

VETERA MONIMENTA

May 2026

Feast Day

St. Louise de Marillac

Saturday 5/9

Training

Tuesday Tips & Training – Zoom

Tuesday, 5/12, 10am – 11am

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, 5/19, 9:30am – 11:30am

Training

Home Visit Workshop

Tuesday 5/19, 5:00pm – 8:30pm

St. Mary, Walnut Creek

Event

Vincentian Picnic

Saturday, 6/27, 4pm – 7pm

TBD

Training

Ozanam Orientation

Saturday 7/11, 9am – 3:30pm

Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Brentwood

Event

National Assembly

Wednesday – Saturday, 9/9 – 9/12

Hyatt Regency, Salt Lake City, UT

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Bob Liles Corner

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING?

When I started working at Dow Chemical in Pittsburg it was the largest chemical plant west of the Rockies.

During my 31 years there I built new plants, improved old plants and was proud of my accomplishments. At open house I could show family members the sections I built.

Today it is shut down and demolished. There is nothing to show for the 31 years that I worked there. When I do a home visit and help a neighbor there is a good chance that it will not drastically change their lives. There will be nothing concrete to show people and say, “I did that”. But that’s okay. We aren’t supposed to be creating monuments. It should be like Veronica wiping Christ’s face. She did what she could and He appreciated it.

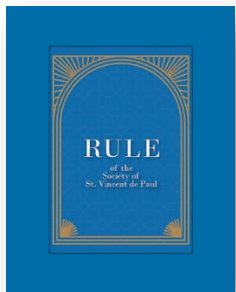
So, I hope that when you help a neighbor in need you are not expecting some type of concrete evidence that you helped someone and proudly show off your accomplishments to others.

It doesn’t even always work that way for people that actually build things. All you need to know is that for a short period of time you gave someone hope and that is all that is expected of you.

Bob

*For the complete calendar go to the Members section of www.svdpc.org

RULE 7.4 The practical Vincentian approach to social justice



The distinctive approach of Vincentians to issues of social justice is to see them from the perspective of those we visit who suffer from injustice.

“I have no doubt that God will bless this work provided we place no obstacles in His way. We shall always try to act with trust and dependence upon His divine will.”

— Louise de Marillac

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – Salt Lake City Sept 9 -12 – by Marco Ceballos

Is this the year that you are finally going to attend? Make a vacation of it. Talk to someone who has attended and see if they thought it was worthwhile. For me, last year's National Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky was my first and it was such a memorable experience. September can't come soon enough for the next one. It was hosted at the beautiful Galt House Hotel. Hundreds of Vincentians from all over the U.S. filled the place. It was surreal seeing that many of us gathered and it was such a pleasure sharing stories about what brought each of us to the Society, our experiences or “God moments”, and going over the workshops that we had attended. Such great discussions, the Holy Spirit within me was on fire! I loved talking/listening to everyone.

About the workshops, I remember having such a hard time deciding which workshops I would attend. I wanted to attend them all! It was here that I was able to meet the great Tim Williams, National Senior Director, Formation & Leadership Development, such an amazing speaker. Additionally, I am looking forward to hosting Tim when he comes to Contra Costa County in August to present a Spiritual Advisor training and a Spiritual Retreat.

I'm so excited for those that have not yet experienced attending a National Assembly. It truly is a worthwhile experience that I hope every Vincentian gets to experience at least once. Being surrounded and interacting with hundreds of Vincentians from all over the U.S. and some other countries, The speakers, the workshops. There is so much value in coming to these events. I highly recommend considering attending. 16 Vincentians representing 10 conferences from Contra Costa County were able to attend last year and it would be great to see more this year.

More information on this year's National Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah will be posted at the link found below and I hope you consider it. <https://ssvpusa.org/national-assembly/>

Stipends available for first-time attendees to the National Assembly

As we discussed at the District Council meeting, a limited number of stipends are available for first-time attendees whose conference has not received a stipend in the past 5 years. Please e-mail Claudia Ramirez, c.ramirez@svdp-cc.org if you or a conference member are interested in applying for a stipend and we will email you an application.

Saint Louise de Marillac: A Legacy of Faith in Action



On May 9th, we celebrate the feast day of Saint Louise de Marillac, an exceptional example of a life marked by deep faith, perseverance, and extraordinary compassion for those most in need.

Born in France in 1591, Louise experienced hardship early in life, yet through prayer and trust in God, she discovered her calling to serve Christ through service to the poor.

Though she first hoped to enter religious life, God led her on a different path through marriage, motherhood, and eventually widowhood. During a period of spiritual struggle, Louise received a profound vision that would shape the rest of her life: a calling to live in community and dedicate herself to serving those who were suffering.

That vision came to life through her partnership with Saint Vincent de Paul. Together, they recognized the urgent needs of the poor, the sick, abandoned children, and those devastated by war and famine. In 1633, they founded the Daughters of Charity, a revolutionary community of women devoted not to cloistered life, but to active service in the world. Under Louise's leadership, the Daughters of Charity cared for the sick in hospitals, rescued abandoned infants, opened schools for poor children, and brought relief to communities suffering from hunger, disease, and war. Louise emphasized that charity should be both compassionate and well-organized, rooted in prayer, dignity, and practical action.

Her spirituality was simple but powerful: to see Jesus in every person, especially the poor and forgotten. She believed that serving others was one of the clearest ways to love God.

When Louise died in 1660, her mission had already spread throughout France. Today, her legacy continues worldwide through the Daughters of Charity and countless ministries inspired by her example of humble service.

Canonized in 1934 and named the Patron Saint of Christian Social Workers in 1960, Saint Louise remains a model of Vincentian spirituality—showing us that holiness is often found in small acts of love, compassion, and faithful service.



We are blessed to have a first-class relic of St. Louise de Marillac at the Family Resource Center in Pittsburg. Her life exemplified compassion and action in service to the poor. Her legacy, now enshrined in our Family Resource Center, continues to inspire Vincentians and all who walk through our doors.

Let this relic remind us of our Vincentian heritage and call us to serve Christ in the poor with the same fervor as St. Louise and St. Vincent de Paul.

Tuesday Tips and Training
May 2026 SESSION
Tuesday, May 12, 10:00am – 11:00am



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

2ND TUESDAY- Open Discussion

Join us on Tuesday, May 12th, for this month's **Tips and Training**. For this session we will be having an **open discussion & sharing of ideas**. This will be a space for us to come together as conferences to share what is working well for your conference, discuss any challenges you may be facing, learn from one another's experiences, and ask questions and offer support as fellow Vincentians.

We ask that each conference send at least one Vincentian to represent your conference. These Tips and Training sessions are an important opportunity to stay connected as a Society and to grow together in our mission. Benefits of participating include gaining practical ideas and best practices from other conferences, strengthening your understanding of Vincentian spirituality and service, bringing back insights and resources to support your conference, and building relationships across our wider Vincentian community.

Your voice and experience are important. Whether you have something to share, a question to ask, or simply want to listen and learn, we encourage you to join us.

<https://bit.ly/TuesdayTipsTraining>

Meeting ID: 890 0345 5047

Passcode: Ozanam

A VINCENTIAN YOUTH RECOGNIZED – by Mary Cook



District 5 Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston and Marisela Gonzalez

If there's any reason to celebrate, I find myself drawn in. I'm a firm believer in marking every moment in our lives that make us smile; which is one reason I attended the most recent meeting of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors as they celebrated the 32nd Annual Celebration of the Farmworker Rights Movement on April 14, 2026. In addition to keynote speaker Jane Garcia, CEO of La Clinica, performances by Pittsburg High School Folklorico dancers, and Mariachi Monumental, I was thoroughly entertained by the presentation of the Youth Hall of Fame Awards—my primary reason for being there—to see my young friend honored.

It was my pleasure to witness the “Volunteerism Award” bestowed upon one of St. Vincent de Paul's Vincentian Youth by Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston. Marisela Villezcas Gonzalez, an 18-year-old 12th grader at Alhambra

High School in Martinez was recognized for her outstanding dedication to community service. Since 2020, Marisela has volunteered regularly, almost weekly, at the St. Catherine of Siena St. Vincent De Paul food pantry, helping distribute food to local families. As a bilingual volunteer, a valuable skill to possess, she often assists Spanish speaking residents ensuring every neighbor feels welcomed and supported. As the first person our neighbors encounter, I rely heavily on Marisela's ability to communicate with many of our regulars in translating names, addresses, and phone numbers. Her organization, reliability, compassion, and teamwork have made her a valued member of the pantry team. Her maturity and inspiring leadership are well beyond her youthful years. She remains a wonderful example for her brother, Damian, aged 8 years old, who is an up-and-coming mini-Vinnie. I thank Raquel, the mother of these two impressive youths, who has raised her children wonderfully and should be very proud.

As Marisela moves on to furthering her education, narrowing down her options in the medical field, our conference members were pleasantly surprised to learn she will be attending DVC, Diablo Valley College, in the fall and will be living locally. What this means for us is that we will have Marisela volunteering with us for two more years! We are blessed.

Mary Cook
Vincentian
St. Catherine of Siena Conference



Mary Cook, Marisela Gonzalez, Sup. Scales-Preston and Raquel Gonzalez



Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Home Visit Workshop

WHEN WE SHOW UP...GOD ALWAYS SHOWS UP

PLEASE JOIN US AT:

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

2051 M. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94596

5:00 PM Light Supper & Registration

5:30 PM-8:30 PM Home Visit Workshop

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

You must register to attend. Use the link or QR code below.

Registration will close on Tuesday, May 5, 2026



<https://bit.ly/HomeVisitMay19>

Questions? Text Joyce Ohanesian 925-475-9566

Want to take a “deep dive” into what you can do to more successfully assist people in moving out – and staying out – of poverty? Look at these opportunities offered by the National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul



**SVdP USA
Poverty Immersion Institute 2026**

**Presented by
Donna Beegle
Communication Across Barriers**

Obtain the Tools Needed to Effectively Move People Out of Poverty. This intensive two-day Beegle Poverty Immersion Institute provides a grounded understanding of poverty and what you can do to more successfully assist people in moving out – and staying out – of poverty.

There are three different opportunities to attend this summer. The institutes have been set up to accommodate the regions in three locations throughout the country. While the regions have been noted below, anyone can attend any institute. NOTE that Space is limited. SVdP USA is covering the costs of registration. Hotel room scholarships are available on a limited basis.

Due to the significant investment being made by the National Council for lodging, meals, and speaker fees, we are regrettably instituting a Cancellation Penalty Policy for this Conference. Any cancellation that occurs within 14 days of the Conference will result in a \$250 fee charged to the cognizant Conference or Council - UNLESS a replacement attendee is named. As a result of the Cancellation Policy and the fact that it would be paid by the Conference or Council, an approval from the Conference or Council President is required for every attendee.

Click on the date/location below to learn more and to apply to attend the institute:

May 12 – 13, 2026 Denver
Mountain, West & South-Central Regions
Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Denver Downtown
550 15th Street
Denver, CO 80202

June 22 – 23, 2026 Pittsburgh
Northeast, North Central & Mideast Regions
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and Suites Pittsburgh-Downtown
One Bigelow Square
Pittsburgh PA 15219

July 20 – 22, 2026 Baton Rouge
Southeast, Mid Atlantic & Midwest Regions
Embassy Suites Baton Rouge
4914 Constitution Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Questions:
General questions regarding the program:
Pauline Manalo – pmanalo@svdpusa.org

Registration questions:
Christi Watts – cwatts@svdpusa.org

Prayer to St. Louise de Marillac

O glorious St. Louise, you found holiness not in cloistered walls but in the streets and hospitals of Paris, serving Christ in His poor.

Help us to see Jesus in those who suffer and who are marginalized. Give us your generous heart and practical charity, so that we may serve others with love and competence.

Intercede for all social workers, nurses, and those who dedicate their lives to serving the poor.
Amen.

Thought for the Month

More of what's not working won't work. Remember these words from St. Vincent "God does not consider the outcome of the good work undertaken but the charity that accompanied it."