



February 2025

Training

Home Visit Workshop

Wednesday, 2/5, 1:30-4:30 PM

The Old Homestead, Crockett

Feast Day

Blessed Rosalie Rendu – February 7

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, 2/18, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

Family Resource Center, Pittsburg

Training

Resources for Vincentians-**Vouchers**

Tuesday, 2/18, 10:00 AM

Zoom (see link on page 10)

Youth Event

Youth Service Day & Tour

Saturday, 2/22, 8:30 –1:00 PM

Family Resource Center, Pittsburg

Event

Dental Program

Children's Dental Health Month

Friday, 2/28, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Holy Day

Ash Wednesday – March 5

Event

National Mid-Year Meeting

3/5 to 3/8 St. Louis, MO

Youth Event

Youth Service Day & Tour

Saturday, 3/8, 8:30 –1:00 PM

Family Resource Center, Pittsburg

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, 3/11, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

Family Resource Center, Pittsburg

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Bob Liles Corner

Nonprofits That Demonstrated That They Made a Difference.

At the end of the year a national columnist discussed how he determined which organizations he donated to. He gave to nonprofits that demonstrated that they made a difference. Though not Catholic he donated to Catholic schools because he believed that they did a better job than public schools and so they needed to continue to operate.

He is unhappy with how the government spends money on welfare programs that are accomplishing little. Let's be one of the organizations that he will donate to because when we help a neighbor who is in need we can show that we changed someone's life. **"And then let's advertise that fact in our parish bulletin or sending the story to the district council so that our donors know that their money made a difference in someone's life."**

Conference Meeting Agenda

Treasurer's report. A written statement of Receipts, Expenditures and present Balance of ALL Conference accounts should normally be presented at every meeting. Payment of bills and issue of vouchers noted.

As with the minutes a lot of time in the meeting can be saved if just the pertinent information is emailed to all members prior to the meeting. While we know that all Vincentians are loving caring people, we also know that embezzlement has occurred in every nonprofit organization, including the Society. Trust your treasurer, but someone in the conference must verify that the numbers are correct. Don't think that when your conference sends in the annual report that the District Council will find any improper expenses.

On February 7th, we celebrate the feast day of Blessed Rosalie Rendu
Rosalie was a true Vincentian pioneer whose unwavering dedication to the poor shaped the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Blessed Rosalie Rendu: A Life of Service and Vincentian Spirit

Born in 1786 in France, Rosalie Rendu was a Daughter of Charity who devoted her life to serving the most impoverished communities of Paris, particularly in the Mouffetard district. Through her tireless work, she provided food, clothing, medical care, and spiritual support to those in need.

One of her most significant contributions was mentoring a young **Frédéric Ozanam** and his companions, inspiring them to form the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1833. With her guidance, the first Vincentians learned the importance of personal service, humility, and seeing Christ in the poor.

Beyond material aid, Rosalie Rendu worked to transform social systems, advocating for justice and dignity for the marginalized. She fearlessly cared for the sick during the cholera epidemic, comforted those in distress, and even gained the respect of political leaders and revolutionaries alike for her unwavering compassion.

Her legacy endures as a model of Vincentian charity—serving with **love, humility, and perseverance**. As we honor her feast day, may we follow her example and continue our mission of encountering Christ in the poor.

"Never have I prayed so well as in the streets."

— Blessed Rosalie Rendu



Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Home Visit Workshop

WHEN WE SHOW UP...GOD ALWAYS SHOWS UP

PLEASE JOIN US AT:

THE OLD HOMESTEAD

995 LORING AVENUE

CROCKETT, CA 94525

OUR WORKSHOP WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 1:30 – 4:30 PM (PST)

This interactive workshop will help you see how BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU taught our founders to SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST IN THOSE WE SERVE.

Use the link below. Registration will close Friday, January 31, 2025



<https://bit.ly/HomeVisitFeb25>



Introducing Our Society: Ozanam Orientation (OO)

By Joyce Ohanesian

What does “OO” stand for?

It’s not frameless eyewear!

Ozanam Orientation (OO) is the official training program introducing the history, principles, and policies of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the USA. This essential training helps new members understand the organization they’re joining. To stay informed and aligned, we encourage all members to repeat the training every 3–4 years.

What to Expect

Attendees often discover that **Home Visits are the heart of the Society**, surprising those who thought food pantries or thrift shops were the main focus. Participants also learn about the Council’s various projects—many new ones. Feedback often highlights eye-opening moments like, “Now I understand why it’s called Ozanam Orientation!”

Training Details

- **Frequency:** Offered at least four times a year in Contra Costa County, rotating between East, Central, and West regions for accessibility.
- **Schedule:** Sessions typically run from 9:00 AM to 3:15 PM and are often followed by a Home Visit Workshop about three weeks later.
- **Host Requirements:**
 - Space for about 40 attendees, with a large TV or screen for presentations.
 - A continental breakfast and a simple lunch for attendees.

Interested in Hosting?

Hosting is a wonderful way to support local members and foster growth within the Society. If your conference is interested, contact Stephen Krank, Vincentian Support Manager, or any Council Formator.

Help us strengthen our mission by hosting an Ozanam Orientation (OO) in your area!



Celebrate Children's Dental Health Month with Us!

February is Children's Dental Health Month, and we're excited to give back to our community by offering **FREE dental services** for families in need across East and Central Contra Costa County.

📅 **Date:** Friday, February 28, 2025

🕒 **Time:** 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

📍 **Location:** Our Clinic

Services include:

- ✓ Dental Exam
- ✓ X-rays
- ✓ Cleaning

Uninsured families of the children are **also eligible** to fill out applications for ongoing care through our program!

📧 Reserve Your Appointment:

Please email us at info@dentistsonwheels.org to secure your child's spot today! Spaces are limited, so don't wait!

Together, we can make dental health a priority for every child! ✨



Here are a few things the St. Anne Conference of SVDP is Doing in 2025 by Dicki Lulay

Boxes for the Unhoused

Although it is rare, every so often, someone who is living out of their car and in need of food comes into our office. With that in mind, we have put together:

Boxes for the Unhoused. Each box contains:

Tillamook Country Smoker, Beef Jerky
WinCo oven roasted almonds
1 pkg WinCo ultra designer bowls (25 to pkg)
WinCo hand soap
2 bags assorted plastic cutlery, 48 count
1 roll toilet paper
1 roll paper towels
10 plastic garbage bags
4 toothbrushes
Ultra brite toothpaste
WinCo flushable wipes
1 box WinCo facial tissues with aloe and Vitamin E

WinCo Crunchy peanut butter
2 cans Dolores tuna
2 cans WinCo chunk chicken breast
1 can Spam
2 cans WinCo bartlett pear halves
2 cans WinCo yellow cling peach slices
Sunbelt bakery peanut butter chip granola bars
Sunbelt bakery fudge dipped chocolate chip granola bars
1 box Triscuit
WinCo Marshmallow Treasures cereal
WinCo Toasted oats cereal

We store these in our Church pantry. We keep only a limited number on hand, but they are there when we need them. If they are not used within 6 months, we cycle them into our food pantry distribution. Once one is pulled from the shelf, we replace it.

Coat Donations

This year, we successfully distributed 273 coats after Mass on a Sunday in December to Neighbors in Need. Coats were sorted by size, gender, and age. The coats came from two coat drives at St. Anne's (Spring and Fall), sorting through coats at the Brentwood Thrift Store in April after coat purchases plummeted, and supplemented holes in our offerings by taking advantage of store sales. We will further expand our reach in 2025 by going to schools to collect uncollected coats left by students. We are also targeting to get the word out to other organizations to seek their assistance, i.e., the Lions Club, Discovery Bay Yacht Club, etc. *by sorting coats at the Discovery Bay storage facility ready for our clients – coats thoroughly sorted and marked, making it easier for our neighbors to find "just the right coat."* We gave away over 75% of the coats we had collected in just over an hour. Several remaining coats were given to the Delta Christian Community Food Pantry for further distribution to those in need. After the Coat Donation event, we held a debrief to learn how to optimize our process further to give away more coats in 2025 and reach more people in need.

Best Practices

To help foster continuous improvement, we have added “Key Learnings” to our monthly agenda to capture how we can best support our NIN, make ourselves more efficient, and incorporate good ideas from other SVdP Conferences.

HOW CAN OUR VINCENTIANS HELP?

by Ron Costanzo

In the United States, 27% of adults have less than \$1,000 in savings. As a result, many are an emergency expense away from a financial crisis. People often turn to PayDay/Title Loan institutions in an emergency. Though more accessible than traditional loans, they come with interest rates as high as 300-400%. For a \$1,000 loan, a person can owe \$3,000-\$4000 in interest!! While these loans may resolve an immediate financial crisis, they lead to longer-term debt and trap people in cycles of debt, which can ultimately lead to economic ruin.

Paying off someone's credit card or payday loan is comparable to paying rent for a Neighbor in Need who will be evicted anyway. It doesn't help our Neighbor; it helps the landlord. Paying off a Neighbor's loan is even a bit worse as you are, in effect, rewarding bad behavior also.



When SVdP Councils partner with an established bank or credit union and our neighbor begins making monthly payments on time, the neighbor establishes or repairs a lousy credit rating. We are exposing them to opportunities to become financially literate, and most of the time, it doesn't cost anything except our effort because, most of the time, the funds are paid back and can be reused to fund another loan.

Some early SVdP adopters have loaned money in two prior cycles that have been paid back and are being lent for the third time or more.

Can our SVdP Conferences help? Can our District Council help? Can you help?

If you are interested in learning more or having an information session for your conference, contact the Micro Loan Committee chair and board member, Ron Costanzo, at

rcostanzo@astound.net



3.14 The use of money and property for the poor.

(Rule in formation) by Vincent de Paul

*Vincentians should never forget that **giving love, talents, and time** is more important than giving money.*

Nevertheless, the Society uses money and property to help relieve the suffering of those in need. The Society's funds must be handled with the utmost care, prudence, and

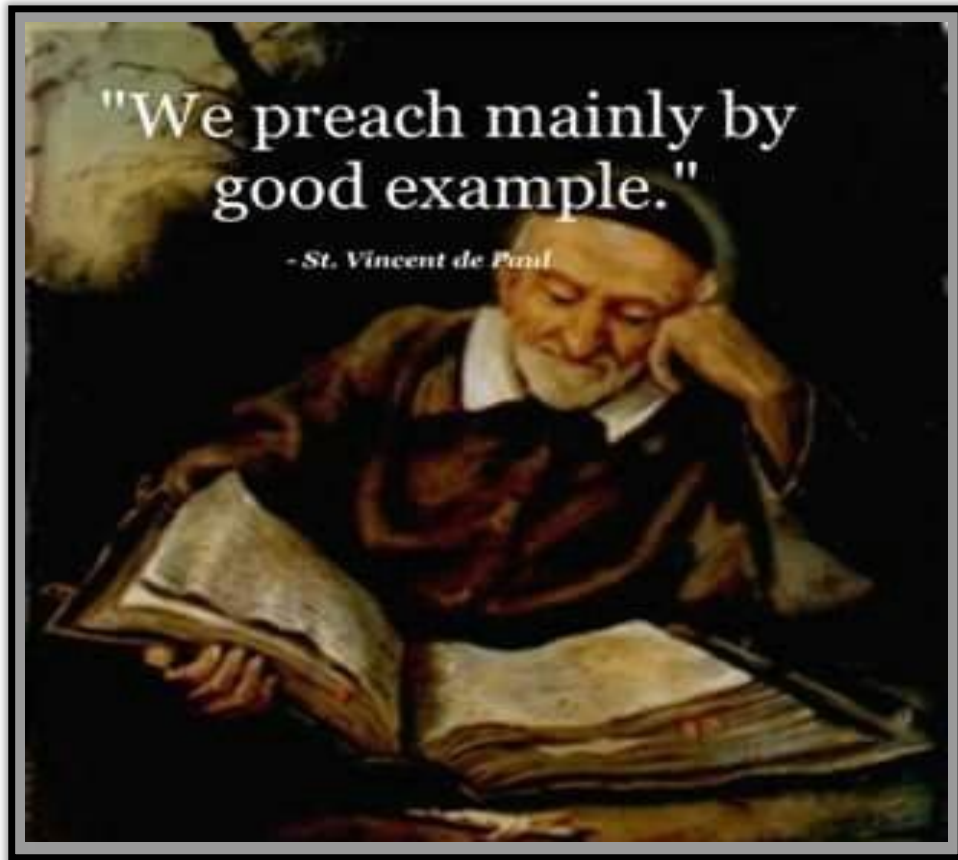
generosity. Money must not be hoarded. Decisions regarding the use of money and property should be made **after thoughtful reflection, guided by** the Gospel and Vincentian principles. Accurate records must be kept of all money received or spent. The Society **may not allocate funds to other organizations, except occasionally to** other branches of the Vincentian Family, **and only under exceptional circumstances.**



February 7th, Celebrate the Feast Day of Blessed Rosalie Rendu

“Last night I dreamed that I stood at the judgment seat of God. God received me with great severity and was about to pronounce my sentence when, suddenly, I was surrounded by an immense crowd of people carrying old boots, shoes, and hats. They presented all these things to God saying: ‘She was the one who gave us all these things.’ Then Jesus looked at me and said, ‘Because you gave all these old clothes in my Name, I open heaven to you. Enter, for all eternity.’” – *Blessed Rosalie Rendu, DC*

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



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN OZANAM ORIENTATION.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

AT

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
500 FAIRVIEW AVE, BRENTWOOD, CA.
(IN THE CHURCH HALL)**

**JOIN US FOR MASS AT 8:00 AM
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH ARE INCLUDED**

QUESTIONS? CALL JOYCE AT 925-513-7124

REGISTER AT:



[HTTPS://BIT.LY/OZANAMIHM](https://bit.ly/ozanamihm)

PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER BY APRIL 12, 2025



1ST TUESDAY- FRED TALKS

Discover Fred Talks: Concise, Insightful Videos on Vincentian Heritage, Traditions, and Spirituality

Explore *Fred Talks*—a series of brief, impactful videos, each under five minutes, designed to deepen understanding of Vincentian heritage, traditions, and spirituality. Perfect for sharing with conference members or parishioners interested in the mission of St. Vincent de Paul. Produced by Tim Williams, National Vincentian Formation Director.

The upcoming February 4, 2025, “In Front of Our Noses.”

*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

Upcoming Resources Workshop – February 18, 2025

This session will provide an in-depth look at how to write vouchers for the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores and access essential resources in Pittsburgh, Pleasant Hill, and Brentwood.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to connect and participate in providing valuable assistance and community support tools to those in need!

*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

Passcode: Ozanam