



August 2023

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday 8/15, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Training

Ozanam Orientation, St. Catherine of Siena
Saturday 8/19, 8:00 AM– 3:30 PM

National Assembly, St. Louis, MO

9/6 - 9/9 All Day

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday 9/19, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Event

Friends of the Poor Walks
Saturday, 9/23, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Meeting

District Council Meeting - **via ZOOM**
Saturday 9/23, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Event

Bocce Tournament
Saturday, 9/30, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday 10/17, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Training

Ozanam Orientation, The Most Holy Rosary
Wednesday 10/18, 8:00 AM– 3:30 PM

Event

Gianni's Italian Bistro Fundraiser
Monday, 10/23, 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Training

2023-24 Officer Training
Saturday 10/28, 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Bob Liles Corner

HOW DOES YOUR CONFERENCE STACK UP AGAINST THE OTHERS?

Currently 19 of our 29 conferences have completed the Standards of Excellence questionnaire. If your conference has not yet done it, all of the information can be found in the MISC section at the very end of our CONFERENCE OPERATION webpage: www.svdp-cc.org/conference-operation/.

There is also a summary of the results on that page. It really isn't that hard to do. I attended one conference meeting where they did it in under 25 minutes and the entire conference does not have to participate. Remember you are doing it mainly to help your conference get better, not to report to National how your conference is doing. I sent a summary to the Western Region. It did not list any individual conference data.

The good news that in quite a few areas 100% of the reporting conferences were in compliance.

Fourteen of the 24 minimum requirements for conferences were complied with by all of the conferences. Of the remaining ten requirements there were only two requirements that were not complied with by more than one conference. Twelve conferences complied with every requirement and 18 out of 19 complied with all but one or two of the requirements.

continued

Standards of Excellence Cont.

Outside of the Minimum Requirements, these topics had 100% compliance.

Encourage Spiritual growth – And isn't this the most essential item?

Standard bylaws adopted

Fundraising is being done

Have guidelines for helping our neighbors in need

Do twinning

Try to get new members

Communication with the parish

Safeguarding policies

These were not 100%, but very high.

Officer and SA training

Encourage knowledge of the Rule

Encourage attendance at council events

Annual review of services & growth

Special conference programs

Use of council programs

List of resources for our neighbors in need

Enlist local businesses to donate



Next month I will review the main areas where Conferences are not compliant.

BOB

A Vincentian Resource for Every Vincentian

Have a Question? Need a Resource? What about Home Visits? Spirituality? Season of Sharing? Hope Conference? PG&E? Twinning vs. Co-Pay? The Diocese? Homeless? Mental Health? Food Bank?

*Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM. Come by with a Question or just come by –
We may have the Answer, or You May Be the Answer for Someone.*

<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>

Meeting ID: 925 635 3202

Passcode: Vincent



THE RULE

Rule 3.7 Young Members

Young members keep the Society young. They see with new eyes and often look far ahead. The Society works constantly to form Youth Conferences and welcomes young members into all Conferences. Their experience in a community of faith and love and their exposure to poverty deepen their spirituality, spur them to action and help them to grow as human beings. The senior members assume the responsibility of assisting them along their path of training, respecting their personal choices and their aspirations of Vincentian service.

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

Friends of the Poor Walk

Saturday, Sept. 23

Walks Begin at 9 am



Sign up. Donate. Participate.

Feed, Clothe, Shelter, and Heal Those in Need



Benefiting your neighbors in need
throughout Contra Costa County

Together we can end poverty one person,
one family, one community at a time.

TO REGISTER/ DONATE

Please visit: fopwalk.org

1) SVdPDistrict Council FOPWalk

440 La Gorda Way
Danville, CA 94526

2) St. Agnes SVdPFOPWalk

3966 Chestnut Ave
Concord, CA 9459

3) West County SVdPFOPWalk

St. Joseph's School
1961 Flum St.
Finde, CA 94564





Join us for the 2023 St. Louis National Assembly, "Where It All Began," held in Downtown St. Louis, Missouri, from September 6 to 9, 2023, featuring exciting pre- and post-meeting activities. We invite you to be a part of this historic event as we step back in time and immerse ourselves in the place where it all started.

Did you know the first Annual Assembly in St. Louis was held in 1904, the same year as the renowned St. Louis World's Fair? In April 1904, St. Louis welcomed the world to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, famously known as the St. Louis World's Fair. Spanning over 1200 acres and boasting 1500 buildings, this grand expo drew over 20 million visitors annually. Imagine being there to witness it all!

The National Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul originated in St. Louis in 1845 at the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, affectionately known as "The Old Cathedral" within our community.

To fully experience St. Louis, we encourage you to arrive early or extend your stay after the meeting. Take advantage of the following options:

Pre-Meeting Options:

- Enjoy a round of golf at Forest Park.**
- Explore the stunning Missouri Botanical Garden.**
- Take a tour of the St. Louis Historical Society Museum.**
- Immerse yourself in art at the St. Louis Art Museum.**
- Visit the world-renowned St. Louis Zoo.**

Post-Meeting Option:

- Journey to Perryville and visit The National Shrine of Our Lady, home of the Miraculous Medal.**

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Louis from September 6 to 9 at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch St. Louis as we celebrate our 119th Annual Assembly and embrace the spirit of "Where It All Began!"

For registration information and further details, please refer to the following resources: [Provide relevant registration information or direct individuals to the appropriate channels for obtaining registration details.]: <https://meetingsvdpusa.regfox.com/2023-st-louis-national-assembly>

Keynote Speakers



Thursday, September 7 from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

John Foppe, Executive Director, SVdP Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis

“Resilience and Purpose When All Else Fails Serving the Poor”

“How do I help this Neighbor?” Vincentians often ask. When confronted with complex cases of poverty, inadequate referral sources, and self-sabotaging neighbors, we are tempted to solve all the issues, a burden that can lead to co-dependency, cynicism, or burnout.

John was born without arms, and his cross creates a true dependency on God. In this presentation, he testifies how Christ’s love has unfolded in his life and sustained him along the journey of contending with a disability. He teaches us that acceptance of some problems and encounters with the poor are an invitation to a deeper encounter with the Pascal mystery.

He offers to us a deeper understanding of God’s unconditional love and purpose and how we can live more peacefully and purposefully in our Vincentian vocation, leading to a deeper union with God.

At the age of 10, for example, he couldn’t even put on his own pants. Today, he is the Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – St. Louis Council. John joined the organization because of its unique way of providing person-to-person assistance and its mission of seeking and serving all in need so they grow closer to Christ. As someone with a disability, John has always had a heart for those who struggle or feel marginalized. In addition, he learned that a person’s ability to do something has more to do with a personal sense of value and ability to create a vision, rather than having time, money, or physical abilities.

Saturday, September 9 from 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Fr. John Rybolt, C.M., DePaul University

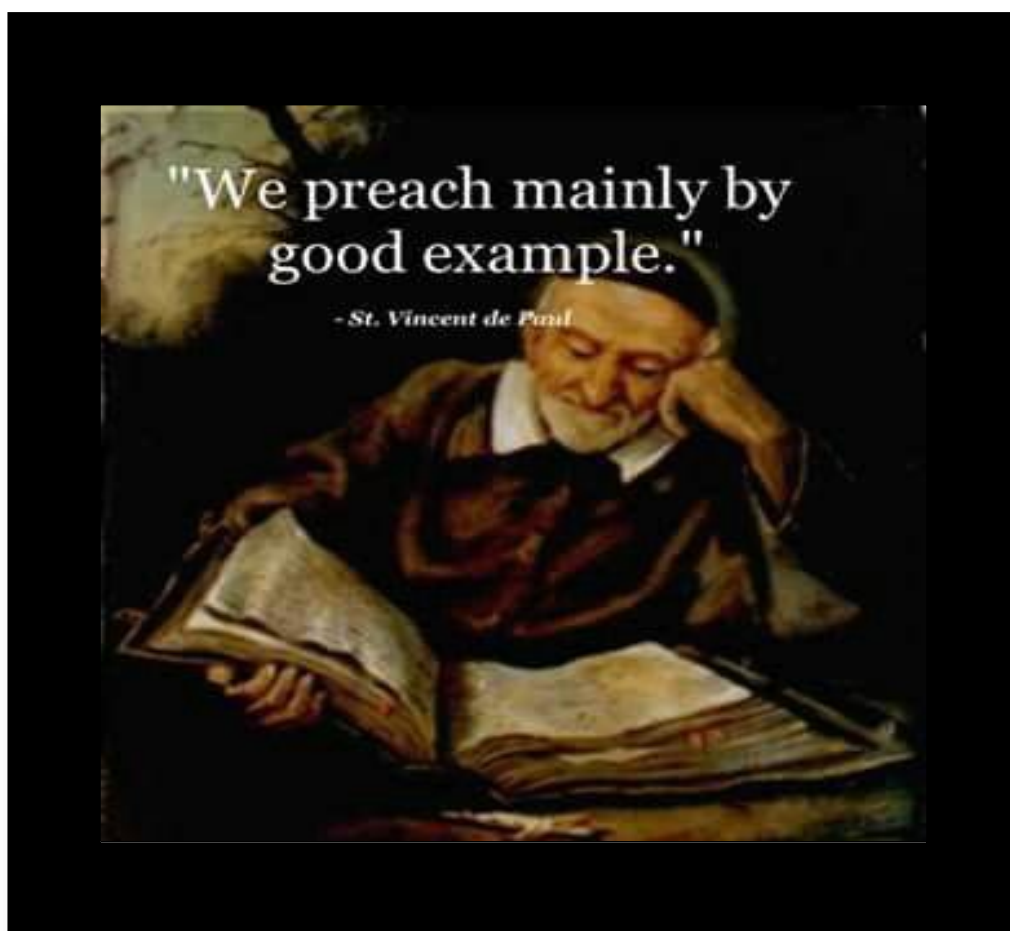
“Vincent de Paul, Agent of Change”

The Apostle of Charity, while serving the poor fully, was also a man of the Church and a citizen of France, whose readiness to give “the strength of his arms and sweat of his brow” to work for reforms in the Church and society would, as his eulogist said, “change the face of the church.”



John E. Rybolt, C.M., was born in Los Angeles, California. He entered the Congregation of the Mission in Perryville, Missouri, in 1959. After his ordination in 1967, he did further graduate work and received degrees in ministry, theology, and sacred scripture, including a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from St. Louis University. He taught in the seminaries of the Western (later Midwest) province before initiating the Centre International de Formation (CIF), headquartered in Paris, France, designed for ongoing formation of members

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OZANAM ORIENTATION



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

AUGUST 19, 2023

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, 606 MELLUS ST., MARTINEZ
MASS AT 8:00 AM**

TRAINING IN PARISH HALL 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

**INCLUDES CONTINENTAL
BREAKFAST (8:30 AM) & LUNCH**

PLEASE RSVP TO JOYCE at 925-513-7124 or joy1936@comcast.net

DIRECT RSVP LINK: [HTTP://EVITE.ME/CSNZEFDFZD](http://evite.me/csnzefdfzd)

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Embracing the Call to Renewal

Renewal signifies a profound transformation in one's thoughts and way of life, facilitated by the Holy Spirit's power and reflection on God's teachings.

On July 5-8th, the National Office of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul organized an Invitation for Renewal retreat, providing a small group of servant leaders across the United States an opportunity to unite, reflect, and renew their commitment to the Vincentian charism and spirituality.

Attending the Invitation for Renewal retreat was an unforeseen privilege for (me) a participant with over 24 years of involvement in the Society. Initially anticipating an opportunity as another Ozanam Orientation to learn about Vincentian best practices and engage with fellow servant leaders, the retreat had a much more profound impact in store.

During the three-day retreat, our team listened to and engaged with Vincentians from various regions, many of whom had dedicated significant portions of their lives to the Society. Witnessing these servant leaders' profound experiences and unwavering dedication left me in awe and filled with humility. Through deep reflection and sharing, the essence of being a Vincentian and the grace bestowed upon us in our mission to serve Christ by serving those in need became more evident than ever.

The retreat strongly emphasized the Society's roots, which can be traced back to the inspirational figures of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. These saints' legacy underscored the significance of the Society's Rule and its organizational structure. The Rule changed from what we had to do to a guiding framework that empowers Vincentians to effectively carry out their mission and truly exemplify Christ in the world. By embracing this rich heritage, Vincentians reinforce their identity and understand the profound privilege of serving their fellow human beings and bringing hope to a world longing for illumination.





The Invitation for Renewal was a catalyst for personal renewal among each of us. Witnessing the respect and admiration our National Leaders for each of us and our fellow Vincentians deepened my dedication and appreciation for our colleagues' immense commitment and selflessness. This experience rekindled my commitment to serving as Vincentians and heightened the critical need for our devotion to those in need. As the retreat concluded with Sunday Mass, a profound sense of gratitude arose as participants recognized the blessing of being part of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and our serving Christ through service to the poor.

As part of the personal renewal process, participants were encouraged to reconnect with The Rule, reflecting on its foundational principles. This reconnection allows Vincentians to gain wisdom and inspiration, reinforcing their unique charism and purpose.

The Invitation for Renewal retreat, organized by the National Leadership of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, offered dedicated servant leaders a transformative experience. Participants gained a renewed sense of purpose, dedication, and gratitude through engaging with fellow Vincentians and reflecting on the Society's rich heritage. The retreat reminded each of us of the transformative power of the Holy Spirit and the significance of their mission to serve others. By embracing the invitation to renewal and transforming ourselves, Vincentians become beacons of hope, illuminating a world needing compassion and love.

Stephen Krank

St. Joan of Arc - San Ramon: Understanding Poverty Together

Vincentians from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Contra Costa County join in to help develop tools to better educate our Community and Young people on the realities of poverty in 2023



To gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the members of our community, St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, in collaboration with St. Joan of Arc parishioners, embarked on a groundbreaking initiative known as the "Community Action Poverty Simulation." The aim was to educate and engage younger participants from the local community and St. Joan of Arc Church in San Ramon. This immersive experience occurred on Saturday, June 24th, from 8 am to 2 pm.

Unlike a game, the simulation was designed to give participants a glimpse into the structural barriers and the personal and emotional repercussions experienced by impoverished individuals. The ultimate goal was to shift our perception of poverty from being seen as a personal failure to recognizing it as a systemic failure within society.

On June 24th, the simulation welcomed 60 participants, who became the 26 families facing poverty. Each participant was assigned a role, such as a newly unemployed individual, a family dealing with the departure of a spouse, a homeless person, a recipient of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), a senior citizen receiving retirement or pensions, or a grandparent raising their grandchildren. Their task was to immerse themselves in the experience of living as a

family in need, striving to provide for their necessities and maintain shelter during four 15-minute weeks.

Many St. Vincent de Paul Conference members played a vital role as the "staff" for the simulation, facilitating the roles of providers and services. In these challenging economic times, millions of people are grappling with poverty and struggling to meet their basic needs. Vincentians and community members profoundly understood people's hardships by participating in this poverty simulation. This enhanced understanding equips us to assist better those in need with essentials such as food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare.

The Vincentians of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County remain the Safety net of the Safety net dedicated to serving the most vulnerable members of our community. In Contra Costa County alone, thousands of residents are forced to go without fundamental necessities like food, shelter, medical care, and clothing on a daily basis. Annually, we assist over 100,000 individuals in Contra Costa County through various programs and services. These initiatives include operating 18 food pantries, offering medical and dental care for the uninsured, providing rental and housing assistance, operating thrift stores, job training and employment opportunities for those facing barriers, and much more.

