

St. Vincent de Paul Society NEWSLETTER



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"It is for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them." St. Vincent de Paul



Help that Honors

Help then becomes honorable, because it may become mutual... Bl. Frederick Ozanam

Blessed Rosalie Rendu and Blessed Frederick Ozanam had a deep and almost innate understanding of the plight of the poor. They knew that everyone regardless of their background or economic status has the right to be treated with respect and dignity. They have the right to enter into a mutual relationship with us.

Ozanam, in one of his more famous articles "Help Which Humiliates and Help Which Honors," points out that assistance to the poor can be a positive or a negative experience for those whom we serve. As Vincentians, our intent is to help those in need not to hurt them, but we must be ever mindful of the fact that honoring those whom we serve takes a conscious effort. It is easy to get caught up in the business part of a home or pantry visit and to forget to take the time to exchange a brief conversation with our neighbors. Do we take the time to notice and acknowledge their home, their clothing, or the items they hold dear? When they ask if they can get us something, do we reject their offer or do we allow them to minister to us before we minister to them.

As Vincentians, we need to be open to accepting the gifts our neighbors offer us while making sure they know that our assistance is not based on what they give us. A glass of water, a cup of coffee, a simple snack, or a small gift like a card are all acceptable ways that we can allow others to serve us. Our exchange with our neighbors must be mutual. When we respond to their request to give us something by saying we don't need anything, our actions imply that we have everything we need and that we are only there because they need us and our resources.

Blessed Rosalie Rendu saw the truth of our relationship with the poor when she pointed out "they are our masters". This is so true because what the poor have to offer us is holiness and that is a much greater gift than a food box or financial assistance could ever be. The poor give us perspective by helping to reset our expectations of material wealth, they inspire us by their perseverance, they challenge us by their optimism, and they encourage us by their determination. Yes, they give us much more than we could ever give them for they provide us with the opportunity to serve our Lord by service to them.

Most of us know that it is easier to give than to receive. To receive a gift or assistance requires humility and vulnerability and being in that position is often uncomfortable. Very few of us like asking for assistance and, like the poor, we most often try everything else before we try asking for help especially when asking for help from strangers.

If we are genuinely committed to having our interactions with the poor to be based in mutuality, we must enter into the conversation with the mindset that they are our equals. Certainly, we have had different challenges and choices in our lives, but we are all still equal in the sight of God. Many of those whom we serve have made mistakes or bad choices, but so have we and, unless we have walked in their shoes, we will never fully understand the challenges they are facing.

When I do a home visit, I ask three things. They are not business type questions but rather questions I would ask my family or friends if they were experiencing a crisis. I asked them to share with me a little bit about what is going on in their life. I ask them what they have already tried. And finally, I ask them what they see as their biggest need. These questions allow me to gather the information I need while at the same time conveying to the individual or family members that I know that they have already been working on the problem and that I need their help so that together we might be able to find a workable solution.

Our Vincentian vocation demands that we always strive to provide help that honors and never help that humiliates those whom we serve. My prayer is that each of us find the courage to evaluate and monitor our attitudes and behaviors so that we can more fully embrace the poor in the same manner that Jesus did. So that our help always honors those whom we serve.



Help is humiliating when it appeals to men from below, taking heed of their material wants only, paying no attention to those of the flesh, to the cry of hunger and cold, to what excites pity, to what one succors even in the beasts. It humiliates when there is no reciprocity, when you give the poor man nothing but bread, or clothes, or a bundle of straw — what, in fact, there is no likelihood of his ever giving you in return. . .But it honors when it appeals to him from above, when it occupies itself with his soul, his religious, moral, and political education, with all that emancipates him from his passions and from a portion of his wants, with those things that make him free, and may make him great. Help honors when to the bread that nourishes it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up the sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect, not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering what perhaps we are incapable of suffering; since he is the messenger of God to us, sent to prove our justice and our charity, and to save us by our works.

Help then becomes honorable, because it may become mutual, because every man who gives a kind word, a good advice, a consolation today, may tomorrow stand himself in need of a kind word, an advice, or a consolation; because the hand that you clasp clasps yours in return; because the indigent family whom you love loves you in return, and will have largely acquitted themselves towards you when the old man, the mother, the little children shall have prayed for you.

This article was published in Frederick's newspaper, the New Era on October 21, 1848. Excerpted from "Praying With Frederic Ozanam" by Father Ron Ramson.

> General Membership Meeting March 19, 2022 8:30 am Hall of Banners



Brian O'Donnell



Brian was a dedicated and very active member of St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Vincent de Paul at OLPH Scottsdale. Brian coordinated the annual food drives for many ears and also participated in home visits to our friends in need. Brian served on the Board of Directors at SVdP, and was also elected as the Western Region Vice President for St. Vincent de Paul. This position required him to travel across the United States and even internationally, to Paris, France. On this trip, Brian completed the pilgrimage to Lourdes, visiting the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes

Brian will be greatly missed.

John Winters



John Winters, a much loved and respected member of the St. Thomas the Apostle *Conference, passed away on December 4, 2021. John cherished his Vincentian* vocation and served two terms as Conference President from 2012 to 2017. John was a 1958 graduate of St. Mary's High School and was honored in a halftime ceremony there in 2019. John had a storied newspaper career with the Arizona Republic as an investigative reporter, with an emphasis on organized crime. John also traveled to Afghanistan in the early 1980's to cover events there. He was an honest and relentless reporter. He carried this same passion into his Vincentian life and was a lifelong advocate for the poor and those less fortunate. He was also an active member of the Voice of the Poor *Committee. John's wife of 55 years, Mimi, often accompanied him on home* visits. John was a devoted husband and father with many beloved grand and great grandchildren. A fellow Vincentian said of him: "To John, St. Vincent de Paul was more than a volunteer "activity" it was a vocation and a passion... a calling to serve God and His poor. He was a true servant leader, always leading both by example and consensus... He walked the walk and put faith into action".

Jubilarians Awarded At St. Germaine Conference

St. Germaine Conference in Prescott Valley, recently honored their Jubilarians. The presentation took place at a 4:30 pm Mass on September 11, 2021, followed by a reception.

It took us awhile to be able to present the awards because of COVID.





Left seated: Rose Martinez, Gloria Johns. Left - right standing: Sonia Saunders, Dorothy Rien, TJ Johnson, Ron Jahraus, Fr. Dan Vollmer, Barbara Kodimer, Joe Ferguson, Anne Roper, Carol Hider. Right seated: Carolyn Egan, David Seres.

Jubilarians Honored At St. Francis Cabrini

All of the Jubilarians at St. Frances Cabrini Conference in Camp Verde, have proven themselves worthy of congratulations for being loyal, hard working and faithful Vincentians. Having worked together for many years, they recognize the talents and gifts that every Vincentian shares with our neighbors in need.

May God continue to guide us always.



Gordon and Gayleen Kelsey

St. Frances Cabrini



Pictured on the left are:

Byron and Sue Dombrowski, Fr. Alphonsus Bakyil and Jim Johnson

Jubilarian Ceremony- 9:30 am Mass 9/26 at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Camp Verde



From the left :

Fred Holmes, Fr. Alphonsus Bakyil and Pat Kaminsky.

Ceremony 9/26 at the 8am Mass



St. Frances Cabrini—Jubilarians

Pictured on the left:

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Dennis and Sally Sterrett,

and Fr. Alphonsus Bakyil

Ceremony 9/25 At the 5:30 Mass, St. Frances Cabrini Parish Camp Verde







Pictured on the left are: Fr. Jose Cornelia, and Bob and Katie Rugloski



Newslette



From The left: Fr. Alvin Cayetano, Fr. Jose Cornelia and Mary Kautz Jubilarian



Newsletter Articles

If your Conference would like to submit an article for the April Newsletter, please submit your article to Sandy Edwards by March 15, 2022.

Email to: sedwards@svdpaz.org

News From Elizabeth Seton

St Elizabeth Seton SVdP Conference Fundraiser

St. Elizabeth Seton Conference had its first Auction/Chili Cook-Off fundraiser event, whose members today voted to make it an annual event.

At Father Kilian McCaffrey's suggestion, we had a Pie Auction with the Chili Cook-Off. It turned out to be a great fundraiser. Mary Ann Hunter, whose conference had this event yearly, worked with us and gave us great insight. Denise Steffen and Tina Prosenick co-chaired the event and broke the event down to several different committees.

Our members came out in full force to volunteer their time, sharing their cooking and baking talents and creative basket-making for our silent auction. Not only did our members arise to the occasion, but the Seton Ladies group had several members to assist at the event.

Our very own Father Kilian was the Auctioneer for the first half of the auction, and the second half was covered by Gordon from the Knights of Columbus, who showed off his amazing talent. Everyone enjoyed sampling the different varieties of chili, and many different desserts were auctioned off, along with a good variety of baskets which were donated for the silent auction. We also had a 50/50 drawing and a table for the kiddos to create Mardi Gras masks. Fun was had by all.

The auction was finished off with a pie-in-the-face to Father Kilian by the highest bidder, Janni Consolino. We didn't get a count at our event; however, we filled all the tables which were set up, and there was standing-room only. This event brought in \$5,550 for the day.

God bless all of our donors, volunteers, and supporters throughout this amazing event. Our Neighbors in Need are blessed with all of your generosity!







From the Desk of the Conference Resources Committee

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is structured much differently from most organizations, clubs, and groups. The Society is operated from the bottom up with the Conference and its members serving as its essential units. In other words, the members of a Conference are in charge of the Conference. The Conference President is the only elected officer and is charged with being a "servant" leader. A Conference president's main functions include presiding over meetings, facilitating lines of communication between the Conference and other Conferences, Councils, and the Parish pastor, monitoring compliance with the Rule, inspiring the Conference, and supporting the will of the Conference and its members.

Since the Conference members run the Conference, members must take that responsibility seriously. It is the duty of all Vincentians to regularly attend meetings, participate in the works of their Conference, to stay connect to upper Councils, and to keep themselves informed about matters being considered. Conferences are run by their members and not by the president or any of the appointed officers.

Safe Environment Requirements

Recently, there has been some confusion about the requirements for Safe Environment Training (SET) and the Ozanam Formation Experience (OFE). While only voting members and officers are required to complete the OFE training, all conference full and associate members and volunteers must complete and be current with the Safe Environment Training requirements of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix. This requirement applies to individuals regardless of whether they are Catholic or not. Any person 18 and over and out of High School, must complete a SET online profile, a Foundation course, background checks and yearly renewals. In order to complete the process, members and volunteers should go to phoenix.cmgconnect.org. If you need assistance, contact your Parish SET Coordinator or Shirley Smalley , Conference Resource Committee chair at msmal14727@aol.com.

SVdP Thrift Stores

Our Phoenix Diocesan Council thrift stores rely on the generosity of donors, the loyalty of shoppers, and the faithfulness of volunteers. The recent pandemic has accelerated the natural attrition of store volunteers and led to a shortage of new volunteers. I often think that when we ask for volunteers to help with the stores, we are asking Vincentians to take on yet another activity or work.

While we love having Vincentian volunteers, Conferences can help provide store volunteers in a variety of other ways. Most of us know individuals who, at one time or another, sought information about joining the Society, but found they were not well suited for meetings, home visits, or pantry work. These individuals might find just the right fit and a way to support SVdP by working in one of our stores.

Conferences can also place a small article in their Parish bulletin asking if anyone is interested in volunteering at a SVdP thrift store. And we must not overlook the fact that some of our own family members or friends might find our stores to be a great place to help out and to be part of an ongoing community.



Volunteering at a thrift store has many benefits. Being a store volunteer allows individuals to have a set time and day that they serve. They can serve as often or as little as their schedule allows such as once or twice a week, once a month or even during certain seasons or months. Store volunteers get to have input into how the store is staged, have the opportunity to serve on our Stores Committee, or to help with special events and projects. For years, one volunteer picked up all of the tarnished silver items from several stores, cleaned them up at his home, and brought them back to be sold.

Over the next couple of months, take some time as a Conference and as a Vincentian to think about how you can help us find more store volunteers. It is interesting to note, that the locations with the most volunteers tend to be our best stores. Volunteering at one of our stores is fun and rewarding. Can you help us help others by helping us to find more store volunteers?

By Shirley Smalley



The Essential Element of Friendship

The Three Essential Elements of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are spirituality, friendship, and service. The original Manual of the Society published in 1845 defined what the Society means by the term "friendship".

To bring together men (and women) of good will and to assist them by mutual example and true friendship in drawing nearer to the Divine Model by fulfilling His essential precept; namely, the love of God in the person of others.

The key words in this statement are *mutual example* and *true friendship*. The Society's goal is not to develop a simple working relationship between our members but to foster deep, committed, and authentic bonds between them. In other words, for the members to become family.

Although friendship may not be the first element that comes to mind when people think about the Society, it is a critical part of who we are. When surveyed, the vast majority of members reported that they joined St. Vincent de Paul because a friend asked them to and that they remain active because of the close bonds they have with other Vincentians. Vincentians friendship is not just a casual thing it involves the care and faithfulness that is often only seen within families and religious orders.

How do we, how can we, develop and encourage this friendship among our members? We can look at activities that are part of the day-to-day personality of various Conferences. Here are some of those ideas. Pick some and give them a try. They may fit very nicely in your Conference.

Share Your Faith - During every Conference or Council meeting, we have time set aside on the agenda for a spiritual reading and discussion. This discussion is intended to provide both an opportunity to share faith experiences as well as to build friendship. Sharing what you really believe makes you vulnerable and this vulnerability leads to trust and to deeper levels of friendship. Knowing that we are all on a journey to holiness allows us to see that we do not travel alone but with friends.

As Vincentians, we pray together both at the beginning and the close of every meeting. The very words that are used in our prayers call for unity among the members. Our prayers use the word "we" rather than I. And the old adage holds true: the family that prays together stays together.

Work Together - One of the ways that the Society helps to promote friendship is through the works of the Conference or Council. While our meetings include the vast majority of our members, we often neglect to choose special events or make a real effort to include projects that include a significant number of members working side-by-side at the same time. By their very nature, home visits, working in pantries, and even volunteering in works such as our thrift stores are limited to only a few Vincentians at a time. Working together as a group builds friendship.

Celebrate Important Events - Remembering our fellow Vincentians on their birthdays, anniversaries, or any special commemorative event helps to develop the bonds between us. This can be done in any number of ways: sending cards, sharing special foods such as a birthday cake, and masses intentions are all simple ways to honor the events in the lives of members and volunteers.

Break Bread Together - Jesus knew the value of sharing a meal with others. Sharing a meal with someone allows for a relaxed atmosphere where food and conversation become a single activity. Picnics, potluck dinners, going together as a group to a restaurant are all ways that Vincentians can share a meal together. Conferences can get together for mass and a meal on special feast days, on an ongoing basis, or at special times of the year such as Christmas.

Expand Your Circle of Friends – Vincentian friendship should not be limited to our own Conference or Council. A good practice is to gather with neighboring Conferences or Councils for a joint project, a meeting, a spiritual event, or a social gathering. District socials and Diocesan events are a great way to expand your circle of friends and to experience the larger aspects of the Vincentian family.

Focus on Friendship – As Vincentians, we are called to see Christ in everyone and to be Christ to those around us. We are a family because we are brothers and sisters in Christ. In all circumstances, we are called to share the love of Christ with one another. As members, we can disagree with on issues but we must not be disagreeable. Other members deserve the same respect and kindness that we work so hard to show to the poor.

St. Paul reminds us that: "Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes".

Our love of Christ gives us the strength and grace to connect to each other in ways that transcends casual friendships and moves us into the realm of deep authentic connections that allow us "to share our burdens and joys as try friends in Christ". We are family and that is a true blessing best realized by a commitment to focusing on the essential Vincentian element of friendship.

OZANAM FORMATION EXPERIENCE (OFE)

IN-PERSON

Vincentian Support Services (VSS) – OFE 1 & 2 – Saturday, April 9 and OFE 3 & 4 – Saturday, April 23.

St. John Vianney, Sedona – OFE 1 & 2 – Wednesday, July 13 and OFE 3 & 4 – Thursday, July 14.

Classes are 9am – 3pm on both days.

Pre-registration required as class size will be limited

Register by text, email, or phone by sending your name, email, phone number, address, conference name, and class date/dates to

Mary Ann Hunter

maryannhunter44@gmail.com

928-699-9232

Attending both classes is one qualification for acceptance as a full member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.





We need your help!

At St. Vincent de Paul, 95% of our workforce are volunteers-like YOU! We really can't do our work without our volunteers. The community works best when we all do it together!

Kitchen Crew

Help our kitchen prepare 4,500 nutritional meals to distribute to our 5 dining rooms and other partner agencies. Volunteer duties may include chopping vegetables, opening cans, packaging food, and cleaning up.

Watkins Main Campus | 2120 S. 3rd Dr, Phoenix 85003

• Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 11:30 AM, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, or 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Meal Services

Our goal is to serve a warm, nutritious meal with love to 4,500 guests daily. Volunteer duties may include set up, guest greeting, waiting on tables, bussing tables, plating food, and cleaning up.

Family Dining Room | 2120 S. 3rd Dr, Phoenix 85003

• Monday-Friday 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Phoenix Dining Room | 1300 W. Harrison St, Phoenix 85007

- Daily 9:30AM 1:00 PM
- Monday-Friday 6:00 AM 8:30 AM
- Fridays 3:00 PM 6:00 PM

Sunnyslope Dining Room | 9227 N. 10th Ave, Phoenix 85021

- Daily 3:30 PM 6:00 PM
- Monday-Friday 10:30 AM 1:00 PM

Dream Center

Our Dream Center provides tutoring and educational activities for children who visit our Family Dining Room. Volunteer duties include set up, helping with homework, and assisting with educational activities.

Family Dining Room | 2120 S. 3rd Dr, Phoenix 85003

• Monday-Friday 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

For questions and sign-up information, please contact volunteer@svdpaz.org.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Intercession Prayer Line

O God, our Father, You alone have the power to bestow those precious gifts of Yours which we rightly call miracles. If it be Your will, be pleased to grant such a gift on behalf of...

ALL SAINTS MESA Judy Allard Veronica Nord

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION Caroline Steele Bob Bruce

HOLY CROSS Rose Burmich Sharon Smith Martin (Lefty) Wolf

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION James Reed Mike Vize Barbara Reed Lindsey Plas Lynn Treimer Lee Martealer Al and Regina Gilson Pam Willis Diane McCann

MOST HOLY TTRINITY Jackie Hennings

OLPH SCOTTSDALE John Corcoran Forrest Dougherty Dale Nickekl Mary Zarlengo

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Joe DiGiovanni

OUR LADY OF JOY Alan Cisar

OUR LADY OF THE DESERET Richard Gordon

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY Pat Gerencser

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE Cindy Smith QUEEN OF PEACE Susan Petrie Mary Kay Dunlevy Martina Bonilla

SACRED HEART— Dora Gloria Lopez

ST. BRIDGET Cheryl Crame Sandra Jarr Joe Fellhauer Vince Gutierrez Bill Cowperthwait Terri Lyn Gardner

ST. DANIEL THE PROPHET Beth Michelson Phil Murphy Don Fraiser

ST. GABRIEL Maureen George Lois Zeph Dolores Galligan Carmine Lockwood Robert Fitzer Phil Longobardi Louise & John Fullam Martha Fitzer

ST. JAMES Diane Stofko Abel Noble

ST. JOHN VIANNEY SEDONA Betty Winick

SACRED HEART— PRESCOTT Richard Howell Herb Bourgault

ST. MARGARET MARY Mary Esquibel

ST. MARY'S BASILICA Robert Nue *ST. TIMOTHY* Mike Anderson Margaret Hewett Karl Rusnock Thea Podrybau *ST. LOUIS THE KING* Ed & Esther Escarcega Raul & Elvia Lujan Mario & Mary Fierros

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI Richard Jessen Joyce Murphy

ST. GERMAINE Joe Zambito Kathy Ferguson Joe Ferguson Sandy Smith

ST. MARGARET MARY-BHC Rev. Peter Dobrowski

- ST. MARY—KINGMAN Patty Couch Roger and Rita Gaumond Diane Schatz
- ST. MARY MAGDALENE Nancy Weise

ST. JEROME Nancy Barnes Yvonne Hurley

ST. MATTHEW Evelyn Guerra

- *ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE* Gene Harmeling Lucia Mastroianni
- ST. JOAN OF ARC Paul Parent

ST. STEVEN'S Pat Krause

ST. FRANCES CABRINI Andre Carrillo Rosemary McClair SVDP EXECUTIVE OFFICE Gus Suhr Melvin Goldstein **Dan Ricketts Bill Mulholland** Pat O'Brien Theresa Alejo Margaret Pawlak Dave Najor Dominic Svorinic Dottie Sullivan Jon Ehlinger Louise Kasmikha Chris Lowrey Paul Zabilski Nathan Turner Steve Howell Marie Gallego Greg Ryan Lisa Eicher Jagger Michael Diem Nancy Phalen Tom Van Boven Jim Novotny Joyce Zabilski Evan Arriola Ray Daoust Barb Daoust Jayden Southern **Robert Jacobs** John Jakubczvk Peter McQuaid Kathleen Nageotte Ed Koval Nicole Hazen Mayuka and Family David Park Marv Jo Matthews Lee Matthews

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

John Winters St. Thomas the Apostle

Brian O'Donnell

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Scottsdale

Charlyn Jamison

Most Holy Trinity

Warren Bechhoefer

St. Gregory

May the Angels lead them into Paradise, may the martyrs receive them at their coming and lead them into Jerusalem, the Holy City. May the Choir of Angels welcome them and, with Lazarus, who was also poor, may they have everlasting rest.



Supporting St. Vincent de Paul not just for a lifetime, but **forever**.

	SINGLE LIFE	TWO LIVES
AGE 60	4.4%	3.9%
AGE 70	5.1%	4.6%
AGE 80	6.8%	5.7%
AGE 90	9.0%	8.2%

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

FEED, CLOTHE, HOUSE, HEAL,

A gift through the Vincentian Annuity will give you the security of a fixed income over your lifetime and provide support for St. Vincent de Paul that will last forever.

As an example, Helen, an 80-year-old widow and St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, recently established a \$50,000 Vincentian gift annuity. For her age, the annuity rate is 6.8%, meaning she'll receive \$3,400 annually for the rest of her life. And, she may take an income tax deduction of about 50% of her gift this year. Best of all, her gift will support St. Vincent de Paul's work for generations to come. Annuity gifts start at \$10,000.

TO SEE IF AN ANNUITY IS RIGHT FOR YOU visit plannedgiving.stvincentdepaul.net.

Take a look at our planned giving tools, including a benefit calculator. To discuss giving options, contact Donna Rodgers at 602-261-6884 or plannedgiving@svdpaz.org.

P.O. Box 13600 Phoentx, AZ 85002 I stvincentdepauLnet