



**January 2024**

Vincentian **Wisdom**  
Quotes • Charism



### **Meeting**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, 1/16, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM  
Family Resource Center, Pittsburg

### **Training**

Spiritual Advisor Training  
Friday, January 26, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM  
St. Perpetua Parish Hall, Lafayette

### **Retreat**

Spiritual Retreat  
Saturday, January 27  
9:00 AM-Noon  
St. Perpetua Parish Hall, Lafayette

### **Event**

Ash Wednesday  
Wednesday, February, 14  
Global

### **Meeting**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, 2/20, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM  
Family Resource Center, Pittsburg

### **Training**

Ozanam Orientation  
Presented in English & Spanish  
Saturday, February 24,  
8:00 AM-3:30 PM  
St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito

### **Training**

Home Visit Workshop  
Wed., March 6, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM  
St. Joseph, Pinole

## **Bob Liles Corner**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

I want to thank you for all that you did last year to help our neighbors in need. I don't want you to measure your success by how many pounds of food you handed out or how much money you spent on rent or utilities. While those are great things to do maybe you can count how many times you gave a smile or a kind word to someone.

*How many times were you busy taking care of some personal business, but you stopped what you were doing to help someone?*

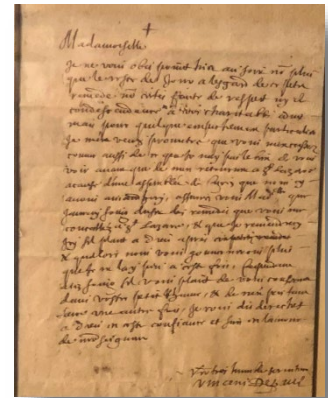
We know that we are not going to end poverty in our lifetime and some people are going to lead very hard lives due to the choices that they make or by things that are out of their control. But we also don't know how much a smile or kind word might have moved someone a little more down the road towards getting their life back on track. I am always surprised when I meet someone that I haven't seen in years and they mention some little thing that I did for them that I don't even remember doing and they remark how much it influenced them later in life.

So, let's continue to do Holy Moments as described by Matthew Kelly in his book of the same name and put the rest in God's hands. Because we certainly don't want to find out on judgement day that more people were affected by our poor behavior than when we demonstrated a little kindness.

**BOB**

## 3.12 FORMATION OF MEMBERS

It is essential that the Society continually promote the formation and training of its members and Officers, in order to deepen their knowledge of the Society and their spirituality, improve the sensitivity, quality and efficiency of their service to the poor and help them be aware of the benefits, resources and opportunities that are available for the poor. The Society also offers members higher training in order to better help to raise the cultural and social level of those who request this support.



(Rule in formation) by Vincent de Paul

## MONDAY SVdP CONTEMPLATION

Are you getting the National's SVdP contemplation every Monday morning? It is very short but powerful. Here is the one for 12/18/23 that it directed right at you. I know I expressed those same comments when I was asked to consider being president. And remember *the guy who writes these, Tim Williams, will be here in January. Don't miss a chance to hear him.*



## CONTEMPLATION: WILL AND GRACE

The word vocation, as we know, is from the Latin *vocāre*, meaning “to call. A vocation, then, such as our Vincentian vocation, is a calling, specifically a call from God. If you have heard the call, it is for you. What matters most to our own salvation, then, is not the call, but our answer to it.

God's call can come to us in many forms — a nagging feeling that we cannot shake, a pang in our conscience, an event in our lives that seems to hold deeper meaning, or a person who raises new ideas. It is in times of reflection and prayer that we may feel most attuned to God's voice, but His call is not bound by our attention to it. If you hear His call, it is for you.

Nevertheless, even having heard the call, we often question our fitness to answer it. “Am I holy enough?” we wonder, when asked to consider serving as a spiritual advisor. “Am I really a leader?” we wonder when the nominating committee asks to consider us as a future president. “Do I have the compassion, or the knowledge, to be a home visitor?” we wonder, especially as new members.

If you hear His call, it is for you, and if He has called you, He will give you the graces you will need to fulfill His will. With our friends, we can offer all the well-considered reasons why we cannot do things; we can list out our other obligations, our shortcomings, or our self-doubts. All these things may be reasonable and true, and they may be quite convincing to our friends, but God already knew all of those things before calling.

### **Yet He called, and we heard Him.**

When Gabriel appeared before a young girl in Nazareth to tell her she would bear a child by the power of the Holy Spirit, he was asking her to do some very difficult things. She might believe she was carrying the Son of God, but who in her community would see it that way? What would her betrothed think? Was she capable of raising a child in those circumstances? How could she even be sure she could provide food and shelter for the two of them?

But the angel, in his greeting “Hail Mary full of grace,” made clear that God had already given her all the gifts, all the graces, all the ability to fulfill His will, and so, in her humble obedience, she answered “yes” to His call. We, like Mary, are called only to those things that God wills for us. He knows what we can do, even if we don’t, and we can take the same reassurance as the angel offered to her, to not be afraid, for the Lord is with us. He has given us sufficient grace. And God’s will does not remove His grace.

### **Contemplate**

Am I sometimes hesitant to answer God’s call because I doubt my gifts?

**Recommended Reading:** *Faces of Holiness* by Fr Robert Maloney

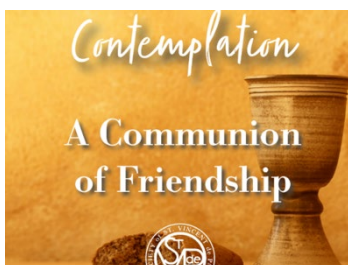
If you want to start getting Contemplation delivered every week, click on this link and register <https://ssvpusha.org/vincentians/contemplation-will-and-grace/>

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

**One of the following (Click, or they can be found on the SVDPUSA Website)**



**Contemplation: Abundance**



**Contemplation: A Communion of Friendship**



**Contemplation: Gifted**



# Spiritual Advisor Training

January 26, 2024

Led by Tim Williams, SVdP's National Vincentian Formation Director, this event will take place in the beautiful Parish Hall and grounds of St. Perpetua Catholic Church in Lafayette, CA.

**Breakfast 8:30 AM**

**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**Our Training**, an exclusive Spiritual Advisor Training session, is designed for existing Conference and Council Spiritual Advisors of Contra Costa and Alameda Counties **as well as those considering stepping into this most-important servant leadership role. *If your Conference currently needs a Spiritual Advisor, don't fret. Reach out to your District Council Spirituality and Formation Committee, as there are limited spaces available per Council.***

St. Perpetua Parish Hall, 3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, California 94549

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

To Register click here or go to

<https://bit.ly/SVdPSATraining>



# A Morning of Reflection on Our Three Essential Elements



January 27, 2024

Our Morning of Reflection will take place in the beautiful Parish Hall and grounds of St. Perpetua Catholic Church in Lafayette, CA. We will be guided on this Vincentian journey by Tim Williams, SVdP's National Vincentian Formation Director

**Breakfast 8:30 AM**

**9:00 AM - Noon**

**The Event, 'A Time of Reflection and Reconnection.'**

This half-day retreat is tailor-made for Vincentian members from both Counties. The best part? It's open to all Vincentians in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Tim Williams stated it will be a morning dedicated to “Our Three Essential Elements: How do they guide us? Where do they lead us? What makes them “essential”?”

St. Perpetua Parish Hall, 3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, California 94549

To Register click here or go to

<https://bit.ly/SVdPMorningofReflection>



## **RESOURCE FOR VINCENTIANS** **EVERY TUESDAY AT 10:00 AM**

**Where: Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Each Tuesday, a moderator from a local SVDP Conference hosts a forum where we can all come together, Vincentian to Vincentian. It's a platform where questions are welcomed and answers are sought. Whether you're an experienced home visitor, a dedicated Board Member, a member of the Hope Committee, or a past or current President, you'll find value in these discussions.

Our recent discussions have covered various topics, including the Hope Conference, Grants, Home Visits, Available Resources, and how Vincentians and Conferences can make the most of Barb Hunt's fundraising expertise. We've explored questions like, "Why is home visitation so important?" and "Why must we go to them? Wouldn't asking them to come to us be easier and more efficient?"

We understand that many subjects fall under the umbrella of Vincentian service. Whether you need a resource, have questions about spirituality, want to discuss the Season of Sharing, or want to connect with fellow Vincentians, this forum is for you. You may come with questions, and you may leave with answers. Or, you may be the answer for someone else.

Join us in this meaningful journey of exploration and sharing. Your presence and your voice matter as we continue our mission of service.

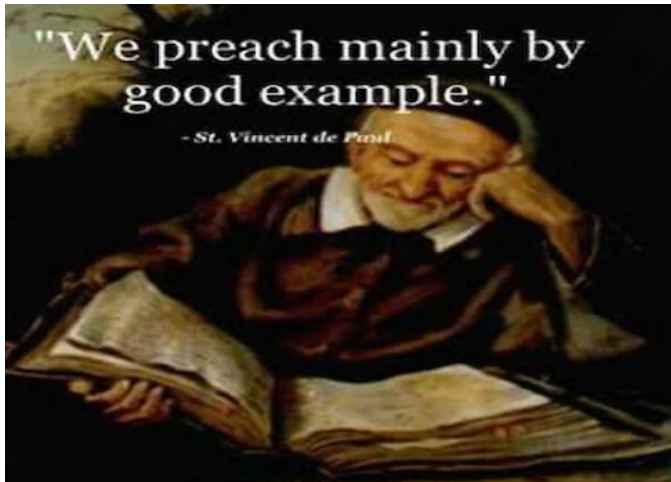
***Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM. Come by with a Question, or just come by –  
We may have the Answer, or You May Be the Answer for Someone.***

**<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>**

**Meeting ID: 925 439 5060**

**Passcode: Ozanam**

# PLEASE JOIN US – UNASE A NOSOTROS



FOR AN  
OZANAM ORIENTATION...  
“PRESENTED IN ENGLISH”  
HOW CAN WE ANSWER THE  
CALL TO SEE THE FACE OF  
CHRIST IN ALL PEOPLE?



Para una  
ORIENTACIÓN DE OZANAM...  
"PRESENTADO EN ESPAÑOL"  
¿CÓMO PODEMOS RESPONDER  
AL LLAMADO DE VER EL  
ROSTRO DE CRISTO EN TODAS  
LAS PERSONAS?

## FEBRUARY 24, 2024

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

11150 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530

8:00 AM Breakfast & Registration

Orientation will be from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

SE OFRECERA DESAYUNO Y ALMUERZO CONTINENTAL  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**  
**HACER CLIC AQUI PARA REGISTRARSE**

Or

<https://bit.ly/OzanamFeb24>