



*June 2025*

Vincentian **Wisdom**  
Quotes • Charism



### **Meeting**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Zoom  
Tuesday, 6/17, 9:30 - 11:30 AM

### **Meeting**

District Council Meeting  
SparkPoint Contra Costa West  
Richmond, CA  
Saturday, 6/21, 9:30 - 11:30 AM

### **Feast Day**

Feast of the Sacred Heart  
Friday, 6/27

### **Event**

19th Annual  
Knights of Columbus #9206  
Swing for Charity Golf Tournament  
Callippe Preserve Golf Course  
Monday, 7/21, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

### **Training**

Ozanam Orientation  
Saturday - 8/16  
St. Stephen Catholic Church

### **Event**

SVdP National Assembly  
Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY  
Wed.-Sat, 8/27- 8/30

### **Bob Liles Corner**

**BOOK REVIEW – SCARCITY - Mullainathan & Shafir – Part 3 By Bob Liles**

In Chennai, India there is a huge market place with over 2,500 markets. Before it opens the poorest of the poor borrow \$20. Then they buy select items at the market and sell them alongside the road as people walk to the market.

They will make about \$22, of which \$21 goes to the lender and they are left with \$1. If the vendor saved ten cents a day, after about 50 days the vendor would have saved \$20 and would no longer have to borrow money every day. Now their profit would be \$2/day which doubles the vendor's income. But they don't do that.

Probably because when you live on one dollar a day cutting spending back by ten cents is a major reduction. So, the authors gave about one hundred of these vendors \$20. Now they did not need to borrow any money nor pay any interest.

If they kept doing what they were doing they would make twice as much money every day. At first it started out great and the vendors enjoyed their new larger income.

But one by one they made decisions to overspend and after one year all of them were back at the same place they were prior to being given the \$20.

Continued..

## BOOK REVIEW – SCARCITY by Mullainathan & Shafir –Cont.

*Does this suggest that the poor will always be with us and that, despite our best efforts to assist them, they will ultimately return to their previous state?*

*Does this mean that it is their own fault that they are poor, and if they behaved like us, they wouldn't be poor anymore?*

Not really. Have you ever been on a diet and cheated even once on the diet? Did you make some New Year's resolutions or decide to give up something for Lent, and didn't follow through 100%? The authors conducted studies to show that all of us would have behaved similarly to the vendors. The only difference is that we have so much that if we eat that one piece of cake or break our New Year's resolution, nothing drastic will happen. In the case of the vendors, they are living so close to the edge of the cliff that one teeny weeny mistake puts them over the edge, and no human is capable of being so disciplined that they will never mess up.

### *Strut For A Cause*

#### **St. Anne SVdP Conference Hosts Joyful and Stylish Fundraiser. By Dicki Lulay**

On May 3rd, the St. Anne SVdP Conference lit up the room with its lively and creative **Thrift Store Fashion Show Fundraiser**, showcasing outfits and accessories from the Brentwood SVdP Thrift Store. Each model not only curated their look from thrifted treasures but also selected a song that captured the spirit of their ensemble, setting the tone as they confidently strutted down the runway!

The models, all proud members of St. Anne in Byron, are active volunteers in many ministries, including SVdP, Women's Fellowship, the Choir, Eucharistic Ministry, Lectoring, Counting, Faith Formation, and more. Their energy, style, and service brought the evening to life. Below are the featured models and their chosen songs.



Lauren Mabitong (Second Hand Rose), Georgie Mendonca (Snow), Virginia Meagher (9 to 5), Carol Luke (April in Paris), Terry/Dicki Lulay (Puttin on the Ritz)



Noah Cruz (Angel), Madonna Leeper (Walking on Sunshine), Haley Luke Flowers), Andrea DeSimone (All Summer Long), Maura/Marie Fisher (Me and My Shadow), Norma Stephenson (Lollipop)



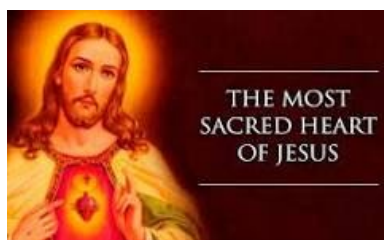
Maxx Sommers (In the Summer Time), Lauren/Jay Magbitong (Good Vibrations), and Dicki Lulay portraying Carol Burnett's "Gone with the Wind" parody dress (Tara's Theme)

## **RULE 6.2**

### **THE SOCIETY IS COMMITTED TO ECUMENICAL AND INTER-FAITH COOPERATION**

Following the teachings of the Catholic Church, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul recognizes, accepts and encourages the call to ecumenical and inter-faith dialogue and cooperation which arise from its charitable activity. It is prepared to participate in the Church's ecumenical and inter-faith initiatives within each country, in harmony with the diocesan bishop.

## **FEAST of the SACRED HEART**



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been solemnly consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus since February 5, 1872. An Act of Consecration was drawn up at the request of the Society in 1872, and this act of consecration is renewed annually by all units of the Society.



## **MORE THAN A THRIFT STORE: How Our Contra Costa County SVdP Thrift Stores Empower Vincentians to Better Serve ~ by Stephen Krank**

**Shifting the Perspective** When most people think of a St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, they picture a place to donate gently used items, such as furniture, clothing, kitchenware, plates, and silverware, or perhaps a spot to shop affordably while supporting a good cause. Many understand that these donations fund programs for neighbors in need.



*The St. Paul Conference helped Joanna Mejia, who was in need of furniture. Thanks to you, we were able to provide her with a couch for her living room.*

and shelf of home goods is a deeper purpose: to serve Christ in the poor.

Some donors go beyond giving material goods. They donate their time, volunteering alongside neighbors reentering the workforce through our **Workforce Development Program**. This collaboration creates a circle of restoration, where those who serve and those who are served work together to

But what many don't realize is that our Thrift Stores are far more than that. They are deeply embedded in the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul — serving not only as revenue sources but as direct channels of charity, dignity, and restoration.

### **Where Charity Meets Purpose**

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores are not just retail outlets — they are a ministry in motion. Behind every rack of clothing



*Ms. Camilia Andres, a sick mother of two, came into our office and was in need of a bed. With the help of the Vincentians at St. Paul, and thanks to our Thrift Stores and Donors we were able to provide an AlwaysAire Queen bed and pillows.*

rebuild lives. While in the program, many of the participants work at the Thrift Stores.

## Vincentians in Action: Thrift Stores as a Direct Resource

For Vincentians making **Home Visits**, our Thrift Stores have become vital allies. These stores are not just places to refer neighbors for affordable goods — they are lifelines for immediate, compassionate assistance.

When a neighbor is homeless or facing urgent need, Vincentians can guide them into any of our Thrift Stores to receive a fresh set of clothing — no forms, no questions, just dignity.

## New Resources for Restoring Dignity

Today, our Thrift Stores do more than provide clothing. They are distribution points for household essentials, coordinated in partnership with Vincentians actively serving in the field.



Through this growing effort, Vincentians now help neighbors in need access:

- **Kitchen essentials** for families moving into permanent housing
- **Children's toys and car seats** to promote safety and comfort
- **Pillows, mattresses, and bedding** to ensure restful sleep and restore dignity
- **Dining tables and chairs** to help transform a space into a home

*Abrianna and Jeredias Cruz were thrilled to receive a new car seat for Baby CeeCee, secured by St. Vincent de Paul's conference at St. Patrick.*

These items aren't just donated — they are thoughtfully provided as part of a holistic approach to restoring lives with care and respect.

## A Full-Circle Ministry of Charity

When you **donate**, **shop**, or **volunteer** at a St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, you become part of a full-circle ministry — one where every act of generosity becomes a tool in God's hands.

Every plate, every shirt, every chair has the potential to become part of someone's story of restoration. Through your contributions, you equip Vincentians to meet people where they are, to see Christ in those who suffer, and to walk with them toward a future of hope.

***Let us continue building bridges between compassion and action  
— one plate, one chair, one pillow at a time.***

Thanks to growing partnerships, this outreach has expanded even further. On Saturdays, neighbors can benefit from coordinated services through:

- **The Bay Church Shower Program**
- **The Loaves and Fishes Dining Room at St. Vincent de Paul**
- **New Destiny Church's outreach ministry**

Through these collaborations, neighbors receive hot showers, clean clothing, new underwear, warm meals, and often even a fresh haircut — all in one day. It's more than charity; it's renewal.



Andre Navarro (VOTA), Tyler Fung (VOTA), Zoie Roghair, Michael Acaldo, Linda Roghair

2025 05 07 Good Governance

2025 05 02 Survival Kit Handouts

2025 05 07 Advocacy 101

2025 05 07 How to Build A Conference Donor Base

2025 05 07 Microloan Programs West Region

2025 05 07 RV SPU Vehicle Outreach

2025 05 07 SVdP Youth And Young Adult Leaders

2025 05 07 Tim Williams Prayers West Region

20250509 HT 101 West Region Meeting



Ron Costanzo, Anne Crisp Sr. Paule Freeburg  
Claudia Ramirez

## **SLIDES FROM WEST REGION MEETING**

Here are some of the presentations made at the West Region meeting in May.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AsnhAKcAS1M8\\_KScpPrWII5NZJLxiwx0](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AsnhAKcAS1M8_KScpPrWII5NZJLxiwx0)

These are the topics. All officers should read the one on Good Governance. The members should also read it and hold their officers to doing it.

The talk on Micro Loans was given by our DC, and they will do it for your conference. The Youth talk was presented by the youth conference at St. Joan of Arc, Vincentians of the Arc (VOTA), and they can give it to your conference.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> 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. Ideal for sharing with conference members or parishioners who are interested in the mission of St. Vincent de Paul. Produced by Tim Williams, National Vincentian Formation Director.

**The upcoming June 3, 2025, Session Focus - Beyond the Home Visit 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**

## 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY- RESOURCES FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

**Upcoming CalFresh Basic Eligibility Training Resources Workshop – June 17, 2025**

**At our June Resources Workshop, you will learn how the St. Vincent de Paul and CalFresh Basic Eligibility Training (Non-Citizenship and Sponsorship)** can better serve our neighbors in need. This program equips individuals with practical skills to assess and guide our neighbors to supportive services when needed.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore essential tools, resources, and community connections that can help our neighbors build brighter futures. Together, we can walk with our neighbors and teach 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

# Workforce Development

Join a Team & Receive Paid Employment and Training - Find the Job for You!



## Skill Development

- Interviewing & Communications
- Resumé Building
- Computer skills
- Networking/Reference building
- Building job search skills



## Program Benefits

- Supportive group classes
- 1-on-1 mentorship
- Connection to support services
- 25 weeks of paid, part-time work

**Call (925) 439-5060 to reserve your spot!**

**Participants MUST ATTEND a Part One & a Part Two Session**

### **Pleasant Hill**

Christ the King Church  
199 Brandon Rd., Room C

#### **Part One**

**Sun. 6/29: 10:00 am-1:00 pm**

#### **Part Two**

**Sat. 7/5: 10:00 am-1:00 pm**

### **Pittsburg**

SVdP Dining Room/  
Community Center,  
1415 Simpson Ct.

#### **Part One**

**Wed. 7/2: 2-5 pm**

#### **Part Two**

**Mon. 7/7: 2-5 pm**

**If selected for the program, workplaces are in Pleasant Hill, Brentwood, and Pittsburg.**