



October 2024

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Event

Begin 2024-25 FY
October 1, 2024
Annual & Special Works Reporting
Due

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting
Family Resource Center
Tuesday 10/15, 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

Event

Ozanam Orientation
St. John Vianney, Walnut Creek
Saturday 10/19, 9:15 AM-3:30 PM
Mass 8:30 AM

Event

2024-25 Officer Training
St. Mary, Walnut Creek
Saturday 10/26, 9:30 AM–12:00 PM
Mass 8:30 AM

Event

Home Visit Workshop
St. Agnes, Concord
Monday 11/12/24, 5:30 PM-8:30 PM

Bob Liles Corner

SHORT COMMENTS ABOUT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2024

One conference does 100 home visits every month

I met a Vincentian from Haiti. Considering the latest news about how gangs have taken over Haiti, I asked him if it is ever going to get better there. He said, “Absolutely. Aren’t we the religion of hope.”

While it may seem that helping one family is just a drop in the bucket in the war against poverty and therefore not worth doing, we have to focus on how we changed that one family’s life. And that makes it important.

When thanking donors, never say “We did this or that”. Say “Your donation did this or that”.

Conferences can grow and get reinvigorated. It just takes a good presentation and follow through. A Phoenix conference showed how they made it happen.

At the end of one session they challenged everyone to write down one thing that they would pass on to their conference. Unfortunately for that one I could not think of one thing. Fortunately, that was the only session that I could say that about.

2025 National Assembly – Louisville, Kentucky August 27-30 at the Galt House

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2024 Cont.

[Click here](#) to find videos of the National Assembly Sessions.

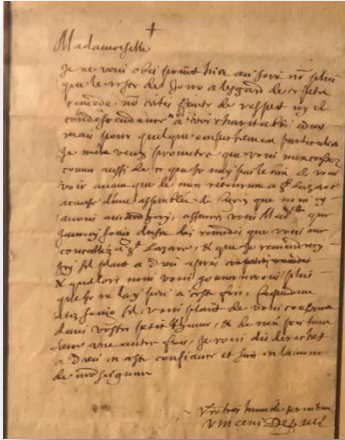
TOPIC	COMMENT
John Berry's Presidential Welcome	- Worth a listen
Spiritual Retreat with Archbishop Andrew Bellisario	- Recommended
Donna Beegle Keynote Presentation	– How she escaped from generational poverty
Nick Kristof Keynote Presentation	– Highly honored NY Times reporter he made some good points
Phoenix SVDP Panel Discussion	– Discussion on how to collaborate with other organizations
Foundation Award to Roger Playwin	– (Posthumous Foundation Award for Roger's contribution to SVdP)
Closing Remarks from incoming CEO Michael Acaldo	– I have talked one on one with him several times and he is very passionate about SVdP
Tribute to outgoing CEO Dave Barringe	- Dave really helped the Society and shared some funny stories

STRONGER TOGETHER: WORKING IN UNITY FOR OUR NEIGHBORS **By Donna Walton**

All Vincentians understand that the work we do is not easy. To effectively serve our neighbors in need, grow spiritually, and strengthen our friendships, it is essential that our Conferences collaborate. In Concord, the four Conferences initially operated somewhat independently. However, as requests from all areas of Concord increased, particularly due to our 211 listing, the presidents of the four Conferences began to connect.

We started coordinating efforts—sharing home visits, pooling financial resources, and communicating about food pantry schedules. We also exchanged experiences, challenges, and successes. Our meetings, both formal and informal, have brought us closer. We've developed processes for handling home visits, twinning, and co-pays, while strengthening our friendships through casual lunches.

Now, St. Francis, Queen of All Saints, St. Bonaventure, and St. Agnes work as one, unified team, better equipped to serve the people of Concord. **Together, we are stronger.**



RULE 4.2 Emergency Assistance

When disasters, war or major accidents occur, the Society launches emergency initiatives on the spot and provides funds for the local Society to help victims.



MEETING AGENDA - HOME VISITATION REPORT

A report is presented on all individuals and families visited during the week, regardless of where the visit occurred. The Conference must decide whether to offer assistance during the meeting. If so, all relevant details of each case should be provided. This approach is most effective for Conferences that meet weekly.

If decisions are made outside the meeting, the report should focus on noteworthy visits that were particularly challenging, provided new insights, or had a profound spiritual impact. The report should remain concise. After the initial visit, the report should include all relevant details about the individual or family, with future updates only noting significant changes. The visiting members should then recommend any further action, and the Conference may discuss and decide on any issues or next steps.

Reports on hospital visits, institutions, or Special Works should be similarly brief, including any recommendations for future action. Finally, it is essential—both for practical reasons and as required by our Rule—that these “visits are always conducted in pairs”.

More meeting information can be found on the DC website under Conference Operation/Miscellaneous.

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. 16, 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



RETAINING YOUR MEMBERS – PART ONE

Progress requires time, effort, and patience. Once you've built a strong foundation, retaining members is crucial to maintaining growth and impact. Retain people by helping them engage in meaningful, fulfilling work. A dedicated member understands their role and its importance.

New Members

New members are like diamonds in the rough. Retain them by:

1. Assigning a Mentor – Match them with an experienced Vincentian for at least 4-6 months.
2. Giving Immediate Tasks – Start with simple tasks, explaining their importance.

3. Providing Responsibility – Involve them in significant activities like home visits.
4. Training – Offer training for specialized roles and team them with experienced members.
5. Ozanam Orientation – Enroll them in the Orientation within three months, ensuring they go with a familiar person.
6. Building Fellowship – Integrate them into the larger Vincentian community through events and carpools.
7. Welcoming Non-Catholics – Embrace all who share the Society's values, fostering ecumenism.

Existing Members

Keep existing members engaged, as they are vital for mentorship and experience. Ensure they feel needed and informed. Assign them to committees, such as:

- Information & Referral
- Food Procurement
- Spirituality
- Social Events
- Communications

Encourage continuous learning through workshops, retreats, and training, such as the Ozanam Orientation, Serving in Hope modules, and advocacy through Voice of the Poor.

Understand that life changes may require members to step back. A positive exit increases the chance they will return or support you in other ways.

Governance Article by Joe Riley (Annotated for Brevity)



2024-25 Officer Training: Organizing for Greater Impact – October 26th



What does it take to truly help our neighbors in need? Our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul, once reminded us that, *"The poor suffer less from a lack of generosity than from a lack of organization."* And our co-founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, echoed this with passion: *"The saints were out of their minds when it came to love. Their love was limitless, embracing God, humanity, and nature. [...] My dear friend, are we not going to do anything to become like those saints whom we love?"* Indeed, to make a lasting impact in the lives of those we serve, it takes work—and it

takes Christ's call to organize our efforts for greater effectiveness.

We invite you to the 2024-25 Officer Training, where we will explore how we can better organize our service for maximum impact. This training will include three key sessions:

1. **For Conference Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Spiritual Advisors**

How can we balance the spiritual development of our members, our role as Servant Leaders, and the outgrowth of efficacious service as we meet the poor, one neighbor at a time?

2. **Back to Basics for Treasurers, Assistant Treasurers, and New Treasurers**

This session will focus on our dual role as advocates for our neighbors in need—whose crisis is presented by Vincentians from our Conference—and as stewards of our Parishioners' support.

3. **For Past Officers, Presidents, and Long-Time Vincentians**

Together, we will map from our collective experience: Who are today's poor? What are their needs? Are we meeting them? And how can we, as a Society, be more effective at seeing the Face of Christ in the poor and being the Face of Christ to the poor?

Training Details:

- Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024
- Time: 9:30 AM-Noon – Mass at St. Mary at 8:30 AM
- Location: St. Mary's Catholic Church, 2051 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94596

This is a chance to reflect, learn, and strengthen our Vincentian mission. Let's come together, equipped with the tools to grow in faith and service.

We hope to see you there for a morning of insight, fellowship, and inspiration.

Register at bit.ly/OfficerTraining2024





1ST TUESDAY- FRED TALKS

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: **OCTOBER 1, 2024 OUR VINCENTIAN VIRTUES (VIDEO 2)**

*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

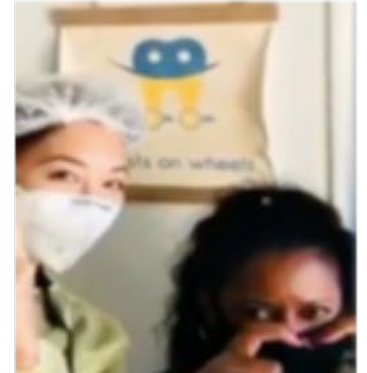
Passcode: Ozanam

3rd TUESDAY- RESOURCES FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

We are now in our third month of reviewing available resources for our Vincentians and Conferences, along with guidance on how to access them. In August, we began with an overview of the St. Vincent de Paul Contra Costa County website and how to utilize its resources. In September, we highlighted the process for donating and requesting safe, working vehicles through the SVDP Contra Costa Auto Donation Program, emphasizing how having reliable transportation can be the difference between stability and homelessness.

This month, in October, our Resource Workshop will focus on accessing dental care services through Dentist on Wheels, a vital partner at the Family Resource Center in Pittsburg. This incredible program has provided over 50 root canals in the past year alone.

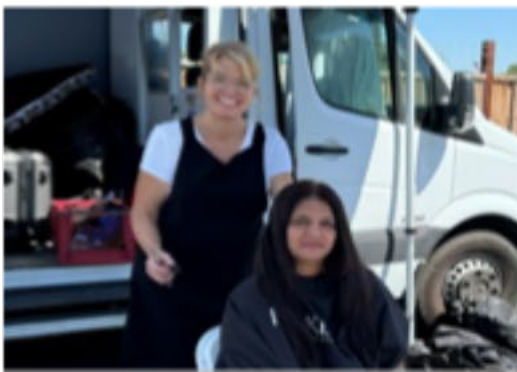
And just a friendly reminder: there's only one time you need to jump on a Zoom call—when you want to, when you don't want to, and Tuesdays at 10:00 AM.



**Help is on its way
is getting bigger...**

**Join us on Bethel Island's
New Covenant Church
the last Friday of October,
10/25/2024**

from 12:00 to 3:00 PM.



Join us for an inspiring day of connection, care, and community! Enjoy the refreshing comfort of a hot shower, clean and fresh clothing, and indulge in delicious, nutritious meals. Take advantage of free haircuts to help you look and feel your best. Prioritize your health with medical check-ups and health assessments, and get connected to vital dental care services. Plus, explore a variety of additional resources – from emergency food to referrals for continued care – all designed to uplift, support, and empower you!"