



November 2024

Vincentian **Wisdom**  
Quotes • Charism



## Bob Liles Corner

### BOOK REVIEW – SCARCITY

by Mullainathan & Shafir – Part 1

#### Event

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

#### Meeting

BOD Meeting  
Family Resource Center  
Tuesday, 11/19, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

#### Meeting

**Vincentian Zoom Call**  
Tuesday – Each Tuesday  
<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>

#### Event

Thanksgiving Meal  
Family Resource Center  
Thursday, 11/28, 11:00 AM-12:45PM

#### Event

One Warm Coat Kick-Off  
Family Resource Center  
Friday, 11/29

#### Meeting

BOD Meeting  
Family Resource Center  
Tuesday 12/17, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

#### Meeting

District Council Meeting  
ZOOM  
Saturday, 12/21, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

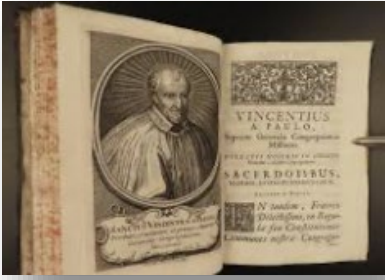
Have you ever completed a home visit and found yourself asking, “What were they thinking?” According to the authors of *Scarcity*, our neighbors in need are thinking exactly as we would if we were in their situation.

Their research reveals that when people face scarcity—whether it's a lack of money, food, time, or something else—they develop tunnel vision. They focus solely on their immediate problem. It doesn't matter if they are Princeton students or a struggling family; when scarcity strikes, their behavior is the same.

This mindset often drives people to solve their immediate issues without considering future consequences. I witnessed this firsthand during a week with my daughter and her newly potty-trained child. The moment my granddaughter indicated she needed the bathroom, my daughter would drop everything—literally rushing like OJ Simpson through the airport. Nothing was more urgent, and no obstacles mattered.

In a similar way, when someone gets a 48-hour shutoff notice from PG&E, they panic. They might take out a payday loan to keep their power on, even if it leads to bigger financial trouble later. In that moment, the future doesn't matter. What matters is fixing the urgent problem right now.

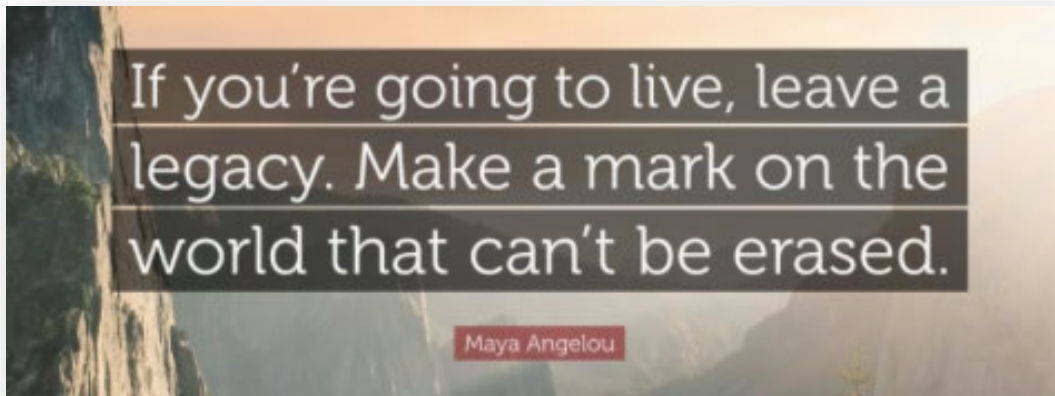
BOB



## **RULE 4.3 The Vincentian Family**

Members throughout the world, together with other communities inspired by the spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul and with those whom they help, form a single family. Gratefully remembering the support and encouragement the first Conference received from Blessed Rosalie Rendu, the Society maintains and develops close relationships with other branches of the Vincentian family, while preserving its identity. It cooperates with them in spiritual development and common

projects, as well as with the Church's charitable pastoral initiatives at every level, whenever this may be mutually enriching and useful to those who suffer.



### **Leaving a Legacy of Love:**

#### **How Your Will or Trust Can Help Those in Need for Years to Come**

by Brian Boyle, Communications and Development Senior Associate, SVdP Contra Costa

As a Vincentian, you've dedicated your time to feeding the hungry, clothing those in need, providing shelter, and offering healing to the most vulnerable in our community. But have you thought about how your generosity could continue making a difference beyond your lifetime?

**By including St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County in your will or trust,** you can ensure that your work and the mission of St. Vincent de Paul will be sustained for years to come. It's a simple and heartfelt way to extend the legacy of your service and love. You can ensure that SVdP will continue our work into the future and that our neighbors in need will continue to receive help in their times of crisis.

Please consider adding SVdP to your estate plans or IRA required distributions. Contact Barb Hunt, (925) 330-6732, or [b.hunt@svdp-cc.org](mailto:b.hunt@svdp-cc.org), for additional information or assistance in identifying SVdP as a beneficiary.

**Thank you.**

Brian



## **1<sup>ST</sup> 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, November 5, 2024, will Focus on OUR VINCENTIAN VIRTUES III

*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**

**Our Resources Workshop for November 19, 2024, Will Focus on the Winter Nights Program  
And The Oasis Day Shelter At The St. Vincent De Paul Family Resource Center in  
Pittsburg.**

On 10/15, we had the chance to learn about our DOW partnership to provide free dental care for the uninsured. Dentists on Wheels, with their dental specialists donating their time, we (Vincentians) can help our neighbors get out of pain and access Dentures, Root Canals, and Bridges that offer our neighbors relief from pain from the only Free Dental Clinic in the County. Our referrals are prioritized and based on need. During a home visit you can go to the Dentists on Wheels Website and fill out this [Google Form](#) to initiate the help. (*Be considerate and prepared to provide transportation to and from the clinic through your conference if need be*) To learn more about our partnership, go to the DOW website or forward any questions to Vincentian Support Services. [s.krank@svdp-cc.org](mailto:s.krank@svdp-cc.org)

*Resources Every Third Tuesday at 10:00 AM. Come by with a Question, or just come by –  
You May be the Answer for Someone.*

<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>

**Meeting ID: 925 439 5060**

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# St. Patrick's Is Your Conference Prioritizing FUN?

Submitted By Julie W.

Building community through outdoor activities fosters stronger social connections and a sense of belonging. It encourages Vincentians to engage in shared experiences, like hiking, sorting clothes, having lunch, and getting together for coffee, which all promote teamwork and communication.

Spending time outdoors also boosts mental and physical health, creating a positive atmosphere that unites individuals and strengthens local bonds, enhancing overall community well-being so that we, in return, can help our neighbors. Here is a photo of our conference's activities in October, getting ready for the busy holiday season ahead!



St. Patrick Church Rodeo-Hercules Visits Muir Woods - October 2, 2024.....Which Way?  
From: L to R (San Juana, Margarita, Cindi, Julie B, Maddy, Jhenie & Mary)

# *Be a Part of Our Vincentian Thanksgiving Tradition*

For the past 15 years, Vincentians have transformed the Free Dining Room and Community Center in Pittsburg each Thanksgiving into a welcoming, warm space where our neighbors feel valued. We close off the cul-de-sac, set up tents, serve hot chocolate, and offer hygiene kits. Most importantly, we bring our time and attention, honoring each guest as a person of dignity and worth.

With a Homemade gourmet, sit-down meal and the warmth of a new coat, we come together to share Thanksgiving as a family.

Last year, one of our friends handcrafted rosaries and chaplets for guests and participants to take as mementos of the day. This year, that same family has lovingly prepared 250 scarves with handwritten notes from young people across the county.



Each personal note serves as a reminder of our shared community and Christ's care.

We welcome people of all faiths and backgrounds, believing that we all speak the universal language of love and hope.

Ask anyone who has attended—it's a morning you'll never forget. We plan the day so that the event concludes by 2:00 PM. Over the years, families have brought their children to serve, and even priests from Africa have joined us. A highlight is the gratitude circle, where everyone shares something they're thankful for. As Vincentians, we host our neighbors, sitting together to share a meal. Imagine, just for a moment, what it would be like to spend Thanksgiving in a shelter.



## **Here Are Our Needs for The Day-So Far (must be at the SVdP Family Resource Center by Noon on Wednesday, Nov. 27)**

Butter **7 pounds**  
Frozen mashed potatoes from Trader Joe's **36 bags**  
Pre-cut mirepoix from Trader Joe's **30 containers**  
Green beans **62 pounds**  
Garlic **one of the big bags** (like from Safeway)  
Eggs **60 (5 dozen)**  
Chicken stock **23 32-ounce containers/boxes** Bread rolls **216 (18 dozen)**  
Fruit cocktail **10 of the number 10 cans (30 quarts)**  
Fresh sage **4 ½ cups**  
Fresh parsley **4 ½ cups**  
Fresh rosemary **4 ½ cups**  
Turkey rolls **100 pounds or 34 rolls from Safeway**  
Stuffing mix **30 boxes**  
Half-and-half **15 cups**

**CONTACT Stephen to reserve your item!**



***We need you to be the hands and heart of Christ. Join us at 10 am on November 28, 2024 at the SVdP Family Resource Center (Free Dining Room), 1415 Simpson Court, Pittsburg, CA 94565***

*How can you join and help, contact Stephen Krank at [s.krank@svdp-cc.org](mailto:s.krank@svdp-cc.org) or 925-439-5060 x28*

# “GUIDELINES” - WRITTEN GUIDELINES - PART ONE – WHY?

by Ron Costanzo

New members have a real challenge before them when they join a Conference. There is a tremendous amount of “stuff” that they have to learn: who the other members are, principles and history of the Society, spirituality, how to do home visits, where everything is, what and when to do something, and what and when not to. It can all be very confusing. Actually, it can all be confusing to members who have been around for a while, as well. That is why it is important to have a set of Conference guidelines.



Author Ron Costanzo receiving the Society's Top Hat award.

Have you ever heard the expressions: *that's the way we do things*, *we've always done it this way*, *we can't do that*, or *it's just not done that way*. That is one of the most frustrating things about being a member – especially a new one. Not knowing what to do and/or being criticized for doing something the wrong way can be very humiliating. It would all be much simpler if all those ways and things were written down somewhere. They can be. They should be.

And, the most organized and well-run Conferences have a set of written guidelines that are available to all members. They are not just a set of rules that have been accumulated over the years, they are a formal set of guidelines that have been defined, organized, and presented in a form that is convenient to use, easy to understand, readily accessible to all members, and approved by consensus.

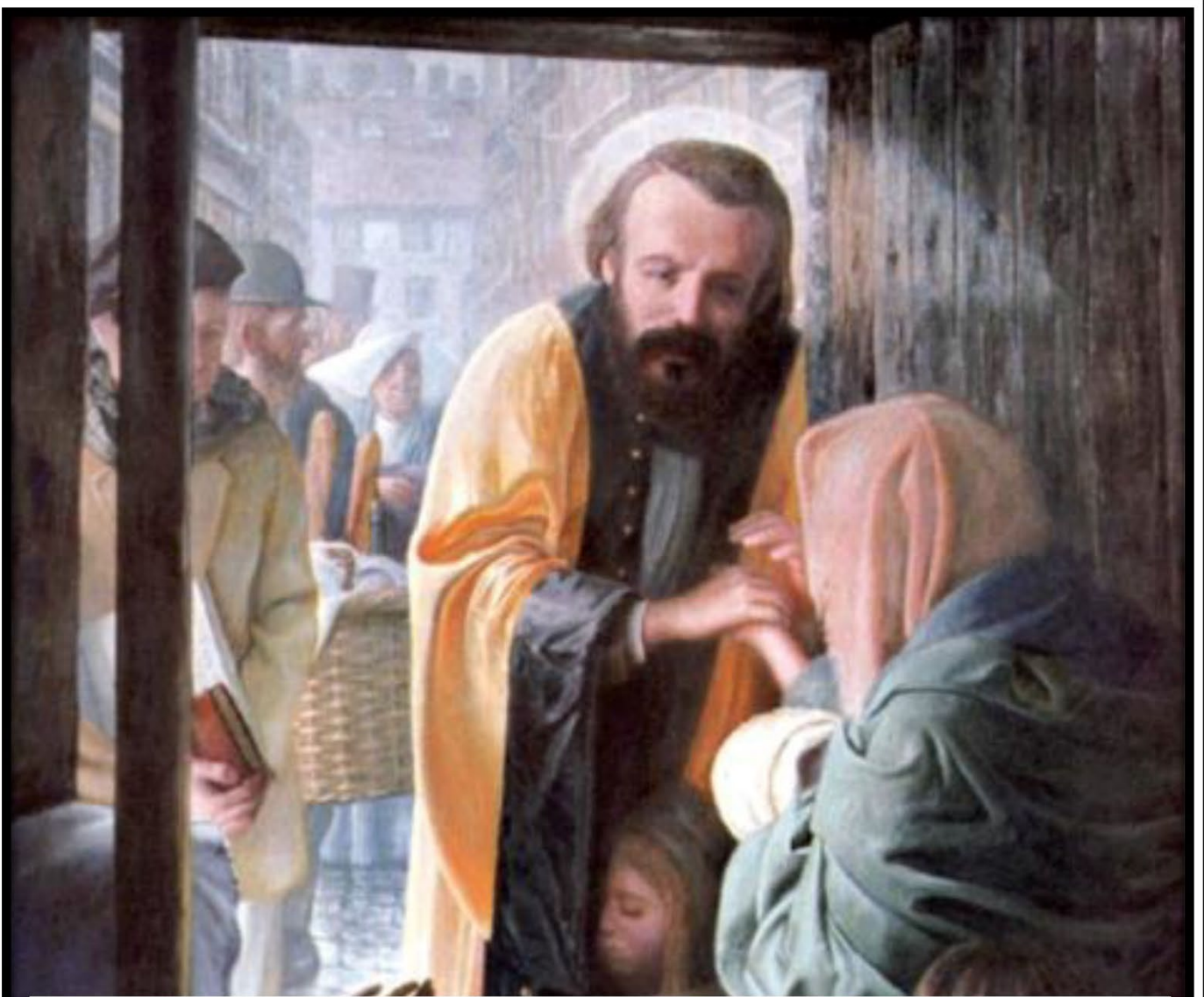
Without the written guidelines, members will continue to scratch their heads—some even leaving the Conference. Without the written guidelines, people will give their own interpretation of what is the proper way because that's how they remember being taught.

## Second Apparition of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

November 27, is the Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. It was on this day in 1830 that the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Laboure in the Motherhouse Chapel of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, France. Catherine was a seminary sister at the time. During this apparition, Mary asked Catherine to “have a medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces: they shall wear it around their neck. Great graces will abound for those who wear it with confidence.”



The symbols on the medal summarize the mysteries of the Christian faith. The front side of the medal pictures Mary with rays of light coming down from her hands. She is standing on half of the globe with her foot crushing a serpent. She told Catherine, “These rays are a symbol of the graces that I pour on those who ask of them of me.” In the oval surrounding the image is the prayer, “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.” On the reverse side of the medal is the letter M surmounted on a cross and below it, a heart of Jesus with a crown of thorns and the heart of Mary pierced by a sword. Around the images are 12 stars.



***WHEN WE SHOW UP... GOD ALWAYS SHOWS UP***

*Please join us at St. Agnes Catholic Community*

*3966 Chestnut Ave, Concord, CA 94519*

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

*5:30 PM – 8:30 PM*

*Light snack*

*This interactive Home Visit workshop will help you see how  
BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU taught our founders  
TO SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST IN THOSE WE SERVE*

*Click on this link: [bit.ly/HomeVisit-11-12-24](https://bit.ly/HomeVisit-11-12-24) to register at Eventbrite.*

*Questions to Shawna Costanzo at 925-200-5952.*





## **SFO, SECURITY and SVdP**

Carol Brazil, President,  
SVdP Conference at St. Callistus

Carol Brazil shared a couple of heartwarming encounters that she had during a recent trip that truly highlight the impact of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) and the power of wearing our SVdP logo with pride.

While going through security at San Francisco International Airport, a young man checking her in noticed her SVdP jacket and asked if she worked for the organization. Carol humbly replied, "No, I volunteer." His response was touching: "My mom was a single mom raising me, and SVdP helped us with food and clothes. They were a big help." Carol smiled and said, "God bless you. You made our day."

**But that wasn't the end of it...** As she boarded the plane, a flight attendant recognized the SVdP logo. "Oh, SVdP! I used to volunteer at their store," she shared. Carol asked where, and the flight attendant replied, "Medford, Oregon." Once again, Carol responded with gratitude, saying, "Thank you, and God bless you."

*These encounters are a beautiful reminder of the lives we touch and the connections we make, often without even knowing it. Carol's experience is also a testament to the value of wearing our SVdP gear. Just like people wear clothes to promote their favorite sports team, band, or even a beer brand, why not wear something that promotes SVdP and sparks conversations that can inspire others?*

*You can order your logo wear at the following websites:*

### ***Magnalite Catholic***

<https://www.magnalitecatholic.com/regular-customers/st-vincent-de-paul/svdp-clothing-uniforms>

### ***Parish Gear***

<https://parishgear.com/collections/the-society-of-saint-vincent-de-paul>

## **TIPS FOR YOUR CONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA**

### **- President's Report**

Please remember that you, as president, can eat up a lot of the meeting time with your report. Consider whether you want to do this or what you absolutely need to report.

Bob



Dear Friends,

At St. Vincent de Paul, we are built on the spirit of giving and the commitment to helping one another. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering dedication and support through your volunteer work, whether it's during one-on-one home visits, food distributions, or any other services you provide at your conferences. Your efforts, no matter how small, have made a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors in need and are crucial to our success. Your work is not just appreciated, but it is the cornerstone of our achievements.

Today, I come to you with a special request. Our thrift stores play a significant role in our organization, generating essential funds and running the many programs and services that support the conferences throughout the county and our community. However, to keep these stores operational and successful, we need your help. You are not just volunteers but an essential part of our team, and your role in the thrift stores is crucial to our mission.

### How You Can Help:

- **Sorting Donations:** Organizing and categorizing items for sale.
- **Customer Assistance:** Providing friendly service and support to shoppers.
- **Store Maintenance:** Keeping the store clean and welcoming.
- **Promotion:** Helping spread the word about our mission and encouraging others to visit and support our thrift stores.

Every hour you can spare to volunteer at our thrift stores translates into more resources for our community programs. Your involvement can substantially impact our ability to continue serving those who need it most.

**Join Us in This Endeavor:** Volunteering at our thrift stores is not just about sorting and selling items; it's about being part of a larger mission to uplift and strengthen our community. Together, we can ensure that our programs continue providing hope, support, and vital services to our needy neighbors.

If you are interested in volunteering or want more information, please get in touch with our office at 925-439-5060. We welcome individuals, groups, and families to join us in this vital effort.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our community. Your past contributions have not gone unnoticed and we are deeply grateful for your dedication.

With gratitude,

*Monica Perez, SVdP Thrift Store Area Manager  
and Workforce Development Coordinator*



DIABLO MAGAZINE AND THE EAST BAY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PRESENT



Threads of Hope recognizes volunteers and philanthropists who selflessly give to help others, and in doing so strengthen the fabric of our community. For a combined 43 years, Diablo magazine and the East Bay Leadership Council have had the privilege of sharing stories of volunteers and philanthropic changemakers whose hard work and dedication are making a lasting impact on the East Bay community. This year they celebrate the 30th year of Threads of Hope—over the years Threads of Hope has highlighted the work and impact of hundreds of volunteers in our community and now includes a philanthropist among the annual honorees.

**Join Diablo Magazine and the East Bay Leadership Council to celebrate these amazing community volunteers - One Vincentian, and Other Diablo Area Philanthropic Leaders.**

*2024 Threads of Hope Honorees* 🏆

*Alain Dangerfield*

*Diablo Black Men's Group*

*Camarin Madigan*

*Contra Costa Senior Legal Services*

*James Noe*

*St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County*

*Lisa Henderson*

*Set to Thrive*

*Marti Sutton*

*Philanthropist*

*Thursday, December 12, Networking | 4:30 - 5:30 PM*

*Program | 5:30 - 7:00 PM, Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek*

**[Click here for more details or to REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT](#)**



# You're Invited to a Vincentian Advent Retreat

## *Staying in the Conversation with Christ*

*Embracing the Season of Divine Encounter*

Join us for a morning of reflection, fellowship, and spiritual renewal as we journey together into Advent, a season inviting us to deepen our relationship with Christ. This retreat will focus on staying in meaningful conversation with Christ and recognizing His presence in our lives.

**Date:** Saturday, December 7, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 AM Mass followed by the retreat

**Location:** St. Isidore Catholic Church

We invite all Vincentians to come together for this special time of prayer, inspiration, and connection with Sr. Paule Freeburg D.C., West Region Spiritual Advisor. Our retreat will include guided reflections, quiet time for personal prayer, and opportunities to share insights as we prepare our hearts for the joyful season ahead.

Come as you are—no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. Let's gather to stay in conversation with Christ this Advent. Holiday Brunch and Lunch will be provided. Our Event will begin with Mass at 8:30 AM and end at 1:00 PM.

**RSVP:** Please respond by 12/4/2024 to ensure we have space for all participants.

Click [HERE](#) to Register or go to <https://bit.ly/AdventRetreat-12-7>

For questions or more information, contact Vincentian Support Services [s.krank@svdp-cc.org](mailto:s.krank@svdp-cc.org)

**ADVENT**  
*Season of Divine Encounter*



SCAN ME