

VETERA MONIMENTA

April 2025

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Meeting

Vincentian Zoom Call

Tuesday – Each Tuesday

<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, 4/15, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

Family Resource Center, Pittsburg

Training

Ozanam Orientation

Wed., April 16, 9:15 AM- 3:30 PM

Immaculate Heart of Mary

500 Fairview Ave., Brentwood

Events

4/18 Good Friday

4/20 Easter Sunday

Feast

Ozanam Sunday

Sunday 4/27

Global

Meeting

West Region Meeting

Thursday-Saturday, 5/1-5/3

Long Beach, CA

Training

Home Visit Workshop

Church of the Good Shepherd

3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg

Bob Liles Corner

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DOING ADVOCACY...

By Bob Liles

The Society has always done advocacy for the poor by talking on their behalf to landlords, PG&E, etc.

National would like SVdP to do more government advocacy. I have just completed online training that they purchased for every DC president. Currently, I have no plans to start lobbying my representatives.

But if you are interested in doing advocacy, then I can give you some of the tips that I was taught. The main point was that form letters, texts, and calls do very little. You need to personally meet the representative or their staff. And make sure that they haven't already stated a position on the issue because you will probably not change their mind.

Remember that you are only speaking for yourself and not for SVdP. Only the National president can speak for the Society nationally. I can speak for the Society locally, but when I have talked to local politicians about the homeless situation, I only speak for myself. I know that the Vincentians in this county have widely different opinions on how to resolve the homeless problem, so I don't want to act like every Vincentian agrees 100% with me. Even though I am never wrong.

Bob



OZANAM SUNDAY

As we approach the last weekend of April, we invite all Vincentians to celebrate **Ozanam Sunday**—a special day honoring the birth and legacy of **Blessed Frédéric Ozanam**, founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Frédéric Ozanam was born on **April 23, 1813**. On his 20th birthday in 1833, he and six fellow students from the Sorbonne in Paris gathered to form what would become the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Inspired by the charitable works of St. Vincent de Paul, their goal was to put their faith into action through personal service to the poor.

Moved by a challenge posed during a student debate, “What is the Church doing now to help the poor?”—Frédéric called a meeting with his friends and mentor, **Emmanuel Bailly**, to respond not with words but with deeds. That day marked the humble beginning of what they first called the “Conference of Charity,” which later took on the name of our patron saint.

Frédéric was not only a passionate intellectual—a professor, writer, and man of deep faith—but also a loving husband, father, and tireless advocate for justice and compassion. His legacy endures in the more than **800,000 Vincentians across 150 countries**, serving Christ in the poor through **local conferences** in parishes, schools, community centers, and beyond.

Let us take time this Ozanam Sunday to reflect on our calling, renew our Vincentian spirit, and give thanks for the example of Frédéric, who showed us how to bring the Gospel to life through love, action, and service.



Ozanam: 100 Years on the Road to Sainthood

by Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General of the SSVP between 2016 and 2023

On March 15, 2025, we celebrated a historical event for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) and for the entire Vincentian Family worldwide: the centenary of the opening of the process of canonization of Antoine Frederic Ozanam, the main founder of the SSVP. This date is an exceptional opportunity to deepen our devotion and reflect on the biography, legacy and holiness of Ozanam. More than a commemoration, the date is a compelling call to intensify our prayers and renew our commitment to charity and the praxis of the Gospel, following in the footsteps of this holy man who was so devoted to the poor and to social justice.

On March 15, 1925, the cause for his canonization was introduced at the Vatican. This was the fruit of the devotion of generations of Vincentians and countless testimonies of Ozanam's holiness through unexplained healings. Since then, the road to the altars has been followed with fervor by all those inspired by Ozanam's life and mission. The process has progressed over the decades, culminating in his beatification on August 22, 1997 by Pope John Paul II.

A decisive moment in this process was the recognition of the first miracle attributed to Ozanam's intercession: the healing of the child Fernando Ottoni, on February 2, 1926, in Brazil. Science was unable to explain the sudden recovery from the illness (severe diphtheria), considered incurable by medicine, that had afflicted the 18-month-old child, and the Church confirmed that it was a divine sign. This miracle was essential for Ozanam to be promoted to the status of Blessed years later, strengthening his spiritual influence and inspiring even more Vincentians around the world.

Currently, the Holy See is analyzing new cases of possible miracles. Reports of unexplained healings attributed to Ozanam's intercession have been carefully documented and submitted to the Vatican. If one of these miracles is recognized, his canonization could finally be affirmed, conferring on him the title of saint. This expectation fills our hearts with hope and encourages us to intensify our prayers for this noble cause.

To join in this cause, we are invited to intensify our prayer life and to actively participate in the Spiritual Campaign for the Canonization of Ozanam, especially by practicing the fast that is being proposed to us, at the initiative of the International General Council, on the 23rd of each month. In addition, we can ask daily for the intercession of Frederic Ozanam in our lives, trusting that God, by his grace, will grant us blessings and answers to our needs. Lent, a liturgical season suitable for reflection and spiritual deepening, is an excellent opportunity to increase our prayers and strengthen our communion with the holiness of Ozanam.

There is no doubt that we are getting closer and closer to the canonization of our beloved and principal founder. May this centenary be a time of grace for all of us and may we, with faith and perseverance, soon witness this historic moment for the Church, for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and for the Vincentian Family. May Blessed Ozanam, our intercessor, continue to inspire us on the path of charity, selfless service and love of neighbor.



Frederic Ozanam
1813-1853

YOU'RE INVITED!
A COMMISSIONING OF
NEW (VOTA'S) VINCENTIANS OF THE ARC

Join us as we welcome and commission 8–12 new members of our SVdP Youth Conference during a special Ozanam Sunday celebration!

Sunday, April 27th
During the 10:00 AM Mass
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd, San Ramon, CA



CONFERENCE MEETINGS - CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary should have opened and studied all correspondence beforehand and need only summarize it at the meeting. Only selected letters need to be read in full at the meeting.

Bob



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 April 1, 2025, Session Focus - Beyond the Home Visit
*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 – April 15, 2025

Join us for our December Resources Workshop, where we'll dive into the local resources available for our uninsured neighbors in need through the **RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul**. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about essential community support tools and ways to connect those in need with valuable assistance.

*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



RULE 5.3 MORAL RECOGNITION

By Vincent de Paul

The Society recognizes the right and duty of the diocesan bishop to confirm that none of its activities is contrary to Catholic faith or morals. The Society, whenever possible, informs the diocesan bishops of its activities annually, as a sign of ecclesial communion.

GUIDELINES

By Ron Costanzo

WRITTEN GUIDELINES - PART THREE – Summary and review

“Guidelines” should be just what the word means. These are possible ways to approach fulfilling the requests for help. The guidelines should provide possible solutions. One thing is extremely important to remember: guidelines are intended to define how people in need can be served, they are not intended to define how people are to be turned away.

When circumstances dictate, the members can gather a consensus to override a guideline for a particular need.

At the beginning of the fiscal year or annually, the Conference guidelines should be reviewed by the members of the Conference. They should be evaluated to see if they are still appropriate for the conditions that currently exist. The same process that was followed to review and approve the initial set of guidelines should also be used to review, update and approve the new guidelines. Once again, all members should be given copies of the guidelines.

Conference guidelines are one of the keys to having an organized and well-run Conference. None of the guidelines should contradict the Rule, Manual or Bylaws or an local, state or federal tax laws. If they are properly prepared, the guidelines will help the Conference members to serve those in need in the best way possible.

We always do all that we can to love our neighbors.”



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, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
500 FAIRVIEW AVE., BRENTWOOD, CA 94513
(IN THE CHURCH HALL)

JOIN US FOR MASS AT 8:00 AM
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH ARE INCLUDED
QUESTIONS? CALL JOYCE AT 925-513-7124

PARTICIPANTS ***MUST*** REGISTER BY APRIL 13
REGISTER AT: [BIT.LY/OZANAMIHM](https://bit.ly/OZANAMIHM) OR SCAN QR





Join us on Tuesday, May 20, for a
Home Visit Workshop

WHEN WE SHOW UP...GOD ALWAYS SHOWS UP

PLEASE JOIN US AT:

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg, CA 94565

OUR WORKSHOP WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 5:00 – 8:30 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 or scan the QR code.
Registration will close Friday, May 16th



bit.ly/HomeVisit0525



*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County*

St. Anne's Chapter of SVdP Presents

Strut For A Cause

A Thrift Store Fashion Show Fundraiser

Featuring Clothing and Accessories

From the Brentwood St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

All Proceeds Benefiting St. Anne SVdP

"Helping Our Neighbors In Need"



Saturday, May 3rd 2025

From 1 to 3

General Admission—\$20.00

VIP Runway seating \$30.00

St. Anne Catholic Church

2800 Camino Diablo Rd.

Byron, CA

Scan QR code below for tickets



LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED