org or 925-439-5060.



**"BE THE CHANGE YOU
WISH TO SEE IN THE
WORLD."**

**Mahatma
Gandhi**

RETHINK POVERTY.

Community Action Poverty Simulation®

EXPERIENCE A SIMULATED MONTH IN POVERTY . . . IN HALF A DAY

This interactive event will increase our understanding of poverty and will offer us ways to be involved in alleviating poverty in our community. Unless you've experienced poverty, it's difficult to truly understand the reality of it.

The Community Action Poverty Simulation is an immersive learning experience.

This experience is based on real people and their real lives.

- **Date:** Saturday, June 24, 2023, 10:30 a.m. to ~3:30 p.m. (lunch included)
- **Place:** St. Joan of Arc Gym, 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, CA
- **Who:** Adults and Teens (ages 16 and above). Teens *strongly* encouraged to attend with parents.

Sponsored by

**St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd.
San Ramon, CA 94583**

Questions? Email Gina Camp at
gcamp@sjasr.org or call
925-830-4720



**TO REGISTER, GO TO
bit.ly/SJAPovertySimulation
or**





***It's not too early to start Planning and Promoting
Your Conference's Friends Of the Poor WALK
To Register your Walk <https://www.fopwalk.org>***

For everything you need to know to get started, click [Friends of the Poor Walk Event Info Packet](#)

***As of 2023, the National FOP Walk website will now use an external processor to receive donations. All donations to an event, team, or walker will be processed through PayPal. The District Council of Contra Costa County has a PayPal account that can be used for this purpose. Please contact our Accounting Manager, Haydee Orozco, at 925-439-5060, ext. 18 or h.orozco@svdp-cc.org to get our PayPal account details.

You can also go to the FOP website <https://www.fopwalk.org/resourcetoolbox/> where you can watch some helpful videos and download other helpful resources!

Videos from the National SVdP Office:

- ▶ [Friends of the Poor Walk 2023-Enhancements](#)
- ▶ [Walk Coordinators Webinar 2022-Best Practices](#)

Other Helpful Resources

- [Official Policies](#)
- [Guide to Getting Started](#)
- [NEW 2023 Donation Process Enhancements](#)
- [NEW PayPal Business Account Information](#)
- [Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Vincentian Support Services at s.krunk@svdp-cc.org or call 925-439-5060, ext. 28.