



May 2025

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Meeting

Vincentian Zoom Call

Tuesday – Each Tuesday

<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>

Meeting

West Region Meeting

Long Beach, CA

Thursday-Saturday, 5/1-5/3

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Family Resource Center

Tuesday - 5/20

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Training

Home Visit Workshop

Church of the Good Shepherd

3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg

Tuesday, 5/20, 5:00 PM-8:30 PM

Training

Tools of the Home Visit

St. Joan of Arc (MP Room)

2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd

San Ramon, CA

Tuesday, 5/20, 9:00 AM-1:30 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Family Resource Center

Tuesday - 6/17

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Bob Liles Corner

WIPING THE FACE OF JESUS...

By Bob Liles

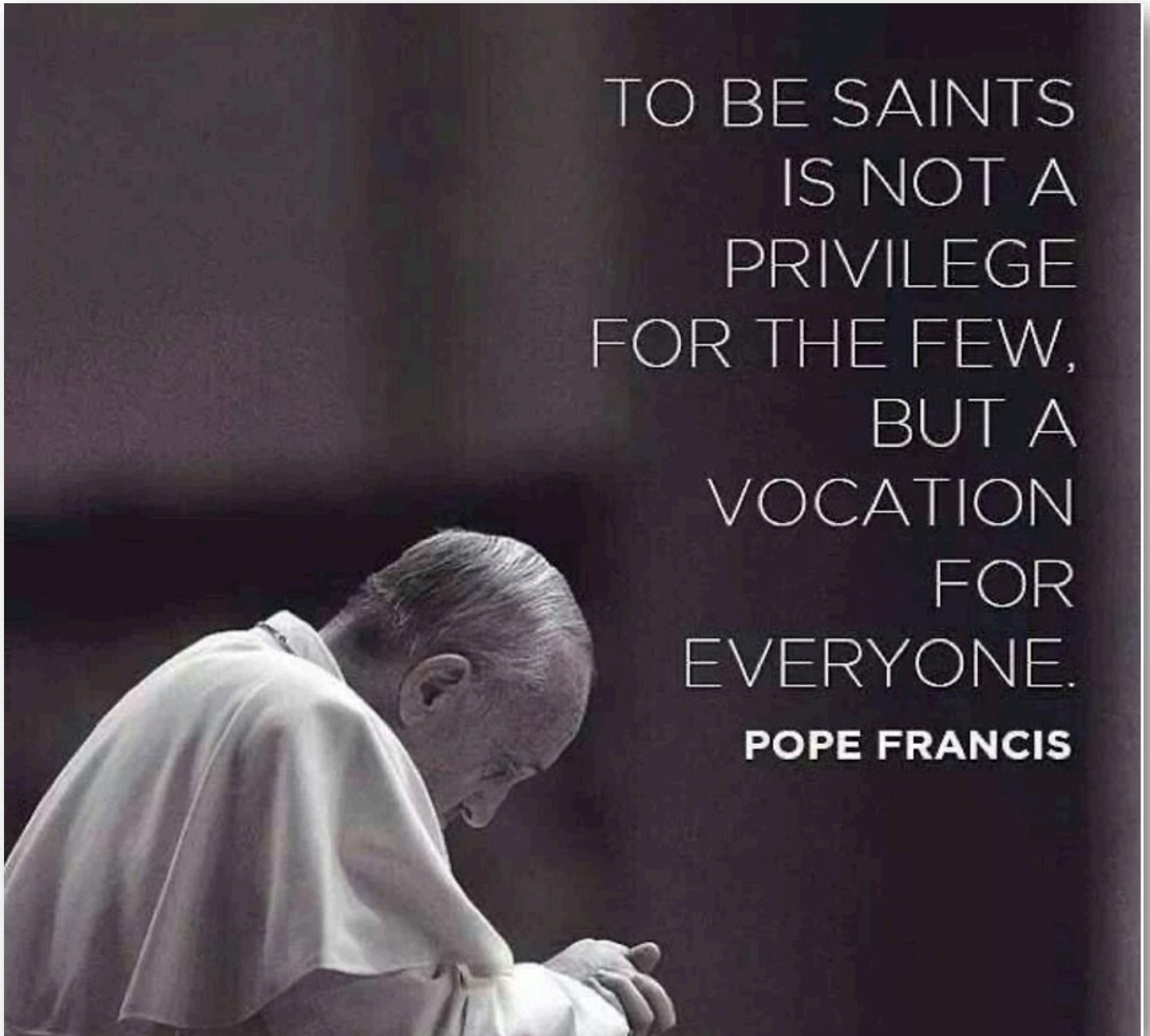
At the last National Spiritual Advisor training class, Tim Williams shared a powerful reflection: for nearly 2,000 years, Christians have honored Veronica for wiping the face of Jesus as He made His way to Calvary. Her gesture did not stop His suffering, nor did it change the outcome of His journey to the cross—but it was an act of compassion and love that continues to inspire.

As Vincentians, we often offer similar acts of kindness—providing food, paying a bill, listening with care. And yet, we can sometimes feel disheartened when those acts don't result in permanent change. We may see the same neighbor return, still struggling, still in need. Tim noted that for more than 90% of the people we assist, their lives may not be radically transformed, and they may not escape poverty completely.

But does that mean our help was in vain? Not at all. Like Veronica, our role is not always to fix—but to love, to accompany, and to affirm the dignity of the person before us. Each encounter is a sacred moment, an opportunity for us and our neighbor to see Christ in one another. Sometimes, a kind word, a warm meal, or simply being present can be the light someone needs in a dark day. And often, that is more than enough.

BOB

Pope Francis 17 December 1936 – 21 April 2025



TO BE SAINTS
IS NOT A
PRIVILEGE
FOR THE FEW,
BUT A
VOCATION
FOR
EVERYONE.
POPE FRANCIS

Eternal rest grant unto Pope Francis, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him; may he rest in peace. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

This reflection on the passing of Pope Francis, which occurred the day after Easter 2025, was shared with me by Kiona Medina from the Office of Life and Social Justice Ministries at the Diocese of Oakland.

HOME VISIT TIP

by Dominick Scibilia, Hope Conference



The Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program

Are the neighbors you serve taking advantage of PG&E's FERA (Family Electric Rate Assistance) program? Income-qualified customers get an 18% monthly discount on electric rates. Participants must be a household with three or more people.

For more information, go to the SVDP Contra Costa Members/PG&E section of www.svdpc.org or <http://www.pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance.html>

Next to The Love of Christ, The Greatest Gift Vincentians Share with Our Neighbors in Need on Behalf of Our Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Our Parish, and Our Catholic church is our time by Stephen Krank.

The Independent Sector's valuation of volunteer time — using private sector wages adjusted for benefits and local conditions — puts a number to something that cannot truly be measured: the love, compassion, and faith that Vincentians pour into serving Christ in our neighbors.

Each hour reported is a silent act of hope, a living prayer made visible through action. It strengthens our communities, brings light to those in darkness, and gives witness to the Gospel message of love and mercy.

The next time you report your Quarterly and Annual hours, remember: **you are not simply recording numbers — you are bearing witness to the presence of Christ moving through you, for the good of His people.**

When we review the data from the Consolidated Report for the Conferences from our 2023-24 Annual Reports — reflecting the contributions of time both Vincentian and non-Vincentian Conference volunteers — we see something truly extraordinary:

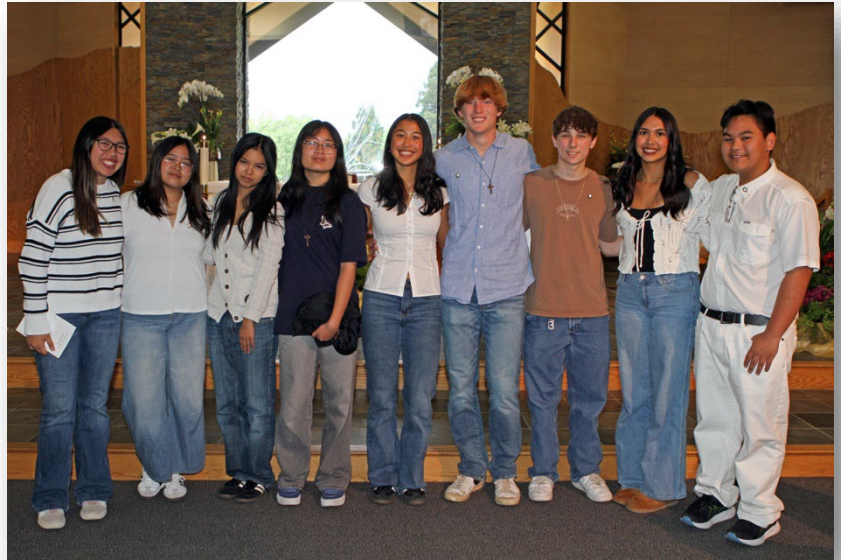
In just the 2023-24 FY, the Vincentians of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County provided volunteer time valued at \$3,624,642, a generous gift freely given in Christ's name to our neighbors in need and support of our local parishes and our Catholic Church.



NINE YOUNG (VOTA) VINCENTIANS COMMISSIONED AT ST. JOAN OF ARC: A Celebration of Service and Renewal by Stephen Krank

On Ozanam Sunday, April 27, 2025, during the 10:00 AM Mass at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in San Ramon, a packed church witnessed a beautiful and inspiring moment: the commissioning of nine new members of the St. Vincent de Paul "VOTAs" (Vincentians of the Arc).

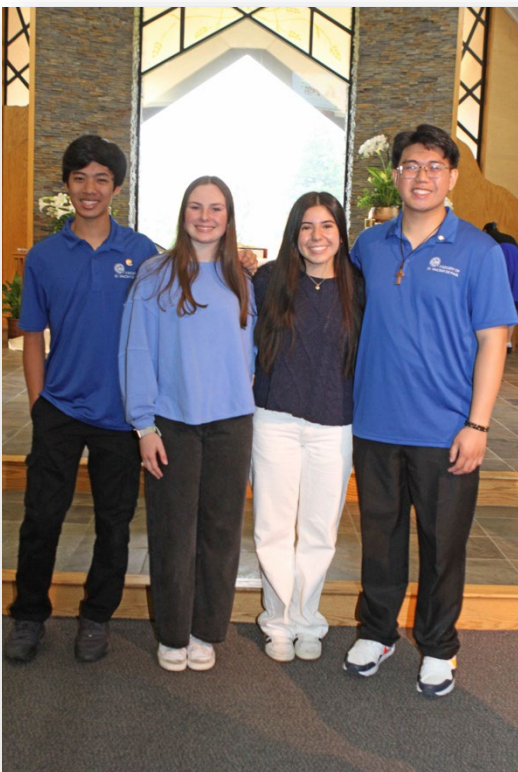
The Commissioning Ceremony, celebrated at the heart of the Mass, formally welcomed these Young Vincentians into the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul: *A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.* The congregation lifted them in prayer and encouragement as these young leaders pledged to a life of faith-filled service.



New Vincentians: Erin Bayot, Lyla Cadiente, Ella Fernandez, Rosemary Navarro, Siria Trinidad, Angelo Villar, Cailyn Reed, Tommy Casserly, Ava Padilla, Matthew Maier

A special part of the ceremony honored the founding President, Tyler Fung, and the founding Vice President, Andre Navarro, whose vision and dedication laid the foundation for this vibrant youth movement. Their inspiring example has ignited a new generation to step forward in faith. With gratitude and great excitement, the community welcomed the incoming President, Abby Roden, and Vice President, Gabby Monge—two highly organized and spirited young leaders who are already energizing the VOTAs for their next service chapter.

Following the Mass, Fr. Johnson Abraham and Deacon Fred Seril graciously welcomed all the VOTAs—past and newly commissioned—into the rectory for a celebration of fellowship. Alfonso Boukourizia, Suzette Barreras, and Carin Wnuk (below) prepared fresh, homemade pizzas from Mother Maria's traveling Pizza Trailer—where "Every Slice Is a Slice of Heaven"—filling the gathering with warmth, hospitality, and the joyful spirit of shared dreams for the future.



Tyler Fung, Abby Roden, Gabby Monge & Andre Navarro



Alfonso Boukourizia, Carrin Wnuk, Suzette Barreras

The commissioning of these nine Young Vincentians is a living testament to the vitality of our Church and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Joan of Arc. It is the fruit of the faithful commitment of the Adult Conference, leaders like Frank Wnuk, and Fr. Abram's heartfelt dedication to nurturing young people in putting their faith into action by serving neighbors in need.



Frank Wnuk, Fr. Johnson Abraham
& Deacon Fred Seril

The enduring spirit of St. Vincent de Paul is alive and flourishing at St. Joan of Arc. Under the leadership of these remarkable young Vincentians, the future is filled with faith, hope, and love. May their service bless the St. Joan of Arc parish and community for many years!

The Tools for the Home Visit Training, hosted by the Hope Conference, has been moved from May 10th to Saturday, May 31st. We hope you can join us.



Please REGISTER via Eventbrite **by May 28th** at:

<https://bit.ly/Tools-HomeVisit-May2025>



Tools for the Home Visit Training: Summary Overview.

Our *Tools for the Home Visit Training* is a spiritually grounded, practical workshop designed to strengthen Vincentians' capacity to walk alongside our neighbors in need with greater compassion, competence, and care.

At the heart of every Home Visit is the invitation to accompany, not to fix or rescue, but to support neighbors as they work toward greater stability and hope. This training provides Vincentians with practical tools and strategies to enhance their effectiveness, including:

- Creating a Financial Snapshot to assess income, expenses, and immediate needs
- Guiding neighbors through Budgeting Basics to prioritize and plan
- Accessing the SVdP Micro Loan Program for urgent financial challenges
- Strengthening Conference Resources by building parish and community partnerships
- Navigating the SVdP Family Resource Center and Website for referrals and support
- Partnering with the Hope Conference to maximize shared resources and case assistance

Light refreshments and lunch will be provided. Together, we will deepen our commitment to serve with heart and skill, honoring the dignity of every person we encounter.

St. Joan of Arc Multipurpose Room, 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583



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

St. Vincent de Paul Microloan Program

**Low-Interest Loans to Give a Hand-Up
to People and Families in Need**

— FEED
— CLOTHE
— SHELTER
— HEAL

- St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County helps families from falling into a cycle of debt by providing low-interest loans.
- Loan amounts range from \$500 - \$2,500 at VERY low interest rates.
- Get help with payday loans, car repair, security deposits, medical bills, or other one-time needs.
- Applicants must contact their local SVdP conference.
- Applicants must have a reliable, documented income source for 4 months, & receive financial coaching.

Please leave a message for:

Anne Crisp: Annecrisp@yahoo.com or (925)787-0857
Ron Costanzo: Rcostanzo@astound.net or (925)487-4986
Joyce Ohanesian: Joy1936@comcast.net or (925)513-7124
Shawna Costanzo: Shawna57@gmail.com or (925)200-5952





RULE 6. OTHER RELATIONSHIPS ECUMENICAL & INTER-FAITH RELATIONSHIPS

6.1 Every member should foster ecumenism

Each Vincentian should seek to deepen a personal commitment to ecumenism and to cooperation in works of charity and justice as a contribution towards the achievement of that full and visible unity of the Church for which Christ prayed, “that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they be one in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (Jn 17:21).

MEETING AGENDA

Membership reports on meetings and other activities attended by members on behalf of the Conference. After attending a district council meeting, the president should report back to the conference on what happened. If a conference member attends the Ozanam Orientation, Home Visit Workshop or some other training, the member should share what they learned. And hopefully persuade other members to attend the training.



MATTHEW KELLY ON ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Matthew Kelly had a daily series of videos during Lent. In this one, he talks about St. Vincent de Paul and Ozanam. Very well done, worth a listen. Here is the link:

[:https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/03252025-reflection.html](https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/03252025-reflection.html)



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



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 May 6, 2025, Session Focus - Beyond the Home Visit II
*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 – May 20, 2025

At our May Resources Workshop, you will discover how the St. Vincent de Paul Workforce Development Program is helping neighbors restart their work journeys. This program provides practical skills training and supportive services for those who have been out of the workforce and are ready to re-enter.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore essential tools, resources, and community connections that can help individuals build brighter futures. Together, we can empower our neighbors with the skills, support, and confidence they need to succeed!

<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>

Meeting ID: 925 439 5060

Passcode: Ozanam



*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