



September 2024

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Calendar

Meeting

District Council Meeting

9/21/2024

White Pony Express

2470 Bates Ave., Concord

9:30-11:30 AM

Events

SVDP

Friends of the Poor Walks

9/21/24

Central-County

St. Agnes 9:00-11:00

9/28/2024

West-County

St. Callistus 10:00-12:00

South-County

St. Joan of Arc 9:00-12:00

Meeting

BOD Meeting

10/15/2024

9:30-11:30 AM

Training

Ozanam Orientation

St. John Vianney, Walnut Creek

10/19 9:15 AM-3:30 PM

Bob Liles Corner

Highlights of West Region Meeting

By Bob Liles

On May 17 and 18 about 130 Vincentians from the West Region met in Sacramento. While there were many workshops the main focus was the National President, John Berry, introducing his “Vision SVdP...Every Voice Matters” program. After a 75 minute talk the attendees split into groups of about six.

The groups went around their table and let each person say things that they liked about the Society and things that they would like changed. Everyone was told to just make a simple statement and not explain why they felt that way. One person at the table wrote down all of the comments. No one was allowed to speak until it was their turn, other than to ask the speaker to clarify what they were saying. John points out that the Rule says that the Society must change how it helps the poor as society itself changes.

Some things will never change, like the Society being a Catholic lay organization, but other things may change. At the June District Council meeting the presidents were trained on how to do this. Every conference should hold a listening session either at their conference meeting or at a special meeting. All of the results will be rolled up to National and, somehow, they are going to categorize them and decide where the Society will go from here. Each conference needs to scan in the written comments and email them to National and to Steve Krank.

They also need to mail the originals to National. Deadline is December, but please get it done before summer is over.

WR Highlights cont.

Here are my thoughts on this. About forty years ago my younger brother quit his job and announced that he had a calling to become a monk. After a year of visiting various monasteries across the country I asked him what his plan was. He said that he recently received a letter from an abbot of a community that he had visited. He had mailed the abbot a ten-page dissertation on how the monastery was no longer following all of the rules that the saint that founded it in the 13th century had written down. The abbot politely explained to my brother that it was no longer the 13th century and they firmly believe that if their patron saint was alive today that he would be happy with the changes that they have made. So change has to happen. On the other hand, some national organizations, like the Boy Scouts, have changed a lot of their foundational premises and are now spiraling down at an even faster pace. So changes must be made very carefully. You will get your chance to voice your thoughts at an upcoming conference meeting.

Here is link to the slides for all of the talks: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ctW9jn46-0WWtQryCcSeTdR-sMRN2GMo> *Click on it and peruse the titles. You might see something that interests you.*

The May West Region Meeting had a workshop that discussed various fundraising activities. To see the slides presented, go to the Members/Conference Operation/Impact Statements & Fundraising section of the DC website, www.svdpc-cc.org

Please note that you can only use the official logo of St. Vincent de Paul with either U.S.A. or Contra Costa County on it. Under no circumstances can you substitute your conference name. It is a trademark and National does not approve requests for conference names to be added to it. It also cannot be modified in any manner.



RULE 4.1.2 VINCENTIANS' PERSONAL COMMITMENT

The Society urges the Vincentians to consider undertaking a personal commitment for a particular period of time to work with Vincentians in other countries or to spread Conferences.

MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – Discussion of the Rule (Parts 1 and 3)

This has been recommended and followed by many Conferences after the spiritual reading and discussion. One or more Articles or Statutes of the Rule should be read, understood, and discussed by the members.

LENTEN PIGGY BANK DRIVE

By Pat and Dara Walsh - Discussed during the August 5th Special Works Training

St. Anthony Conference is blessed with a core group of Vincentians who work tirelessly to serve neighbors in need in our community. With both a robust food pantry and a group of Vincentians conducting home visits throughout the year, we do our best to leverage funding opportunities to support our mission. We are also blessed with an abundance of support from our parish. Our priest, Father Rafael Hinojosa, is a staunch supporter of our ministry and graciously provides us with funds by designating the 2nd collection every 5th Sunday of the month for our conference. In addition, our largest fundraiser is our annual Lenten Piggy Bank Drive. Here is how it works.

We purchased hundreds of piggy banks from a promotional company and had our logo and conference information imprinted on them. Our initial expense was over \$600. We number the piggies on their snouts with a permanent marker. The piggies look like this:



To kick off the event, we speak to our parishioners from the ambo during the announcements at every Mass the week before the beginning of Lent. We also publish an announcement in the bulletin and on our parish website. Then, on the first Sunday after Ash Wednesday, we hand out piggies after every Mass. We ask parishioners to print their names, phone numbers, and the number on the pig's snout on a form. To keep things moving, we use several clipboards so that we can hand out multiple piggies at the same time. We ask parishioners to return them at Easter.

On Easter, we stand outside the church and say, "Thank you!" as people return them. Most people forget. We also collect piggies the week after Easter. In addition, we build a locking pig pen and place it in the vestibule. People drop off piggies at their convenience, and we empty the pig pen daily.

In late May or early June, we hold a piggy party, where we empty the contents of the piggy banks into thick plastic bags provided to us by our bank. We then take the money to the bank. The bills and checks are deposited into our account at that time. The bank sends the coins to their main facility in San Francisco, where they are counted by machine for us. Since we are a 501(c)3, our bank provides these services free of charge. (It is helpful that one of our Vincentians is an assistant manager at the bank).

Last year, our gross proceeds totaled over \$16,000. We use these funds to provide food and emergency assistance to our neighbors in need. Our parish community embraces our ministry and is confident in us and our work. God is good! We are happy to serve.

If you want more information or help setting up your fundraiser, please call Dara and Pat Walsh at (760) 636-6569.

The May West Region meeting had a workshop that discussed various fundraising activities. To see the slides presented, go to the Members/Conference Operation/Impact Statements & Fundraising section of the DC website, www.svdpc-cc.org



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.svdp-cc.org)**

Go to the Members/Assistance Applications page and scroll down to the bottom for the form.



The Relic of St. Louise de Marillac (From SVDP- Contra Costa 60th Anniversary)

On the altar at the 60th Anniversary, Mass were relics of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. How appropriate to have them together, since in life they worked so closely together. The relic of St. Vincent is owned by a parishioner of St. Catherine's Church in Martinez. The one of St. Louise was donated to the District Council in April of this year by Vincentian Terry O'Meara. She received the small bone fragment from her mother, who received it from Bishop Glass around 1915. In 1897 Joseph S. Glass was ordained to the Vincentian Order (Congregation of the Mission). Later he became the president of St. Vincent's College in Los Angeles. Terry's mother was his cousin and his secretary at the college. The college was shut down in 1915 and at that time he was named the second bishop of Salt Lake City. He died in 1926, before Terry was born.

For more information about Bishop Glass click on these links:

<http://www.icatholic.org/article/the-bishops-of-salt-lake-city-joseph-s-glass-the-7815796>

<https://via.library.depaul.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1143&context=vhj>

<https://via.library.depaul.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1038&context=vhj>

<https://cdnc.ucr.edu/?a=d&d=LAH19150824.2.6&e=-----en--20--1--txt-txIN----->

There are a lot of fake relics. It is said that if every piece of wood that is claimed to be part of the cross that Christ died on was weighed, the cross would have weighed two tons. The relic of St. Vincent has papers of authenticity. The relic of St. Louise does not. Here are the church's guidelines for veneration of relics:

Ordinarily, a relic exposed for public veneration is authenticated by a cardinal or bishop or other delegated person. This appears to no longer be a strict requirement of canon law as it used to be, but it is still the case that the Church requires that relics publicly venerated be authentic, and authentication by some prelate is still the normal way of proceeding. By "authentic" is meant that, humanly speaking, the relic comes from credible sources. This does not mean there is strict certainty about the relic but only prudent, human confidence. In the veneration of very ancient relics, their antiquity and identity throughout time provides a credible witness.

Prior to the Mass Bishop Barber was shown the relic and was told that we had a handwritten letter by Bishop Glass which told Terry's mother to take good care of the relic. The Bishop said that was sufficient for him.

Here is short extract from an article on why Catholics venerate relics:

It's not uncommon for many people to honor the memory of their loved ones by keeping pictures of family around the house. Nor is it uncommon to keep cherished belongings of our deceased loved ones, like grandma's jewelry or grandpa's Bible. These belongings likely are treasured, and treated with honor and reverence. They're kept in safe and honorable places.

We should understand that relics are meant to be honored and venerated, not worshipped. In fact, the saints lead us to fuller worship of God in spirit and truth. By honoring their memories, bodies and belongings, we give thanks to God for the saint's holy witness. Relics are physical, tangible, concrete reminders that heaven is obtainable for us — so long as we recognize what made the saints holy and work to apply those qualities to our lives. When venerating relics we express gratitude to God for those members of our spiritual family. In the presence of the relics we recall their holy lives and we pray for the grace to achieve what they've achieved — eternity with God in Heaven.

For those wanting to know more about St. Louise de Marillac here is a link to the Tuesdays with Vincent YouTube page: <https://www.svdpc-cc.org/tuesdays-with-vincent/Sr. Paule Freeburg, DC> gives a wonderful talk about her and there are various documents that you can read to learn more about her.

Both relics are available for the conferences to use for special occasions at their parish.

Bob



Celebrating 60 Years of Service in Contra Costa

Our Service To Our Neighbors In Need Stands On The Shoulders Of Those Who Came Before Us...



Most Reverend Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, Celebrating Mass at St. Isidore



Our Top Hat Award is not an award for us as a Society; it is the highest honor of our gratitude for the opportunity to serve Christ.



Butch Tarava St. Callistus, El Sobrante

Rosalie Rendu Award

Almighty God, You inspired Sister Rosalie to spend her life in humble, loving service to poor and rich alike. Through her example and prayers, may we faithfully follow the path to which you have called us and one day join the saints in praising you forever. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

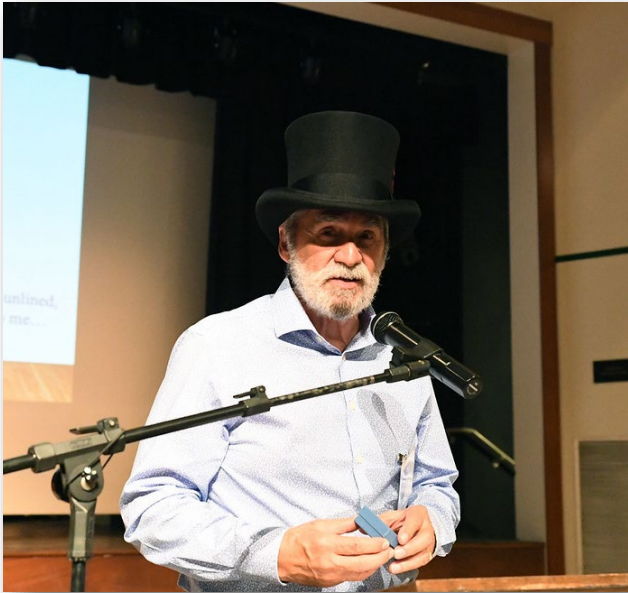
Blessed Rosalie Rendu



Patrick Walsh, St. Anthony, Oakley



The 2024 Top Hat Award Recipients



Stan Bochenek, St. Isidore, Danville

Many faces I have thought were you Jesus... Faces beaming with success...Demanding faces with eyebrows raised...Intensely strained and challenging faces... Faces daring glances asking that I do my very best for them...

Many faces I have thought were you Jesus... Caring faces, gentle kind and understanding... Faces that bear the marks of the years of giving... Comforting faces, soft, smiling, relaxed...Inviting me to trust and love the poor...



Carol Brazil and Bill Lujan,
St. Callistus, El Sobrante



Ron Costanzo, St. Bonaventure, Past President, Past District Council President, and current Board Member receiving his Top Hat from Claudia Ramirez, Executive Director, SVDP

Many faces I have thought were you Jesus...Smooth-skinned young faces whose expressions change in seconds with an array of emotion... Lined faces of those who hold wisdom close to the heart...Peaceful faces awaiting with expectancy, in hope and trust...



Bill Hurley, St. Joan of Arc, San Ramon

Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus... Tragic faces manifesting physical or emotional pain with head bent and eyes closed with pains unwritten statements... Yes, I thought it was you, in the sad faces with tears gently slipping down with hurt that knew no words...

Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus... All of them teaching me of life without words... All gifts to me, sealed in human wrappings- lined and unlined, smooth and rough, they are your face made visible to me...
Many faces I have thought were you Jesus... Each face manifesting you, proclaiming you in deep emotions. We revered these faces of our past, present, and the faces that will be in our tomorrow...



Frank & Monica Wnuk, St. Joan of Arc, San Ramon

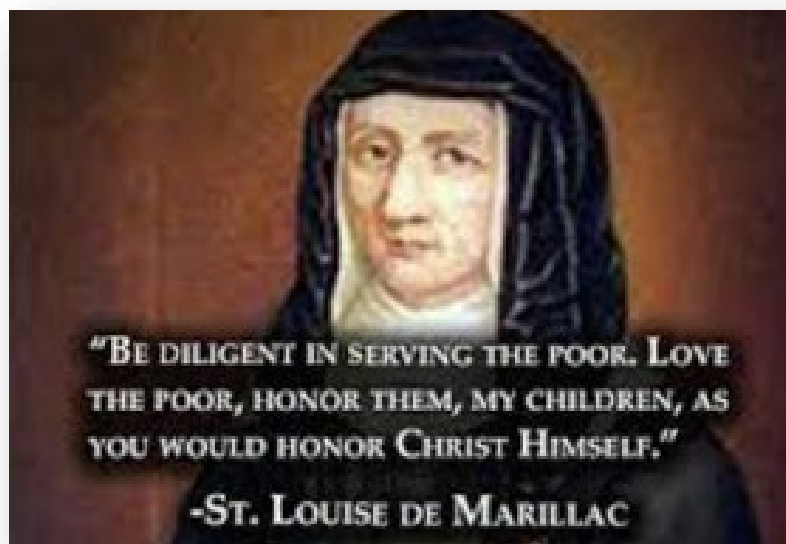
God, we find you in the human faces that surround our daily lives, for you are there. Help us to serve you in all the faces of the poor, and give us your grace so that we may be aware of your presence alive in our midst.



The 60th Anniversary was also a time to be with Vincentians and Friends, Family and Heroes ...



Karen Glen, District Council Spiritual Advisor and Treasurer and Past President St. Catherine of Siena receives the St. Louise de Marillac Award from Claudia Ramirez, Executive Director



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



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN OZANAM ORIENTATION
OCTOBER 19, 2024, 9:15AM – 3:30PM

ST. JOHN VIANNEY
1650 YGNACIO VALLEY RD. WALNUT CREEK
PARTICIPANTS ***MUST*** REGISTER BY OCT. 15, 2024
REGISTER AT: <https://bit.ly/OzanamOct19> OR SCAN



JOIN US FOR MASS AT 8:30, SIGN-IN AT 9:15
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH ARE INCLUDED
QUESTIONS? CALL JOYCE OHANESIAN AT 925-513-7124



RESOURCE FOR
VINCENTIANS
EVERY TUESDAY AT
10:00 AM
WHERE: ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

1ST TUESDAY- FRED TALKS

Our Vincentian Virtues – Zeal (Virtue II of VI)

Join us on this meaningful journey of exploration and sharing. Your presence and voice matter immensely as we continue our mission of service to those in need.

Remember, it's every Tuesday at 10:00 AM. You are welcome whether you come with a burning question or to listen. In this virtual gathering, we may have the answers you seek, or you may discover that you are the answer for someone else.

*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



EVERY VOICE MATTERS
VISION
SVdP

“We Don’t know...What We Don’t Know”

When is your conference to visit the District Council & Family Resource Center?



Some of the Vincentians and Volunteers who gave birth to VOTA
“What’s VOTA”? – you might be surprised

“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 - A Winter Nights Day Shelter for 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
- A referral program to Three Thrift Stores and a Warehouse that provide 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 #28 or

s.krank@svdp-cc.org