

Vincentian Support Services

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UP TO DATE Communicate

March 23, 2007



From: Vincentian Support Services

To: Conference Presidents
 Conference Back-Ups
 District Presidents



Share this
Information
With Your
Conference
Members

AGAIN AND AGAIN: RECALLS

1. As you are probably aware, there is a huge recall involving “wet” cat and dog food -- that packed in cans and in pouches. As far as we know, **dry dog & cat food is OK.**

Rather than look for dates or codes, it would be best to destroy ALL pouch and canned dog and cat food -- regardless of brand.

2. Reminder!! America’s Second Harvest, the nation’s food bank network, is now passing along a recommendation from ConAgra Foods Inc. that ALL **Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter products**, including spreads, topping sauces and ingredient bases be destroyed, even if plant codes other than 2111 and 2118 are stamped on the products.

CRUCIFIX PURCHASED

We are no longer in need of contributions towards the purchase of the Crucifix for use at Mass celebrated in the Hall of Banners. Besides the many, many generous donations received from Vincentians, an anonymous donor came in and guaranteed its purchase. Thank you all for making sacrifices when you thought we needed help.

AZ Helping Hands No Longer Providing Furniture!

The President of Arizona Helping Hands has informed us that, as of this year, they are NO longer giving out furniture. Conferences have been referring clients to them and they get about 60 calls a day. Please spread the word that they are not offering that service anymore. We ran news items on this service several times last year, so please pass on the word to others.

IRS sets new recordkeeping requirements for cash contributions.

You cannot deduct a cash contribution, regardless of the amount, unless you keep, as a record of the contribution, a bank record (such as a canceled check, a bank copy of a canceled check, or a bank statement containing the name of the charity, the date, and the amount) or a written communication from the charity. The written communication must include the name of the charity, date of the contribution, and amount of the contribution. **This seriously impacts cash put into a Poor Box or the Collection Basket for SVdP, or even the Secret Collection!!**

For contributions, the records you must keep depend on whether the contribution is:

(1) Less than \$250, or (2) \$250 or more.

Amount of contribution. In figuring whether your contribution is \$250 or more, do not combine separate contributions. For example, if you gave your church \$25 each week, your weekly payments do not have to be combined. Each payment is a separate contribution. If contributions are made by payroll deduction, the deduction from each paycheck is treated as a separate contribution. If you made a payment that is partly for goods and services, your contribution is the amount of the payment that is more than the value of the goods and services you received.

Contributions of Less Than \$250

For each cash contribution that is less than \$250, you must keep one of the following.

1. A canceled check, or a legible and readable account statement that shows:
 - a. If payment was by check - the check number, amount, date posted, and to whom paid,
 - b. If payment was by electronic funds transfer - the amount, date posted, and to whom paid, or
 - c. If payment was charged to a credit card - the amount, transaction date, and to whom paid.
2. A receipt (or a letter or other written communication) from the charitable organization showing the name of the organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution.
3. Other reliable written records that include the information described in (2). Records may be considered reliable if they were made at or near the time of the contribution, were regularly kept by you, or if, in the case of small donations, you have buttons, emblems, or other tokens, that are regularly given to persons making small cash contributions.

This is not the result of a new law. The IRS has simply changed its interpretation of existing law.

Upcoming Training & Formation Sessions

Note: this does NOT mean you must take the OFE classes AGAIN if the first time you took them was more than “*within one year of taking office.*”

“All Officers of a Conference must have taken or will complete, within one year of taking office, the Ozanam Formation Experience.”

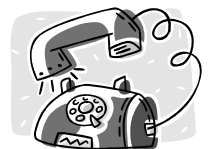
Standards of Affiliation for Conferences, adopted 6/24/06 by the General Membership

At recent count, almost 100 conference officers were short of this requirement.

These are all excellent opportunities to fulfill that requirement.

- Mar. 26th Monday – **OFE # 3 & # 4** – Sacred Heart (Prescott) -- 8:30 am Mass; class in St. Anthony Claret Room from 9:15 am to 12:15, lunch provided, session resumes 12:45 to 3:45 pm
- Apr. 21st Saturday – **OFE # 1 & # 2** – St. Maria Goretti (Scottsdale) -- 8:00 Mass; class from 9:00 am to Noon, then lunch, then 12:30 to 3:30 pm
- Apr. 21st Saturday -- **Advanced Ozanam School**, Vincentian Support Center, Watkins campus (Phoenix) -- 8:00 am Mass, session starts immediately after Mass, followed by lunch, then **Praying with the People We Serve** immediately after lunch.
- Apr. 28th Saturday – **OFE # 1 & # 2** – St. Mary (Kingman) -- No Mass; class in K of C Hall, 2255 Butler Ave. from 9 am to Noon, then lunch, then 12:30 to 3:30 pm
- Apr. 29th Sunday – **OFE # 3 & # 4** – St. Mary (Kingman) -- No Mass; class in K of C Hall, 2255 Butler Ave. from 9 am to Noon, then lunch, then 12:30 to 3:30 pm
- May 12th Saturday – **OFE # 1 & # 2** – Immaculate Conception (Cottonwood), 421 No. Willard (old church); No Mass; class from 9 am to Noon, then lunch, then 12:30 to 3:30 pm
- May 19th Saturday – **OFE # 3 & # 4** – Immaculate Conception (Cottonwood), 421 No. Willard (old church); No Mass; class from 9 am to Noon, then lunch, then 12:30 to 3:30 pm
- June 9th Saturday – **OFE # 3 & # 4** – St. Maria Goretti (Scottsdale) -- 8:00 Mass; class from 9:00 am to Noon, then lunch, then 12:30 to 3:30 pm

PLEASE CALL IN YOUR RESERVATION FOR ANY OF THESE SESSIONS TO: (602) 261-6803. If we don't answer, leave (1) your name, (2) conference name, and (3) your home phone number on the voice mail. Thank you.



The biggest part of storytelling is not what is said, but what is heard.

John O'Neal, founder, New Orleans-based Junebug Productions

Uprooted: The Katrina Project

An initiative of Alternate Roots co-commissioned by Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

Performances: April 20 and 21 @ 8 pm

Tickets: \$25

480-994-ARTS (2787)

Performed at Theater 4301, Corner of Drinkwater Boulevard and 5th Avenue in Scottsdale, AZ

A collaboration of New Orleans artists in response to the events of Katrina and their own losses; "Uprooted," where art and activism intersect to create change

Proceeds benefit local Hurricane Katrina survivor relief.

A portion of ticket sales will be matched up to \$40,000 by the Legacy Foundation

MISSING QUARTERLY REPORTS

As a result, any conference listed below that was eligible for Diocesan Council Aid loses that eligibility, and is removed from the "**Eligible For Twinning**" list.

District

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 St. John Vianney | 4 St. Joan of Arc |
| 2 Our Lady of the Desert | 6 Sts. Simon and Jude |
| 2 Our Lady of the Lake | 6 St. Agnes |
| 2 Sacred Heart | 6 St. Francis Xavier |
| 3 Our Lady of Lourdes | 7 St. Catherine of Siena |
| 3 St. Clare of Assisi | 12 Newman Center at ASU |
| 3 St. Anthony of Padua | 12 St. Mary |
| 4 Our Lady of the Valley | |

GOODBYE, GOOD FRIEND

It has often been said that we in Vincentian Support Services are one brick short of a load. Well, that's now literally true. Chris Anderson has left us to head up the Special Ministries department where she will undoubtedly shine as brightly as she did in VSS.