



November 2025

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 11/18
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Family Resource Center

Event

Advent Spiritual Retreat
Saturday, 11/22
8:30 AM – Noon
St. Perpetua Catholic Church
Lafayette, CA
See Flyer to Register

Feast Day

Feast of the Miraculous Medal
Thursday, 11/27

Event

Thanksgiving Meal
Thursday, 11/27
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
SVdP Family Resource Center
Pittsburg, CA
See Flyer to Donate/Help

Feast Day

Feast of St. Catherine Laboure
Thursday, 11/28

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 12/21
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Family Resource Center

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Bob Liles Corner

A NEW YEAR, MANY NEW OFFICERS

We are starting a new Vincentian year and some conferences have new officers. Now might be the time to review all of the information in the Conference Operation section of the Members section of our website: <https://www.svdpc-cc.org/conference-operation/>.

A person can be easily overwhelmed by the site as there are over one hundred documents. But just scan through it and see what is available. Click on the one that seems the most relevant to your conference at this time.

Try to make it a habit to check out one document every week. The Standards of Excellence might be a good one to start out with. And if you are not an officer, go there and find a document which will help you be a better Vincentian.

Bob

“Let us learn, first of all, to defend our belief without hating our adversaries, to appreciate those who do not think as we do, to recognize that there are Christians in every camp, and that God can be served now as always! Let us complain less of our times and more of ourselves. Let us not be discouraged, let us be better.

— Bl. Frédéric Ozanam

THE RULE 6.6

AFFILIATED GROUPS CAN WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH US



The Society accepts the principle of affiliated groups. These groups consist mainly of members of other Christian churches and ecclesial communities who are attracted by the work of the Society and/or its spirituality. They are welcome to participate in the charitable work, appropriate Council discussions and the fraternal life of the Society, but are not eligible for office in the Society. Groups from non-Christian religions may also be similarly affiliated.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Click on this link <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11859937> to see a collection of videos from the latest National Assembly. “Homelessness is a Housing Problem”, “Superhabits: The Universal System for a Successful Life”, “Presidential Welcome”, “Spiritual Retreat”, “Vision SVdP Update” While they are all worthwhile, I was most impressed by Superhabits. -Bob

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY AND THE SNAP (CalFresh) BENEFITS DELAYS – by Claudia L. Ramirez

SVdP of Contra Costa County is at the forefront of helping our neighbors in need affected by the government shutdown, due to Federal employees being furloughed or because they have not received their November SNAP (CalFresh) benefits. Our neighbors come to us because we are a trusted source for help and hope during challenging times.

Our pantries have been experiencing increases in neighbors coming for food from 45 to 200%. At our Family Resource Center, we went from helping 5 families a day to more than 20. And the need is not going away anytime soon. Although at the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 4, the Supervisors declared a state of emergency and allocated \$21 million from county contingency funds to provide gift cards to CalFresh recipients in the county who otherwise would not have benefits, the need for food grows. Getting these funds out to the community will take time (in Contra Costa 63,000 families -110,000 individuals get CalFresh benefits monthly), and organizations like SVdP will continue to feel the increased demand for food and other assistance.

As members of The Food Security Collaborative of Contra Costa County, SVdP has been in constant communication with fellow members of the collaborative, county officials, funders, and others. We are looking for ways that our conferences with pantries can get more food from our partners like the Food Bank of Contra Costa and White Pony Express. We are also looking to our generous philanthropic community to provide funding for more food and resources to meet this surge in demand for food and other basic needs. We are here to support our conferences and remember that “No act of charity is foreign to the Society.”

Following is a press release that the Food Security Collaborative sent last week, highlighting this issue and offering solutions and help for our neighbors.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2025

The Food Security Collaborative of Contra Costa County Warns that 65,000 Households Will Experience CalFresh (SNAP) Benefit Delays Due to Federal Government Shutdown

Contra Costa County, CA — The Food Security Collaborative of Contra Costa County (The Food Security Collaborative) is issuing an urgent alert to residents across the Bay Area regarding delays in CalFresh benefits for November 2025, stemming from the ongoing federal government shutdown.

According to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), while October benefits have already been issued, November CalFresh benefits will be delayed beginning Saturday, November 1, 2025.

The Food Security Collaborative **applauds the leadership of the Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD)** for taking proactive steps to protect residents by requesting that a **state of emergency be declared** and that **\$21 million in CalFresh benefits be replaced**. This action underscores the county's commitment to ensuring that vulnerable families are not left without access to essential nutrition support during the shutdown.

Contra Costa County has the opportunity to be a leader for those experiencing hunger in our community. At the same time, **emergency food providers are already seeing an increase in demand.** Additional support is urgently needed for food security providers as they respond to immediate food needs before direct financial support can be mobilized. Emergency food providers are a lifeline for chronically food-insecure families, immigrant communities, and federal workers and contractors currently impacted by the government shutdown.

Key messages to share with the community:

- Beginning November 1st, 65,000 households will not receive benefits they rely on to buy groceries.
- This represents over 100,000 individuals and over \$21 million in benefits.
- Households in need of food support are encouraged to find their local provider of free groceries, meals, and other supportive services at www.foodbankccs.org/findfood.



- **Despite a federal judge’s order that the USDA use contingency funds to cover November CalFresh benefits, they will still be delayed.** There is currently no clear timetable for when benefits will be issued or if the USDA plans to follow the judge’s orders. Emergency food providers will still see a large increase in need. Those who are able to donate funds are encouraged to give to members of The Food Security Collaborative.
- The \$80 million announced by Governor Newsom on October 22, 2025, is not new funding; it was previously allocated over the summer.
- The National Guard is available by request if needed. At this time, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano does not have plans to request the support of the National Guard.

Local Food Resources:

- Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano – 855-309-3663, www.foodbankccs.org
- Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa – 925-293-4792, www.loavesfishescc.org
- Meals on Wheels Diablo Region – 925-937-8311, www.mowdiabloregion.org
- St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa – 925-439-5060, www.svdpc-cc.org
- White Pony Express – 925-322-0604, www.whiteponyexpress.org

The Food Security Collaborative is working together to ensure no family in Contra Costa County goes hungry. The Collaborative urges all Contra Costa residents to stand in solidarity with their neighbors experiencing hunger and to support local food programs during this critical time.



NOVEMBER 2025 SESSION



Our Monthly meeting, designed to share RESOURCES for our Neighbors.

2ND TUESDAY **RESOURCES FOR OUR NEIGHBORS**

Join us on Tuesday, November 11, share resources with fellow Vincentians.

Anne Crisp, President of the Soference at St. Catherine of Siena and member of the Micro Loan committee, will facilitate a Q&A among our Vincentians. Bring you questions and concerns and we will get them answered – probably by a fellow Vincentian!

<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>

Meeting ID: 925 439 5060

Passcode: Ozanam

STATUTE 7 - MEETING AGENDA

Time and Place of next meeting (the calendar should include Festival meetings and Conference Liturgies)

While the Rule requires two meetings a month, not every meeting needs to be a business meeting. So, if in November your conference attends Mass together on the feast day of the Miraculous Medal or on the feast day of St. Catherine Labouré that will count as a meeting. Remember that in today's world everyone is always busy. The more reminders that you send out the better chance you have of getting good attendance at your meeting. Nothing wrong with one being sent out the prior week, the day before and maybe even the morning of the event. Some conferences find it best to move the date around to fit its members' schedules while others keep it the same every month. Find out what works best for your conference.



Advent Retreat for Vincentians

Opening our Hearts to Christ

Date: Saturday, November 22, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – Noon

Location: St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 3454 Hamlin Rd, Lafayette, CA 94549

Join us for a morning of reflection, fellowship, and spiritual renewal as we enter the season of Advent—a time to deepen our relationship with Christ.

Led by **Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C., West Region Spiritual Advisor**, our retreat will include:

- Guided reflections
- Quiet time for personal prayer
- Opportunities to share insights and connect with fellow Vincentians
- Why Purple?

This gathering will help us prepare for the gift of Christ and recognize His presence in our daily lives.

Come as you are—no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.

Together, we'll prepare our hearts for the joyful season ahead.

Hospitality: Breakfast provided

RSVP: Please register by Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Click <https://bit.ly/AdventRetreat2025> or Scan to register



Questions? Contact Vincentian Services at m.ceballos@sudp-cc.org

Be a Part of Our Vincentian Thanksgiving Tradition

Every year on Thanksgiving, Vincentians transform the Free Dining Room and Community Center in Pittsburg 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 one 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 12 pm on Nov. 25)

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

Scan the QR code to sign up for your item(s):



[or Click here to sign up](#)



This year our neighbors need to feel Christ's love, family, and presence more than ever...

We need you to be the hands and heart of Christ.

***Join us on November 27, 2025,
at the SVdP Family Resource Center (Free Dining Room)
1415 Simpson Court, Pittsburg, CA 94565***

For information on how to join and help. Contact Marco at m.ceballos@svdp-cc.org

FEAST DAYS

November 27th: Feast of the Miraculous Medal

The medal of the Immaculate Conception was manifested to Sister Catherine Laboure in the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, France on November 27, 1830.

The Meaning of the Front Side of the Miraculous Medal

Mary is standing upon a globe, crushing the head of a serpent beneath her foot. She stands upon the globe, as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Her feet crush the serpent to proclaim Satan and all his followers are helpless before her (Gn 3:15). The year of 1830 on the Miraculous Medal is the year Our Blessed Mother gave the design of the Miraculous Medal to Saint Catherine Labouré. The reference to Mary conceived without sin supports the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary—not to be confused with the virgin birth of Jesus, and referring to Mary’s sinlessness, “full of grace” and “blessed among women” (Luke 1:28)—that was proclaimed 24 years later in 1854.

The Meaning of the Back Side of the Miraculous Medal

The vision turned and showed the design on the reverse side of the medal. Twelve stars encircled a large “M” from which arose a cross. Below it were two hearts with flames arising from them. Thorns encircle the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a sword pierces the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The twelve stars can refer to the apostles, who represent the entire Church as it surrounds Mary. They also recall the vision of Saint John, writer of the Book of Revelation (12:1), in which “A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars.” The cross can symbolize Christ and our redemption, with the bar under the cross a sign of the earth. The “M” stands for Mary, and the interweaving of her initial and the cross shows Mary’s close involvement with Jesus and our world. In this, we see Mary’s part in our salvation and her role as Mother of the Church. The two hearts represent the love of Jesus and Mary for us. (See also Lk 2:35)



November 28th: Feast of St. Catherine Labouré

She was born May 2, 1806 in Fain-les-Moutiers, France. When she was nine years old, her mother died and she looked to the Blessed Virgin Mary to be her mother. She entered the Daughters of Charity on April 21, 1830. While Catherine was still a novice, the Virgin Mary appeared to her and asked her to have a medal struck in her honor. Because of the many miracles that resulted from devotion to it, it became known as the “Miraculous Medal.” Catherine Labouré was canonized in 1947.





We might expect that praise and prominence would be the lot of one so favored by heaven. But Saint Catherine sought none of it; rather, she fled from it. She wanted to be left alone to carry out her humble duties as a Daughter of Charity. For over forty years, she spent her every effort in caring for the aged and infirm, not revealing to those about her that she had been the recipient of Our Lady’s medal.

In 1876, Catherine felt a spiritual conviction that she would die before the end of the year. Mary Immaculate gave Catherine leave to speak, to break the silence of 46 years. To her Sister Superior, Catherine revealed the fact that she was the Sister to whom Our Blessed Mother appeared. On the last day of December 1876, Saint Catherine passed on—once again to the hands of Mary—this time, however, in heaven.


POVERTY

Simulation

Join us for this this **immersive experience** that places you in the shoes of those who face impossible choices every day; rent or food, medicine or transportation, hope or despair.

-  November 15, 2025
-  8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
-  **FREE** and lunch is included
-  St. Stephen Church Parish Hall

Registration is **required** for the event. Scan the QR code to register



Step into the **STRUGGLE** Learn in **SOLIDARITY**

Leave ready to **ACT**

Hosted by Chris the King - St. Stephen in response to the

World Day of the Poor

This is a newsletter for Vincentians, by Vincentians.