



September 2026

Training

Tuesday Tips & Training - Zoom
Tuesday 9/8, 10–11 am

Feast Day

Feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam
Wednesday 9/9

Event

National Assembly
Wednesday - Saturday 9/9 – 9/12
Hyatt Regency, Salt Lake City, UT

Event

The Big La Bocce
Saturday 9/19, 10 am – 3 pm
Martinez Bocce Courts, Martinez

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday 9/22 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Feast Day

Feast of St. Vincent de Paul
Sunday 9/27

Training

Officer Training
Saturday 10/3 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
St. John Vianney, Walnut Creek

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

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Bob Liles Corner

THANK YOU!!!

This is my last regular write-up for our Vincentian newsletter as Pat Walsh will take over in October. I hope that you found at least a couple of these little messages meaningful in your life. I want to sincerely thank everyone for their support over the last six years. I have been president of several organizations and there is no doubt in my mind that you allowing me to be your president has been the most rewarding. Vincentians are definitely the most loving and charitable group of people in this broken world. I saw the face of Christ in all of you and am so appreciative of all that you have done and continue to do.

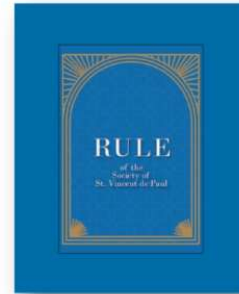
Bob



Rule 7.8 Political independence of the Society

The Society does not identify with any political party and always adopts a nonviolent approach.

It is good that some members follow and fully participate in their political vocation in such a way that they bring Christian values to political matters. Those members who hold political offices will be asked, always with charity, not to hold any mission of representation in the Society during their term of political office.



Rule 7.9 Working with communities

The Society should work not only with individuals in need but also with families and communities. It can help an excluded or deprived local community to develop a sense of responsibility and solidarity which leads it to improve its economic, social or environmental well-being, always retaining the personal contact of members with those who suffer.

WE DID IT!!!! We made it through the entire Rule

Two Lives, One Mission

September 9th: Feast day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Blessed Frederic Ozanam was schooled in law, literature and philosophy and taught at the universities in Lyon and Paris. Challenged by a detractor of the faith to demonstrate the good he was doing socially in France, Frederic and six companions founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on April 23, 1833. On June 23, 1841, Frederic married Amelie Soulacroix, and their only child, Marie, was born in 1845. He succumbed to ill health and died on September 8, 1853. Pope John Paul II beatified Frederic Ozanam in Paris on August 22, 1997.

“I am now completely convinced, that when one does a deed of charity, one need not worry about where the money will come from, it will always come!” – Bl. Frédéric Ozanam

September 27th: Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul was born at Pouy, France on April 24, 1581. He was ordained a priest on September 23, 1600. Vincent devoted himself entirely to the alleviation of the sufferings of the poor, and to that purpose established the Confraternities of Charity, later known as the Ladies of Charity, in 1617. In 1625 he founded the Congregation of the Mission, his community of priests and brothers. With Louise de Marillac, he co-founded the Daughters of Charity in 1633. Vincent died in Paris on September 27, 1660, and was canonized in 1737. Pope Leo XIII declared him patron saint of all works of charity.

“Put your trust in Him and following His example, always act humbly, graciously, and in good faith.” – St. Vincent de Paul

Tuesday Tips and Training
September 2026 SESSION
Tuesday, September 8th, 10:00am – 11:00am



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

2ND TUESDAY – Open Discussion

Join us on Tuesday, Sep 8th, for this month's Tips and Training. For this session we will be having an open discussion and 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 sessions are an important opportunity to stay connected as a Society and to grow together in our mission. 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. Looking forward to seeing you there!

An Important note!!! Links to Tuesday Tips and Training found in past newsletters up to Aug 2026 will not work. The old link is no longer valid. To gain access to the session, you must follow the new link provided below.

<https://bit.ly/TuesTipsTraining>

Meeting ID: 822 2861 5994

Passcode: ozanam

Coordinated Outreach, Referral Engagement – CORE by Suezette Steinhardt,
President, Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference, Brentwood

This is the first in a series of Tuesday Tips and Trainings that will focus on Contra Costa resources available to the neighbors we serve in our conferences. I encourage each conference to assign one or two members to attend the training and bring the information back to their conference. Below is what we learned at this training:

Misty Webb from CORE was a guest speaker at Tuesday Tips and Trainings on August 11, 2026. She went over the services provided by CORE and the process they have in place to engage with people who are experiencing homelessness. The information provided during the training will help Vincentians navigate the Coordinated Entry system when serving a neighbor who are currently unhoused. It provided insight on how to coach neighbors when they call into 211 and need connection to community resources when experiencing homelessness.

- CORE is person-centered, hires people with lived experience with homelessness, has cross sector partnerships such as Shelter Inc and Hope Solutions, uses a housing first model and is a Coordinated Entry (CE) access point. CE is a critical component to accessing shelter and housing opportunities and operates 7 days a week from 7am – 12am and will respond within 24-48 hours of initial call and will schedule a needs assessment.
- To initiate CORE services a person must call 211 and select option 3. This is a direct line to CORE. They will talk to a CORE employee who will take their information and dispatch an outreach team from the area where the person is currently located.
- The CORE team will do a needs assessment and determine what services are needed. This can include:
 - o Links to health and behavioral health services
 - o Direct placement in a shelter
 - o Encampment abatement support
 - o Transportation to appointments
 - o Connection to Community Resources
- There are CORE teams in Concord, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, San Pablo, Walnut Creek, El Cerrito, Antioch, Hercules, and Pinole. In addition to the above teams, CORE has 12 additional teams:
 - o Encampment Resolution 3 in Richmond, San Pablo and Antioch - a field-based mobile unit from Contra Costa Health that works to compassionately engage, stabilize, and transition unhoused individuals from public encampments into permanent or interim housing.
 - o All county east and west – Helps city teams when they are overwhelmed with calls
 - o TAY – teen/transitional aged youth (ex. Youth aged out of foster care system, or those kicked out of their homes by parents)
 - o BART - a specialized civilian crisis intervention unit deployed across the Bay Area Rapid Transit system to assist unhoused individuals and people experiencing mental health or substance use crises

- Night Team 1 & 2 - Bring basic items like food, clothes, blankets and clean water to people living outside.
- CORE+ Central, West and East – works directly with hospitals & hospital discharges.
- CORE does not serve people who may be losing their housing until they are without housing.
- CORE teams are not designed for crisis response. For medical or other emergencies involving homeless individuals, please call 911.



My Spiritual Retreat Experience by Anita Mendoza, Vincentian Support Associate

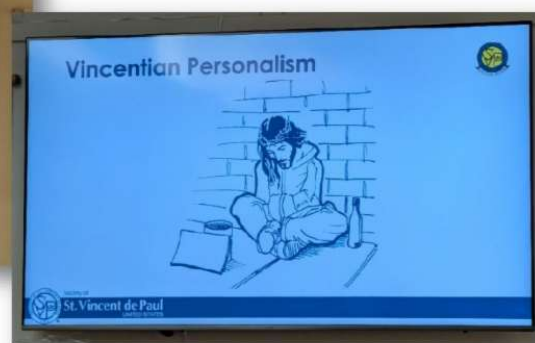
There was a lot to take in from the Spiritual Advisor training and Retreat. I better understand how important it is for all conferences to have a spiritual advisor because they generate reflections that foster respectful exchange within the conferences and keep us rooted in our spirituality.

And we are Friends! The Conferences are authentic communities of faith and love, of prayer and action. It's amazing that we all have this common mission of helping the

poor and marginalized. We are a true global community of Vincentian Friends growing together in our faith.

We are called to live in community and forge relationships and have one heart and one mind like our Saints Vincent and Louise and our Blesseds Rosalie and Frederick. We Vincentians strive to establish relationships based on trust and friendship, because our heart beats with the heart of Jesus. Formation and information, integration and love, are the words and deeds of Jesus. Spirituality guides our lives, and the Rule is our path so take the rules seriously. They are the special parts that call you to pray and draw closer to Christ

I also saw Inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Each one of us is touched differently by Divine grace.



A Call for Vincentian Support

Dear Vincentian Brothers and Sisters,

Our Vincentian family in Eastern Washington is facing a devastating crisis as multiple wildfires continue to burn throughout the Spokane area. At this time, there are 14 active wildfires, ranging in size from just a few acres to more than 7,700 acres. More than 700 homes have been destroyed, and nearly 65,000 people have been forced to evacuate their communities.

As Vincentians, we are called to respond when our neighbors are suffering. While firefighters and emergency personnel work tirelessly to contain these dangerous fires, countless families have lost their homes, possessions, and sense of security.

I ask each Conference and Council in the West Region to prayerfully consider making a donation to assist our brothers and sisters in Spokane as they begin the long journey toward recovery. Every gift, regardless of size, will help provide emergency assistance and bring hope to those who have lost so much.

Just as importantly, I ask you to keep everyone affected by these fires in your prayers:

- For the families who have been displaced and those who have lost their homes and livelihoods.
- For the elderly, children, and vulnerable individuals who have been forced to evacuate.
- For the firefighters, law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and all first responders who continue to risk their own safety to protect others.

As St. Vincent de Paul reminds us, "Charity is infinitely inventive." Let us answer this call with generous hearts, standing in solidarity with our Vincentian family and all those whose lives have been forever changed by these wildfires.

If your Conference or Council is able to make a donation, please follow the donation link below to the Spokane website where you can provide your donation.

<https://www.spokanesvdp.com/>

Thank you for your generosity, your compassion, and your prayers.

Judy Dietlein
National Vice-President, West Region
Board Chair, Disaster Services Corporation
National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Inc.

"Give something, however small to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

- St. Gregory Nazianzen

One Small Shed, One Big Difference by Brian Boyle, Sr. Communications and Development Associate



Managing food donations at the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Joan of Arc Church in San Ramon used to be tough due to limited space. With the Measure X Food Security Collaborative Grant funding, the Vincentians at the SVdP St. Joan of Arc conference have been able to expand their food storage capabilities, as well as provide more space for Vincentians to work to assemble food boxes for people and families in need.

The team bought a shipping container and placed it on a newly poured concrete foundation. The whole project cost \$23,770.89, which covered the land work,

the container, food prep tables, lighting, and a skylight. A roof solar panel keeps the shed powered and eco-friendly. The team is even looking at adding more panels to the shed, which would allow for the possibility for a refrigerator or air conditioner.

Inside, the shed works like an assembly line. Volunteers keep nonperishable food and diapers organized so they can quickly pack care boxes, which pairs of Vincentians then take directly to the person or family in need. "The new food storage shed is a huge help to our efforts here," said Conference President Frank Wnuk. "Now we can have pairs of Vincentians come and grab boxes of food for the person or the family they are visiting and then bring it directly to them. Doing it this way takes a big burden off our neighbors in need, since many of them lack the ability to travel to the church." Because everything is right at hand, Vincentians and other volunteers can pack and deliver help on short notice.

"We have the storage shed set up like an assembly line when it's full," Frank said. "Everything we need for a box of food is right here, and our volunteers can quickly assemble boxes of food that can be picked up at any time by our home visit teams." The new shed has also brought out the best in the parish youth. Children from Vacation Bible School started bringing food items as a school task, but they never stopped. "They've kept it up and are regularly bringing in food," Frank said. "It's a community effort."



With local needs growing, the St. Joan of Arc team is on track to deliver record amounts of aid this year, with aid to neighbors in need representing close to \$140,000 in expenses, a 43% increase from the \$97,000 distributed last fiscal year. This small shed is making a big, lasting difference for neighbors who need it most, and allowing the SVdP branch in San Ramon better meet the needs of those they serve.

Thought of the Month by Marco Ceballos, Vincentian Services Coordinator

For those of you that are not subscribed to the National mailing list, you are missing out. They provide various newsletters, legislative updates that address issues affecting our neighbors in need, and more! One to keep an eye out for is their Monthly Questions and Answers. It brings new perspective and maybe even answers a question that we didn't realize we needed. For example, one of the questions from a recent post was:

Q: Some of our Conference members give their personal phone numbers by not blocking their numbers when making calls. As a result, our friends in need call them for advice, assistance, etc. The Conference members do not always report the calls received or the advice given. Our guidelines say that our friends in need should not have our personal phone numbers. Is this correct?

What are your thoughts on this? Has this question ever crossed your mind? For one of our Vincentians, they shared that they never give out their personal number. It just so happened that one individual was able to trick that Vincentian's parish secretary into giving that information to them. The individual ended up sharing the Vincentian's personal number with several others who would end up calling the Vincentian around 2 am. This is the answer from the National Council:

A: The National Council does not encourage nor endorse the practice of members giving out their personal phone number. Phone numbers can be abused, and those we serve should only call a designated SVdP contact number for assistance.

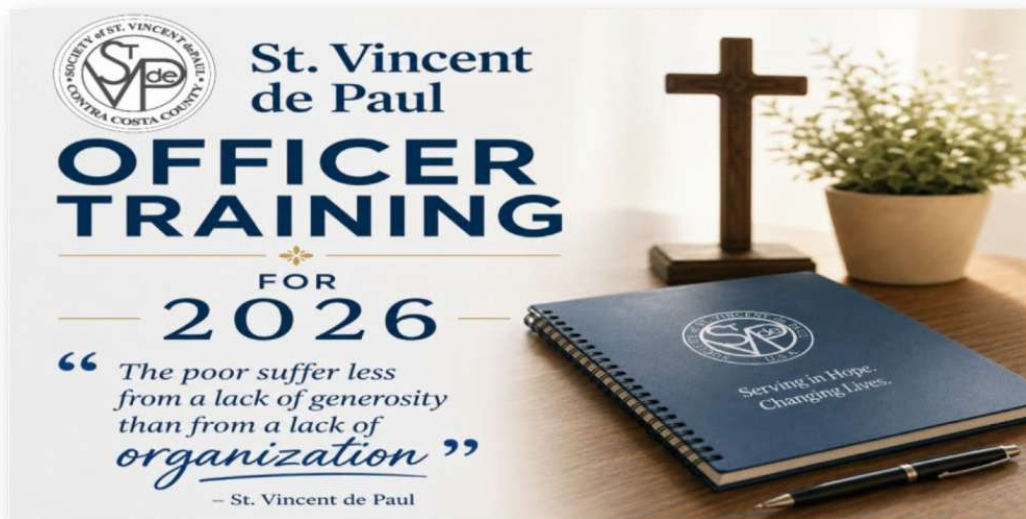
Vincentians should call our neighbors with *67 preceding the phone number so that their phone number is hidden. Some of our neighbors have their phones set up to automatically block calls from phones which have their number hidden. One solution is to set up a Google Voice phone number.

Any thoughts on this question and answer? How does you or your conference approach this situation? Any recommendations? If you do not mind sharing, it would be great to hear from you. Responses can be simple, heartfelt, and brief. Selected reflections may be shared in next month's newsletter so that we can continue learning from one another's Vincentian experiences.

Please consider subscribing to the National mailing list and check out more of National's Monthly Questions and Answers! It is all great material to read and go over with your conferences. Other than submitting your questions, you can also submit prayer requests, check out upcoming National events and latest news, and more! If you have not done so already subscribe. You will find the link to where you can sign up below!

Sign up here!

<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001OSVZXasZuMqwY5RmJuD7wV7eGedsYiOCq9K83oLl8JXw7qcRZKCnBd-P50ePEuq0tnj70Uc8MNXATTb4O-DtP1-VCXWsRSxdckrxHibgCpg%3D>



JOIN US FOR OFFICER TRAINING OCT 3, 2026
ST. JOHN VIANNEY (MULLEN COMMONS),
1650 YGNACIO VALLEY RD, WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598

PARTICIPANTS **MUST** REGISTER BY SEPT. 23, 2026
PLEASE **ANSWER** THE FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS TO REGISTER
COMPLETELY

MASS 8:30 AM
REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST 9-9:30 AM
CONCLUDES 12:30 PM

IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL SESSION THERE ARE
3 BREAKOUT SESSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:
1) PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT/SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
2) TREASURER
3) SECRETARY

REGISTER AT:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/OFFICERTRAININGOCT3](https://bit.ly/officertrainingoct3)

- OR -

SCAN THE QR CODE



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19
10AM- 2PM

Martinez
Waterfront Park
Bocce Courts
245 N Court St,
Martinez, CA



THE BIG **LA BOCCE 2026** **Bocce Ball Tournament**

REGISTER TODAY

This event benefits:

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County
& Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa and our
safety-net programs to help our most vulnerable
neighbors in Contra Costa.



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



SINGLE
TICKET
\$75

SVdP of Contra Costa County, 2210 Gladstone Dr., Pittsburg, CA 94565

Phone: (925) 439-5060 | www.svdpc-cc.org

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa, 835 Ferry St., Martinez, CA 94553

Phone: (925) 293-4792 | www.loavesfishescc.org

This is a newsletter for Vincentians, by Vincentians.

If you would like to contribute, feel free to email tips, news, and stories from your Conference and life as a Vincentian to Marco Ceballos at

m.ceballos@svdp-cc.org



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

