



June 2024

Feast

Feast of the Sacred Heart
6/7 All Day

Meeting

BOD Meeting
Family Resource Center
6/11 9:30-11:30 AM

Meeting

District Council Meeting
Zoom
6/15 9:30-11:30 AM

Event

60th Anniversary
Mass & Dinner
6/28, 6 PM-10 PM
St. Isidore, Danville

Training

Ozanam Orientation
St. Anthony, Oakley
7/6 9:15 AM-3:45 PM

Meeting

BOD Meeting
Family Resource Center
7/16 9:30-11:30 AM

National Assembly

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown
Phoenix, AZ
8/14-8/17
All Day - Each Day

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Bob Liles Corner

TEST FOR ALL VINCENTIANS

(answers at the end of this newsletter)

1. Where can you find the dates of upcoming training sessions, whether it be Ozanam Orientation, Home Visits or officer training?
2. Where can you find the financial status of the Hope Conference and their application?
3. You stopped doing home visits when the pandemic started. You want to start doing them again, but want to review the process. Where can you find information on home visits?
4. Something came up at one of your conference meetings and you remember it being addressed in the December Vetera Monimenta. Where can you find that issue?
5. You are just curious about the Society's policy on a certain issue. Where can you potentially find the answer?
6. Someone needs help with their PG&E bill. Where can you find out how to help them?
7. Lent is coming up and you remember that there is a Vincentian way to do the Stations of the Cross. Where can you find it?
8. It's the feast day of one of the patron saints of the Society. Where can you find more information on that person?
9. A neighbor in need has asked for help that the Society does not have expertise in. Where can you find another organization that can help that person?

Cont. (at the end of this newsletter)

We Live in Extraordinary Times

By Monica Perez, Thrift Store Area Manager and Workforce Development Coordinator

We live in extraordinary times and face overwhelming or insurmountable challenges. Every day, I see and hear about the dedicated efforts of the hundreds of Vincentians and local volunteers working around the county. Our volunteers are at the forefront of our organization, responding to problems big and small within our community. However, as the heartbeat of our community, our thrift stores rely on dedicated volunteers like you. Your commitment connects us to our neighbors and fuels our mission to serve efficiently. Volunteering matters and it directly impacts our stores' effectiveness.

Volunteers like you are the gear that keeps our thrift stores running smoothly. By giving your time, you enhance our efficiency in countless ways. As the front line of our community, you bridge gaps, listen to stories, and create lasting connections. Your presence matters. We understand that everyone has different schedules; whether you can volunteer a few hours each week or a month or join us for special events, your contribution matters. Every hour you spend volunteering at one of the stores impacts the lives of those in need, from single parents searching for affordable clothing to seniors seeking comfort in a cozy sweater. Your contribution matters.

We're not just a thrift store but a family united by purpose. Together, we make a difference. Please consider this opportunity to make a positive impact at our thrift stores. To get involved, complete the volunteer application at one of our locations: Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, or Brentwood. You can also contact the Family Resource Center at 925-439-5060 for more information. Remember, your compassion can turn into action by volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores. We look forward to having you on our team.

Monica

“Our volunteers are at the forefront of our organization.”



Why We Volunteer at the Thrift Store

By Donna & Randy Trana



We volunteer at the Pittsburg Thrift Store for a simple reason: having been blessed with early retirement, we want to express our gratitude by giving back. Our work at the store keeps us personally connected and engaged with the services provided by SVdP.

Something is always to be done at the store, from repairing a door handle to organizing shoes. We see ourselves as "steady, behind-the-scenes" helpers, tackling various tasks so the employees can focus on immediate needs like assisting customers, accepting donations, and cashiering.

After volunteering for over seven years, we've enjoyed witnessing steady improvements in processes and sales and getting to know the employees and our regular customers.

Donna and Randy Trana

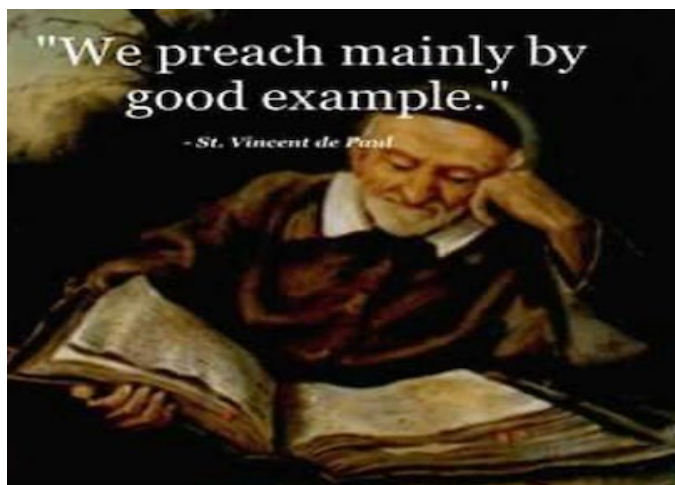
AUTO DONATION PROGRAM

We want cars running or not. We give good cars 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.



Do you know a neighbor in need who needs a car? The form is on our website (www.svdpc.org) Go to the Members/Assistance Applications page and scroll down to the bottom for the form.

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?

July 6, 2024 - 9:30 AM to 3:45 PM

St. Anthony Catholic Church, Padua Hall,
971 O'Hara Ave, Oakley, CA 94561

Mass at 8:30 am, registration and light breakfast after Mass. Misa a las 8:30 am y registraci3n y un desayuno liviano despu3s de la Misa.

Orientation will be from 9:30 AM to 3:45 PM

SE OFRECERA DESAYUNO CONTINENTAL Y ALMUERZO
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED

CLICK ON THE LINK TO REGISTER
HACER CLIC EN EL ENLACE PARA REGISTRASE

<https://bit.ly/OzanamJuly6>

When is your conference visiting the District Council office and Family Resource Center?

By Vincentian Support Services

“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 to
- Three Thrift Stores & 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 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 the Family Resource Center or host your Conference Meeting here, please contact Stephen Krank, Vincentian Support. 925-439-5060 or s.krank@svdpc-cc.org



1ST TUESDAY- FRED TALKS

“That Kind of Person”

Discover Fred Talks: concise, insightful videos on Vincentian Heritage, Traditions, and Spirituality, each under five minutes! Share this with your conference members or parishioners who are curious about St. Vincent de Paul. Produced by Tim Williams, National Vincentian Formation Director, the latest edition,
Our Fred Talk “That Kind of Person”

We are called not to judge the neighbor, but sometimes that seems challenging.

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

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

By Bob Liles



Reviewing meeting minutes should take ten seconds, but it drags on too long at some conferences and causes frustration. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we must take minutes and store them in an accessible location if something happens to the secretary. It is best to email the minutes to everyone before the meeting. If the secretary doesn't have time to type up the minutes, a photo of their handwritten notes can be sent to all members. This should be done as soon as possible after the meeting, not the day before the next meeting.

Minutes serve to document what happened, record any motions passed, and inform Vincentians who could not attend. For example, if your conference changes its policy on how much a home visit team is authorized to spend, everyone must be informed immediately.

PLEASE NOTE: A formal vote does not have to be taken to approve the minutes, as it wastes time. According to Robert's Rules of Order, the proper procedure is:

1. The president says: “The minutes have been distributed. Are there any corrections to the minutes?”
2. Do not wait for everyone to read the minutes during the meeting; they should have read them beforehand.
3. If no one offers corrections, the president says: “The minutes stand approved as distributed.”
4. If there are corrections, a motion must be made, seconded, and passed by consensus.
5. If corrections are approved, they are added to the minutes.
6. The president then asks: “Are there any further corrections?”
7. If there are no further corrections, the president says: “The minutes stand approved as corrected.”

Our Members Website Has Been Reorganized

The Conference Operation webpage was getting too big so it was split into eight webpages. They are all reached by first going to Conference Operation. But now if you want to access something in the Miscellaneous section you do not need to scroll down for half an hour in order to reach it.

THE RULE 4.1.1 - Prayer as the basis of friendship

By The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Twinning promotes spirituality, deep friendship, solidarity and mutual help. Funds and other material resources can be provided to enable a Conference or Council to help local families. Financial, technical, medical and educational support is given to projects which are suggested by the Society locally and which encourage self-sufficiency. Even more important is support given through prayer, as well as through mutual communication regarding what has been accomplished and what is happening among Vincentians in each area, including news about persons and families.

“Even more important is support given through prayer...”



The 2024 60th Anniversary & Top Hat Recognition Event

On June 28, 2024, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County will celebrate our 60th Anniversary of Vincentians serving our neighbors in need in Contra Costa County. At this event, we will host a Vincentian Recognition Ceremony honoring Vincentians and Volunteers for their contributions to our Conferences, neighbors in need, and our Society in Contra Costa. Our Anniversary event will start with a Mass at 6:00 PM at St. Isidore Catholic Church, Danville, presided by The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ. This special evening will recognize our 60 years of St. Vincent de Paul service in Contra Costa County and acknowledge the dedication of our Vincentians, Volunteers, and supporters. We will award our highest honor, Top Hat Award, and other special Vincentian recognition awards. [Click here to register for this event!](#)

We will honor Vincentian and Volunteer contributions to the Society. As such, we request you nominate a Vincentian(s) and volunteer(s) from your Conference for recognition. Please identify Vincentians or volunteers who are examples in one way or another of your work and service to our neighbors in need. We have identified some awards and nomination guidelines on the following pages for your Conference to review. Please submit your Conference nominations to me by June 10, 2024 at c.ramirez@svdp-cc.org.

Second, we are accepting nominations for the **Top Hat Award**. The Top Hat award is the pinnacle of recognition for Vincentians. Its name is based on the book *Apostle in a Top Hat*, which chronicles the life of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. It is bestowed upon those Vincentians who exemplify Bl. Frederic's dedication, zeal, and living the Vincentian Charism. Please complete the nomination form if you know of any Vincentian who is deserving of such recognition.

Please feel free to contact Claudia Ramirez, chair of the 60th Anniversary and Top Hat Committee, at c.ramirez@svdp-cc.org if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our Society and our mission. **Check with your Conference President for the Award applications or Click Here for a link to the Awards List and Application [SVDP-TOPHAT-2024](#)**



60th Anniversary SPECIAL Vincentian Recognition Awards

Blessed Rosalie Rendu Award

Blessed Rosalie Rendu—Zeal for the Poor Award is dedicated to any Vincentian who drives them past meeting the basic needs, including education, care for infants and the elderly, and the organization of works of Charity.

St. Louise de Marillac Award

St. Louise de Marillac—St. Vincent de Paul became her Spiritual Director. Later, Louise co-founded The Daughters of Charity. The Award recognizes Vincentians in the role of spiritual advisor who exemplify their charism and dedication to the spiritual growth of society.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Award

St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton – Foundress and first superior of the Sisters of Charity in the United States. Dedicated to Vincentians who overcome obstacles in service to our neighbors we serve.

Award Guidelines

- (1) *No more than two (2) Blessed Rosalie Rendu Awards presented in any calendar year.*
- (2) *No more than two (2) St. Louise De Marillac Awards presented in any calendar year.*
- (3) *No more than (4) four St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Awards presented in any calendar year*

A 60th Anniversary & Recognition Event Committee approved by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County's Executive Board will consider all nominations for Award Recognition. **Application for Recognition of any Vincentian(s) must be completed by submission of a letter of recommendation to the District Council.** Any letters of recommendation for Recognition by the District Council can be submitted in writing to Claudia Ramirez, Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, via US Postal Service, fax or email c.ramirez@svdp-cc.org by June 10, 2024.

2024 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

August 14-17, 2024

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel

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

Click [HERE](#) for the Agenda and Registration

The SVdP CCC board has approved scholarships for first-time attendees. Please contact Stephen Krank at s.krank@svdp-cc.org for details and requirements.



Overnight guest rooms are available at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel for \$159 per room per night, plus taxes. To book a room, please use this booking link (<https://book.passkey.com/e/50619219>). After completing your registration, you will be automatically directed to the Sheraton Phoenix booking page.

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

Southwest Airlines is offering discounted fares for 2024 Phoenix National Assembly attendees. Book through [SWABIZ](#) using Company ID 99114153 to take advantage of the discount. The discount is valid for travel from August 10, 2024, to August 20, 2024.



Dear Vincentian Family,

Over the last six months, you have likely heard and read about the launch of VisionSVdP, our “family conversation” that will occur over the next two years as we answer the call in our Rule to “Adapt to a Changing World.”

I first mentioned this in my remarks after my Installation as National President last year in St. Louis. I have also written about it often in the e-Gazette Servant Leader column and elsewhere. VisionSVdP will officially kick off at the Midyear Meeting in St. Louis on March 13 – 16, so I wanted to provide some information and detail on what is ahead. There will also be more in next week’s e-gazette.

The question that is probably first in many people’s minds is **“What is VisionSVdP?”**

Let me start by telling you what it is NOT. It’s not a program, a strategic plan process, a reorganization, a fundraising campaign, or a make-work effort for already burdened Vincentians trying to serve people in need.

Well then... what IS IT, you ask? Well, it’s a conversation. That’s right, it’s a conversation. A Synodal (from the Greek for Journeying Together) conversation about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. What’s good about it? What’s not so good about it? What are we doing right? What might we be doing better? What are we doing that we don’t need to be? What aren’t we doing that we should be doing? What’s enriching your spiritual life as a Vincentian? What’s stressing your spiritual life as a Vincentian? Why are we getting older and greyer despite trying to bring young people into our membership? Why can’t we move the needle on increasing diversity despite years of trying? Why are we still using pen and paper to complete casework forms when our grandkids use tablets to do their homework in first grade??

Get it? This conversation will be guided by, blessed, and *driven by God through the Holy Spirit*. The next question on your mind is probably, “Why are we doing this?” There are a lot of reasons!

As mentioned above, The Rule, written in 1836, calls us periodically to “Adapt to a Changing World.” In Part I, 1.6, The Rule says: “Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. It seeks to be aware of the changes in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. It gives priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society.”

The last few decades in the United States (and the world) have brought changing conditions that demand we look at how we must adapt and renew. Those changes were accelerated and exacerbated by the pandemic and the economic challenges faced here and abroad. We must look at Society in the light of the reality of today and tomorrow — and we must change where change is called for.

Finally, how are we going to do this? We will do it by talking, listening, respecting every person's view, and planning how we move forward. We are going to talk for a *long time*. We will talk for at least a year at every level in the Society — because **EVERY VOICE MATTERS**.

At the Midyear Meeting, we will hold Listening Breakout sessions. These are exactly what they are called — **LISTENING** Sessions. We will all listen to each other because **EVERY VOICE MATTERS**. We will hold Listening Sessions at the Regional Meeting — because **EVERY VOICE MATTERS**. And then every Council, Conference, Thrift Store, Food Pantry, and Special Work in Society will hold Listening Sessions — because **EVERY VOICE MATTERS**.

And then we're going to assimilate it and talk about it. But that's next year's work. This year we're gonna talk — a lot!

Every Voice Matters!

Peace and God's Blessings,
John Berry, National President

(This letter was adapted to fit the space)

Bob Liles Corner Cont.

TEST FOR ALL VINCENTIANS – ANSWERS BELOW

If you answered any question with “call Steve Krank,” you get a zero and are banned from ever calling him.

Everything can be found on the District Council's website: www.svdp-cc.org in the “Member” section.

- 1) The first item in the Member section is the Calendar
- 2) Go to the “Assistance Applications” section.
- 3) Go to the “Home Visit” section.
- 4) Go to the “Vetera Monumenta” section.
- 5) Scroll down in the “Members” page to “External Links” and click on “Questions & Answers”.
- 6) Go to the “PG&E” section.
- 7) Go to “Conference Operation”. It will be under “Spiritual Advisor Training”.
- 8) Go to “Tuesdays with St. Vincent”.
- 9) Go to “Help Offered by Other Organizations”.