



April 2024

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 4/16, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM
Family Resource Center, Pittsburg

Feast

Ozanam Sunday
Sunday 4/28
All Conferences

West Region Meeting

Thurs-Sat, 5/16-5/18
All Day
Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 5/21, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM
Family Resource Center, Pittsburg

National Board of Directors Meeting

Friday – Saturday 5/31-6/1
All Day
Embassy Suites, Walnut Creek, CA

SAVE THE DATE

60th Anniversary
St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County
Friday, 6/28
St. Perpetua Catholic Church
Mass: 5 p.m.
Celebration Awards/Dinner: 6 p.m.

Bob Liles Corner

Update - SVdP-CC home page has been changed.

This changed it so that if someone wants to know which conference to contact for help, they can use a map to find it and then get a lot of information about how that conference can help them.

On the home page where it says click here to contact your local SVdP Branch, it now takes you to this webpage. <http://www.svdpc.org/conference-locations-services/>

That webpage lists non SVdP resources that may help our neighbors in need and then this gives this link, <https://oakdiocese.org/parish-boundaries>, which gives a map of Contra Costa County with all of the parish boundaries clearly defined.

From there a person can click on the next link [SVdP Conference list by parish with services](#), which tells them which conference supports each parish and the conference contact information.

This becomes helpful when a person says that they live in a city, e.g. Concord, which has three different conferences serving it. And when they say that they live in a town, e.g., Crockett, where the parish doesn't have a SVdP conference, but an adjacent conference serves that area.

Update Cont.

The master spreadsheet is in the Dropbox/Council Documents/District Council Meetings. While the new webpage still refers to Conference by City, my intention is to get rid of that document eventually. All updates to conference contact information and pantry hours should be made to the SVdP Conference list by parish with services.xlsx, then converted to a .pdf file and uploaded onto our website. Please note that some conferences requested that the form specifically state that they do not offer a certain service, e.g., help with rent. In that case, direct the neighbor in need to other organizations. Unfortunately, we must accept that we do not have enough money or volunteers to help everyone in need.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Bob

An Invitation to Serve

By Kathy Dasso, President, St. John Vianney Conference

Recruiting new members may seem scary and daunting, but it was simple and successful, thanks to the help of the District Council and Vincentian Support Services. We recently recognized that our conference needed more members to meet the growing needs of the neighbors we serve. So, I called Vincentian Support, and they told me about the materials they have put together for conferences for those who would like to host an Invitation to Serve (posted on the SVDP-CC website in the members dropdown). Stephen offered to give a presentation to our parish after all the Masses and suggested several weekend dates when he would be available to help.



Vincentian Support Services forwarded the package of materials, which included a draft speech, sample bulletin announcement, sign-up sheets, an agenda for the information session, and an intake form for interested parishioners to complete during the session, which would be held a day or two later.

The rest was simple: we ran the dates by our Pastor and Office Manager, and they confirmed what weekend would work for our parish. We then used the sample bulletin to announce the Invitation to Serve in our parish bulletin. We coordinated volunteers to greet parishioners at a table in the Vestibule after the Masses to answer their questions about our ministry and to sign them up for an information session, which we scheduled for the following evening.

I often tell people that God equips us to do His work and provides for us what we need when we need it. And this certainly was true for us during our Invitation to Serve. Over forty interested parishioners signed up to hear more about our ministry! Not everyone could attend the information session we held the next evening, so we are now setting up a second information session. We have been amazed at the incredible response to Stephen's heartwarming speech and our parishioners' tremendous interest in the St. Vincent de Paul ministry.

I thank God we have such talented and special people working at the district level to support the conferences. They are always willing to help with a smile and a well-thought-out plan. So, if your conference needs additional volunteers, I highly recommend contacting Vincentian Support Services for advice and assistance. **God will equip you, too, to do His work.**

Kathy

Editor's note: For over a dozen documents that are helpful for preparing an Invitation to Serve at your parish, please go to the Members/Conference Operation section of www.svdpc-cc.org.



The Rule 3.15 Communication

The vitality of the Society's network of charity depends on the regular and rapid exchange of news and information. Such communication broadens the members' horizons and enhances the interest of members in the experiences and challenges of their brothers and sisters throughout the world. The Vincentian response to communication is a willingness to learn and a desire to help.

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Opening Prayer

We should always include a prayer to the Holy Spirit, the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and a prayer for those whose suffering they wish to share. More information on how to conduct a meeting can be found in the conference president's training section in the Members/Conference Operation section on www.svdp-cc.org



AUTO DONATION PROGRAM

We want cars running or not. **Good cars we give to people in need of a car.** If they are not running we can still get money for them. Call the Pittsburg office at (925) 439-5060 and ask to speak with our Transportation and Facilities Manager, Bonnie Casey. Do you know a neighbor in need that needs a car? The form is on our website (www.svdp-cc.org). Go to the Members/Assistance Applications page and scroll down to the bottom for the form.



St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County
Car Donation Program Helps Mother in ...



1ST TUESDAY- FRED TALKS

“Our Timeless Home Visits.”

Discover Fred Talks: concise, insightful videos on Vincentian Heritage, Traditions, and Spirituality, each under five minutes! Share this with your conference members or parishioners curious about St. Vincent de Paul.

Produced by Tim Williams, National Vincentian Formation Director, the latest edition, **Our First Talk: "Our Timeless Home Visit,"** emphasizes the enduring importance of Home Visits, even amid challenges like the pandemic.

These sessions are part of our ongoing initiative to foster Vincentian dialogue and connection. Every Tuesday, a moderator from a local SVDP Conference leads a forum where Vincentians from all walks of life can come together, share their experiences, seek answers to questions, and find valuable insights. It is a platform where your questions are welcomed, and we seek answers together.

Who should attend? The answer is simple: everyone. Whether you're an experienced home visitor, a dedicated Board Member, a member of the Hope Conference, or a past or current President of your Conference, you will find tremendous value in these discussions.

Join us every Tuesday at 10:00 AM. Come with questions or to listen. Your voice matters as we continue serving those in need.

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



St. Vincent de Paul hosts the Healthy Contra Costa & East Contra Costa Community Alliance: 2024 Policy Institute By Jillian De La Torre

HCC and ECCCA are happy to announce the successful conclusion of our inaugural Policy Institute for East Contra Costa County residents! Over the last five weeks, the HCC team, staff members from participating ECCCA organizations, and resident advocates have been convening every Thursday night in Pittsburg to learn practical, on-the-ground skills, empowering participants to take on advocacy efforts in their own neighborhoods and communities.



Over the last two years, HCC conducted six listening sessions and two reflection sessions with East County residents. The listening sessions were focused on facilitating discussion among the community to better understand the issues they experience firsthand - these include a lack of access to basic needs such as healthcare, clean air, safe communities, and more.

Over fifty residents participated in the listening sessions! Following the listening sessions, HCC staff categorized community responses and organized this data; this was brought back to the residents during follow-up reflection sessions to ensure that the data accurately represented their experiences. At these reflection sessions, residents were asked to identify priority areas. The top priority action areas that emerged were: 1. income stabilization, and 2. food security.

The HCC team then got to work building a Policy Institute curriculum that engages residents in learning advocacy tactics, community-building strategies, and campaign planning, with the goal of helping residents hone their skills to organize around the two action areas. Over the course of the Policy Institute, twenty-five East County residents and fifteen partners from community-based organizations came together at the community dining room at St. Vincent de Paul in Pittsburg to learn and grow together. HCC is looking forward to continuing to work in collaboration with ECCCA to support the ongoing advocacy work of our Policy Institute graduates.

2024 WEST REGIONAL MEETING – May 16 - 19, 2024

Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento



SAVE THE DATE!

2024 West Region Meeting

Hosted by

Sacramento Diocesan Council

May 16-18

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento, CA 95815

Guest Speakers

John Berry, National Council President

Fr. Patrick McDevitt, C.M.

Disaster Preparedness Workshop



Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento is approximately 12 miles from Sacramento International Airport (SMF). Transportation to and from the airport is available through Taxi, Uber, or Lyft. Self Parking is available at the Doubletree Hilton Sacramento at a rate of \$10 per day. **Overnight accommodations** are available at a rate of \$ per night, plus tax. To book your guest room, go to: *(Please check back, booking link coming soon)*

Southwest Airlines is pleased to offer discounted fares to 2024 SVdP West Region Meeting attendees. To utilize the discount, book via SWABIZ using Company ID 99311682.

The discount is valid for travel from 5/14/2024 to 5/21/2024.



2024 PHOENIX NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

August 14 - 17, 2024

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel

340 North 3rd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 412-6498

Overnight guest rooms are available at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel; the guest room rate is \$159 per room per night, plus taxes. To book a room at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown, you can use this booking link <https://book.passkey.com/e/50619219>. Once you've completed your registration, you will automatically be directed to the Sheraton Phoenix booking page.

The Sheraton Phoenix is located in Downtown Phoenix, just 3.8 miles from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). Transportation is available from the airport to the Sheraton Phoenix via taxi, Uber, Lyft, or [Phoenix Lightrail System](#)

Southwest Airlines is pleased to offer 2024 Phoenix National Assembly attendees discounted fares. To utilize the discount, book via [SWABIZ](#) using Company ID 99114153. The discount is valid for travel from 8/10/2024 to 8/20/2024. National Council Staff, please contact Michele Schurk for the [Employee Booking Link](#).

2024

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



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

An Agenda

- RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul
- Oasis - Winter Nights Day Shelter - Families with their kids.
- Workforce Development Program
- Dentist on Wheels Pittsburg Free Dental Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul
- Free Dining Room, operated in partnership with Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa
- Emergency Food Pantry and our Referral System
- Thrift Store & Warehouse provides free clothing and low-cost furniture to the homeless, acting as the primary worksite for our Workforce Development Program.
- HOPE - Housing, Utility Assistance, Car Repair (provided \$1,015,290. +/- FY 2021-22) through the conferences 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 the Family Resource Center or host your Conference Meeting here, please get in touch with Stephen Krank, Vincentian Support. 925-439-5060 or s.krank@svdpc-cc.org