



St. Vincent de Paul Society NEWSLETTER



Published by and for Vincentians
Diocesan Council of Phoenix, AZ

<http://www.stvincentdepaul.net/Vincentian-Support>

October 2022
Vol. 24 No. 10

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

Beginning Anew!



The first day of October signals a new year for all Vincentian councils and conferences. It is a time for new beginnings, saying goodbye to outgoing officers, and for the commissioning of new officers. It marks the end of a fiscal year, a time to complete our Annual reports and to start our yearly audits, but it is also a time for a deeper kind of reflection and evaluation. It is a perfect time to step back and evaluate your conference, its works, its goals and to identify areas for future growth and expansion.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has always been committed to growth and expansion and that happens primarily through self-examination, planning, and implementation. October is the perfect time for us to stop for a moment and determine ways that we can adapt more

fully to our changing world, better serve those in need, and determine how we can best recruit new members as we continue to foster spiritual growth and fellowship among our existing members. Dreaming and planning brings new energy and vitality to a conference. Growth and development of our Vincentian activities keeps us current and prevents the drudgery that is often associated with unchanging routines.

Conferences that do not commit to evaluating, growing, and adapting often find themselves stagnant and in need of new members, but with nothing that would attract the members they need. Through the evaluation process, conferences can identify their strengths, find areas that need improvement, articulate the possibilities for future service areas and/or growth, and set goals for the upcoming year.

The Manual of the Society has a set of standards for effective conferences. These guidelines provide the perfect springboard for evaluation and planning. The basic bullet points for those standards are listed below.

Why not take those guidelines and use them to ask questions about your conference and how they are doing under each point? For example, the first point is that effective conferences are reachable? You might ask yourself things such as: Are there ways that we could be more reachable? Could we eliminate barriers or obstacles that make us hard to reach? Are we visible to our parishioners and donors? Do we regularly submit articles and contact numbers in the bulletin? Do other area charities and agencies know how to refer people to us? May we all commit to starting anew by evaluating our present and visioning our future.

GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE CONFERENCES

(See page 29 of the Manual for Guidelines with complete annotations)

Effective Conferences *are reachable.*

Effective Conferences *meet regularly.*

Effective Conferences *are committed to grow in spirituality.*

Effective Conferences *show initiative.*

Effective Conferences *have members committed to formation.*

Effective Conferences *recruit continuously.*

Effective Conferences *have competent leaders.*

Effective Conferences *maintain ties to the community.*

Effective Conferences *participate in their Council activities.*

Effective Conferences *understand the national and international dimensions of the Society.*

Effective Conferences *are both wealthy and poor.*



From the Desk of the Conference Resources Committee

Conference Meetings & In-Person Services

The recent COVID pandemic required the Society and its members to adapt swiftly to the need to hold conference meetings and to serve the poor while meeting local and state restrictions/mandates and protecting themselves and others. Zoom meetings and conference calls replaced our in-person meetings and most services to the poor were provided indirectly through phone calls and internet exchanges. Being able to adapt to the changing needs was one of the reasons that our Council not only survived the pandemic but, in many ways, thrived. Our donations increased and we were able to provide a record number of adaptive services including offering COVID relief funds, sack lunches, drive thru meals and electronic payments. However, as the threat of COVID infections has lessened, many conferences and councils have not switched back to in-person meetings and services.

Meeting and serving through an in-person format are at the very heart of the Society. The Rule states, "The members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in Conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action. Spiritual bonds and friendship between members are essential, as is the common mission to help the poor and marginalized". (Rule Part I Article 3.3)

No Zoom or conference call can replace the intimacy of an in-person meeting. Electronic meetings do not allow us to pray in one voice, to look into each other's eyes and hearts, or to properly convey empathy and compassion. Over ninety percent of interpersonal communication is conveyed not by what we say but rather by our tone and our body language. Sitting at home behind a computer screen is often more convenient and sometimes comfortable, but the experience lacks the authenticity, warmth and connectedness of direct human contact.

Meeting face-to-face promotes unity, fosters fellowship, and sets the stage for a relaxed experience of friendship and the opportunity to work towards a shared vision. In our personal face-to-face encounters, we are more open to sharing our stories and ideas. The small talk and natural conversations we share during our in-person meetings builds closer relationships where we have the opportunity to spontaneously laugh and cry together. And our in-person conversations lead to more creativity and better problem-solving.

Continued on Page 6

Conference Meetings & In-Person Services

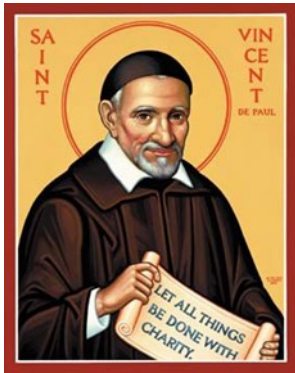
Throughout the history of the Society, conferences and councils have managed to meet in-person through a variety of epidemics, wars, and persecutions. Now is the time for us to show our resilience and to open our doors to in-person meetings. Yes, we are blessed by the existence of electronic devices that can connect us, but the use of those devices should be few and far between. Conferences and councils should look to hybrid meetings where those members with significant health risks, those absent from the area for long periods of time, and the homebound and ill are able to call or Zoom in but where the vast majority of the members gather in-person.

No electronic meeting can provide us with the true spirit of the Society. God created us to live and work in communities and there is no stronger community than that of the Vincentian family. It is in being face-to-face that we experience Christ in one another. It is in the presence of our fellow members that we are most supported, cared for and loved. Zoom and conference calls are inept in their ability to convey love and support for one another. So let us commit to restoring our in-person meetings and gatherings.

At this time, all conferences and councils must put forth every effort to meet regularly in the Vincentian in-person format set forth by our founders.

Office Commissioning

Remember that October is the time to commission new conference and council presidents and officers. A presidential commissioning service is contained in this newsletter and a link to the National websites' *Vincentian Celebration – Rituals & Ceremonies* document is at the bottom of the page. You may use this link to access commissioning services for other officers. Commissioning is an important rituals and makes visible the commitment made by the president and the officers to the conference/councils and the conference/councils commitment to them.



Commissioning of SVdP Conference Presidents

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

As a reflection of the whole family of God, members, who are known as Vincentians, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group and economic level. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule.

Organized locally Vincentians, witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, **VINCENTIANS SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST.**

District President: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is made up of Conferences as its primary basic unit. The Rule teaches us that: "The members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action. Spiritual bonds and friendship between members are essential, as is the common mission to help the poor and marginalized. The entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian Friends." (Rule 3.3)

In the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of president is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service and the president is the first among equals. The Rule calls the president to "provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The president of the conference will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality." (Rule 3.11)

And so, we gather together to pray for and to commission our new conference presidents.

Reading: Gospel according to John (13:12-17)

Spiritual Advisor: "After he had washed their feet, Jesus put his cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them: "Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash each other's feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do. I solemnly assure you, no slave is greater than his master; no messenger outranks the one who sent him. Once you know all these things, blest will you be if you put them into practice."

District President: First, let us thank our outgoing presidents for their generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service as president of their conference. Now, my dear brothers and sisters let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon those Vincentians who have been called to serve as our new conference presidents.

(The outgoing President then hands the leadership manual and guide booklet of St. Vincent de Paul to the new President—this year books will be mailed)

Retiring President(s): Receive this leadership manual and guide as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and a loving heart so that you will come to know deeply the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

District President: May the Rule and Manual of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:

Do you promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the conference and those in need for the greater glory of God?

New President(s): I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

District President: Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?

New Presidents: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that our conference may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

District President: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Manual and Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New President(s): I do, and I pray for the grace to be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

District President: Each of you have accepted a serious responsibility as president of your conference

I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: Hail Mary...

Spiritual Advisor: *Prayer of Blessing and Commissioning*

Let us now raise our hands in blessing over these conference presidents as we pray together:

All: May God's grace and blessing be with each of you as we commission you as the president of your conference. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following His example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that He will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

(Please note: If a District president is not available to conduct the Commissioning of a Conference president, the Spiritual Advisor or the conference vice president can read in place of the District president.)

For complete SVdP Rituals & Ceremonies go to: <https://members.ssvpusa.org/formation/formation-resources/vincentian-prayers-and-ceremonies/>

SVdP Thrift Stores

Find A Volunteer!



What goes into owning and operating a successful thrift store? There are certainly many factors that go into opening and operating a success store. Ideally, a SVdP thrift store should be located in an area that has high visibility, easy access and is close to those wealthy enough to donate items and shop and to the working poor that benefit from free and/or low-cost items. The store needs to be clean, well-organized and staffed by friendly and competent employees, but one of the critical factors for the success of our Council's thrift stores is the depth and breadth of their ongoing volunteer base.

Our Diocesan Council has a strong Volunteer Services department and they do a great job in securing and placing corporate and group volunteers in our stores for special projects and for service days but our stores also need committed and loyal individuals who show up week after week and day after day in loving service to the store and the Society's mission.

When I talk to Vincentians about helping us secure store volunteers, their response is usually something that indicates that their conference members are too busy doing conference work to help in the stores and that is a legitimate reason for not serving in the stores. After God and family, the first priority for Vincentians should always be the support of their conference but many of our store volunteers do not belong to a conference and working in one of our stores is the perfect way for them to support the Society and its works.

So where can we as Vincentians look to help recruit new volunteers for our stores? The best place to look for potential store volunteers is among your family and friends. Do you have people close to you that love the Society and it works but do not feel called to join us members? For years, one of the most faithful volunteers at the Bell Road store was the father-in-law of a conference member. Think about individuals who tried joining your conference and did not feel it was a good fit for them or who no longer are active members. These individuals are often excited about the possibility of serving the poor in a way that is more consistent, predictable and secure.

Years before I was on the Stores Committee, I went to the Bell Road store to drop off some donations. An extremely vibrant and joy filled 84-year-old volunteer came out to help me unload my car. Being several years younger, I assured her I could unload my items myself. She insisted that she help me saying that she tried to be a Vincentian and it did not work for her. Meeting the poor face-to-face was too upsetting for her and after doing a home visit she could not sleep for days. Serving in our dining rooms was even worse and she was sad until she heard about the opportunity to serve in one of our stores. The stores were her way of being part of us. She was part of the Vincentian and store family. She had friends and things that she could do to help the poor all at the same time. Being a store volunteer met her needs and ours.

Sometimes we feel like helping recruit stores volunteers would be just an unpleasant task that we do not have the time for but it is truly a Vincentian work. When we refer people or, even better yet, take them to one of our stores to see if being a volunteer is right for them, we are helping the Society and that person. God calls people to serve in many and varied ways and we as Vincentians are perfect recruiters for store volunteers. We already love the Society. We understand its mission. These are **our stores** and they function to support us and the poor. Why wouldn't we do everything in our power to make them successful?

You can make a difference by helping us find new volunteers for our stores!



BRICKS to build the foundation

How Secret Collection Funds Can Be Used?

Most Vincentians know the history of the black bag/secret collection and understand that such a collection needs to be taken up at all of our conference and council meetings, but many members and even some officers are confused about where those funds should be recorded and how they can be used. There are few if any official documents or articles on this issue, leaving conferences and councils bewildered in regards to the nature of these funds.

If we go to the Rule and the Manual, it is clear that funds collected by the Society belong to and are for the use of the Society regardless of their source. The Manual states, "Donations to Conferences — whether they come from church collections, from the members themselves, from benefactors, or from fundraising efforts — are meant to address today's needs". The phrase "are meant to address today's needs" points to the use of funds for the current needs of the poor. So that brings up the question, if that is true should secret collection funds be used solely for direct or indirect assistance to our neighbors in need (client aid)?

The answer is yes and no. While once donated, these funds certainly no longer belong to the individual members, they do belong to the conference or council as a collective group. Thus, our secret collection funds can be used to support a broader view of Vincentian activities and works which include works of spirituality, formation and fellowship that enhance the conference members and their vocational call. The main difference between general donor funds and member funds is that the members of a conference or council regularly have in-person opportunities to express their collective intent concerning the use of their donations.

It is important to understand that if secret collection funds are to be spent outside of the general works of the conference, their designated purpose must be articulated in advance. For example, many conferences vote annually on how their secret collection funds can be spent. Some conferences use those funds for festival celebrations, mass intentions, cards and flowers for members during times of illness or the death of a loved one. Some conferences use those funds as donations to a higher council for a special program like our One At A Time, Ozanam Manor or Diocesan Council Aid programs. And other conferences use the funds for special retreats, trainings, SVdP assemblies, and other formation activities.

While secret collections funds may be used for more general Vincentian activities, they can never be used to purchase gifts for the clergy, parish staff, or given to charitable groups and activities outside of the Vincentian family. Giving secret collection funds to one of the parish priests to send to his parish overseas or to make a contribution to the parish itself violates the Rule of the Society and is not a choice a conference or council can make. If members want to support the parish or the charitable interests of their pastor or other clergy, they must do that outside of the conference or council collections and/or activities.

The mission of the Society is for its members to grow in holiness through fellowship and service to the poor. Our secret collection funds must always be used to support that mission. Each conference or council must regularly pray and discern how they will use their secret collection funds to promote our essential elements, the poor and one another.

See also the BRICK "Giving the Vincentian Way"

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Diocesan Council Aid Program**

(formerly referred to as Diocesan Council twinning)

The purpose is to identify poor Conferences that need financial assistance and to authorize that those identified conferences will receive funds that have been allocated for this purpose. (Committee Charter approved by the Diocesan Council Board 09/2017)

History of the Program: For more than forty years, the SVdP Diocesan Council of Phoenix has recognized that some conferences associated with our Council, through no fault of their own, do not have access to sufficient donor funds from their parish and/or District to operate as a conference.

While many conferences may from time to time be in need of some type of financial assistance there are certain conferences that cannot provide any financial help to the poor without reliable funding from sources other than their Parish and/or their District Council.

For the past several years, funds for this Diocesan Council program have come from a portion of the fees charged to conferences by the Food Reclamation for food boxes and direct contributions from conferences, District Councils and private donors. Funds accumulated in this account are distributed to approved conferences in "good standing" at or before each Diocesan Council General Membership Meeting (GMM).

Applications are accepted annually starting in December and must be submitted to Vincentian Support Services (VSS) on or before a date set by the Conference Resource Committee.

Conference requests for Diocesan Council Aid are evaluated on, but not limited to, the general standards and factors listed below. The committee will evaluate the listed items in light of the conference, its history, current area conditions, and in context of the responses and explanations provided on the application and during the interview process.

In addition to reviewing the conference's application, Annual Report, interview and recommendation from their District president, the committee will make their decisions in consultation with the Diocesan Council president.

Over the course of the past Fiscal Year the conference:

Conference Operating Standards

- Had a full slate of officers
- Had a Spiritual Advisor
- Held regular conference meetings - at least twice a month
- Had a set of approved written Conference guidelines that were distributed to all members
- Attended at least 80% of their District Council and 50% of the Diocesan Council's General Membership Meetings

Continued

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Diocesan Council Aid Program*(formerly referred to as Diocesan Council twinning)*

- Completed and submitted their Quarterly & Annual Reports in a timely manner
- Required all members to be compliant with the Diocesan Safe Environment Training standards and requirements
- Completed required audits

Financial Activity

- Received less than \$40,000 from their parish and/or District Council
- Made use of other SVdP programs and resources: grants, FAM, legal, dental, medical, Capital Asset Funds, etc.
- Identified and reached out to Community resources that could provide additional assistance for those in need
- Submitted twinning requests to other conferences for food and/or financial support
- Conducted Fund Raisers or Special Events to help bring in additional funds
- Spent at least 80% of conference funds with a minimum of 60% of those funds being used for client aid
- Requested financial support from their District

Serving “Those in need”

- Provided hours of operation and/or means of contact that afforded “those in need” easy access to the conference and its services
- Provided and documented Spiritual Aid to those whom they served
- Provided and recorded referrals to those whom they served
- Conducted Home visits with at least 20% of all client contact/interactions being in-person visits provided in the home of the people being served

Any conference that is in “good standing” may submit an application for Diocesan Council Aid. The standards and items listed above are provided to increase understanding of the program and the factors that will be used in the decision-making process.

This year, applications for Diocesan Council Aid (formerly referred to as Diocesan Council Twinning) will be due no later than Thursday, December 29th, 2022. Applications including a cover letter may be obtained from Vincentian Support.

Please feel free to contact Ally Geinosky, Diocesan Council Aid Subcommittee Chair at allyngee@gmail.com or 815-281-1135 if you have questions or need additional information.

*Steve Zabilski speech to the SVdP General Membership meeting –
September 17, 2022*

Many years ago I was reading a book, and, as I often do, I looked first at the dedication page to see who the author wished to acknowledge with some special words. This particular book was rather odd, the dedication merely read: "To Elizabeth...." That surprised me. After all, an author is eloquent with words, someone who breathes life and wisdom into otherwise blank sheets of paper. It only dawned on me later, that in this particular case there simply were no words that would suffice. That's how I feel this morning. There are no words that even begin to express my feelings, my gratitude, my emotions, and my love for all of you. None. (dot, dot, dot)
With that said, please bear with me these next few minutes.

Almost 26 years ago, on Saturday morning, December 21, 1996, I stood at this very spot and addressed more than 400 Vincentians who had gathered for their December General Membership meeting. SVdP had hired me as executive director a month earlier, and to say that I was nervous that morning (*as I am today*) would be quite accurate. I wanted to be liked. I wanted to be accepted. I wanted to become a member of your Vincentian family. How quickly those 26 years have flown by.

Thank you to the wonderful Vincentians with whom it has been my privilege to work with all these years. My special thanks to that Board of Directors who took a huge chance on an unknown 39-year-old accountant, and who offered me the opportunity to become a Vincentian. I especially wish to note the five presidents for whom I have been blessed to work under: Nancy Spencer, Steve Jenkins, Joe Riley, Frank Barrios, and Steve Attwood. Each provided me with invaluable advice, wisdom, counsel, perspective, grace, and forgiveness this past quarter century. Working for them gave me a direct line to Vincent de Paul, to Frederic Ozanam, Louise de Marillac, Rosalie Rendu, and, to the Holy Spirit. Thank you to all the District and Conference presidents who were so gracious to invite me to your meetings where the real work of our Society takes place. Thank you to our founders Matt Scott and Dan O'Meara whom it was my privilege to know. (Ask me some time about my attempt at humor with a joke about used car salesman, only to be later told that Dan sold used cars. Dan was in the room that day, my first week in fact, when I embarrassed myself. He was kind enough to smile and never mention it.) Thank you to my wife Denise and my three little babies (who somehow are now grown adults). Denise is with us this morning and I would ask her to please stand so that you can acknowledge and thank her for her support - support started my very first day when I called her at 6 p.m. and said I wouldn't be home for dinner, a call she would receive many hundreds of times. And Thank You to everyone in this room today. Twenty-six years ago when standing here I noted how special it was going to be working with angels and saints. (A few of you chuckled - but I was right!!) God bless each of you for being those angels and saints all these many years.

These past few months people have asked me "What Stands Out Most" during my time at SVDP. The list is endless, but since my time is brief, here are three observations:

First: Our Council is a family. We celebrate together, we work together, we pray together, we play together, and we cry together. So many of you have invited me into your homes. I've met your children and grandchildren. I've attended graduations, weddings, birthdays and Christmas parties. And funerals. Too many funerals – especially in recent years. But our family never comes together better than it does in times of sorrow. That is what Vincentians do. We are indeed a Family.

Second: God brought you to SVDP. Think about that, God wants “YOU” here. In God's infinite wisdom, in His plan for creation, each of you is a critical part of the Society of SVDP-Phoenix Diocesan Council, the largest Council in the world. We would not be the organization we are today if you did not say Yes to God's call. You are changing our Neighborhoods. You are changing our Nation. You are changing our World. God brought “YOU” to SVdP.

Third: And I am almost embarrassed to admit, but it took me probably 10 years to really understand that the second half of our mission statement is so important, is so unique. Yes, we are here to deliver food boxes, pay rents, serve meals, to provide showers and haircuts and clothing and counseling, shoes and bikes and wheelchairs and toiletries, medical and dental care, and much, much more. But the second half of our mission proclaims: “We are here to provide others the opportunity to grow spiritually and to be of service.” This is what distinguishes SVdP from the rest of the world. Come to any conference meeting, volunteer even one time in our kitchen or dining rooms, and you are a changed individual. We often hear people say I came to SVdP one person, I left another. That is our true blessing. SVdP exists to provide EVERYONE the opportunity to grow spiritually & to be of service.

I am not leaving SVDP - merely changing roles. The coming six months will allow me to focus my time and attention on something that excites me - visiting with our donors, our volunteers, our Vincentians. With You. Then this April, I will join the Virginia Piper Charitable Trust as its CEO. The Piper Trust is an organization I have been involved with for 17 years, and no group has done more for our Council, and for the people we serve than the Piper Trust. This new role will enable me to serve as a member of our Board or Directors, to stay actively involved with the work of the Society. With each of You. Thanks to Steve Attwood for extending this invitation to join our Board next April when my role as a SVDP employee ends. I do understand this appointment requires the approval of the full Board of Directors, so I commit this morning to bring donuts and bagels to every meeting to earn your vote!!!

The book of Ecclesiastes tells us: “There is a time for everything” and exactly two weeks from today it will be Shannon Clancy's time to serve as our new leader. Shannon is no stranger to SVDP having worked with our Council for almost 20 years. I first met Shannon when she and her husband, Dan, toured this Center in 2002. A native of Phoenix, Shannon is the oldest of four children. She attended St. Francis grade school and Xavier high school where she excelled as a student and an athlete. She then attended the University of Notre Dame, graduating with honors with a degree in English. In her spare time there, Shannon tutored students - In calculus! That's right, this English major tutored calculus students. I'm quite sure there's no other English major on the planet who can make a similar claim. Shannon went on to the University of Maryland and earned a Masters Degree in Psychology. Then she did what everyone does who graduates college, Shannon set her career aside, and instead entered the Jesuit Volunteer program where she volunteered serving others for an entire year. Speaking with Shannon that fortuitous day in 2002 when she toured our Center, I learned that Dan and she had just left their successful jobs in Baltimore to move home to Phoenix into the house she grew up in where her father, Ken, was dying of cancer. Shannon wanted her two young children to know their grandfather, and her father to know his grandchildren. With no jobs, with no place to live other than mom and dads, Shannon and Dan trusted God's divine providence.

Shannon's first role with SVdP was as a part-time grant writer. Then she became a full-time grant writer. Then a Development Officer, Senior Development Officer, Director of Development, Chief Philanthropy Officer, and finally the newly created position of Associate CEO. Along the way Shannon added the title of Chief Covid Officer where she expertly navigated our Council through VERY challenging times these past two-and-a-half years.

If you attended one of our Restoring Hope Community Breakfast's these past 17 years, Shannon was the person who not only brought this idea to us. She was also the producer, the director, the screenwriter, the video coordinator, and the talent finder, along with being the person who so eloquently asked each of us at the end of the program to make that all-important financial commitment. (How could anyone ever say no to Shannon Clancy!!) Shannon worked closely with the Piper Trust to greatly expand our fundraising efforts, leading to our first capital campaign in more than 20 years, and her leadership with Creighton University has brought hundreds of students and doctors to our Clinic, transforming health care in the Valley.

Shannon has taught us to assume positive intent, to dream BIG, to bless and release, to seek first to understand, to listen – to really listen, to never give up, and so much more. Shannon is not perfect however: She tries too hard, worries too much, cares too much, and works too hard – often late into the night and virtually every weekend. During the economic collapse in 2008, Shannon was the first person to voluntarily reduce her salary when funds were scarce, and she did the same in 2020 at the onset of the Covid pandemic. As you would suspect, other organizations, local and national, have tried to hire Shannon away from SVdP - but she always said NO. She is a Vincentian in her heart and in her soul. When you see Shannon today, and in the coming weeks and months, be sure to thank her for her many years of service and sacrifice.

In Closing, there is one more thing. I promise I won't ask for a gift to the Vincentian endowment – next week maybe - but not today. What I ask this morning is that the very same love and kindness, respect and patience, forgiveness and gratitude that you have shown me these past 9,384 days you also extend to Shannon. I know you will, for you are Vincentians, and that is the Vincentian way. SVDP will become an even better organization this October 1. I couldn't be happier, and YOU couldn't have chosen a better leader. We clearly see the hand of God at work 20 years ago when He inspired Shannon to tour our facility on that special day.

Finally, I cannot conclude without apologizing for my many shortcomings: My impatience. My poor judgements. For always being in a hurry. For often being late. For my poor attempts at humor. But please, please, know that each of you has my sincerest thanks, my profound admiration and respect, my daily prayers, and my deep, deep love. I have treasured these days as your CEO. And I will always treasure you. I often think of that book that was dedicated: "To Elizabeth..." (dot, dot, dot) for whom there were no words, And I say this morning: "To You, my wonderful Vincentian Family...." (dot, dot, dot) --There truly are no words.

All is well. God bless.

Thrift Store gets additional retail space

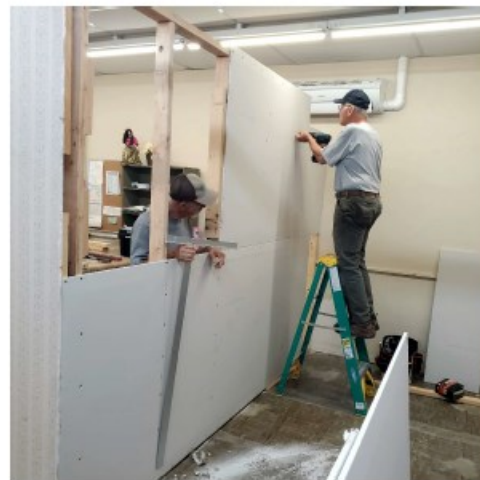


The Sacred Heart Conference Thrift Store picked up an additional 250 square feet of retail space recently. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer labor and donated materials, the addition's cost was kept to a minimum.

Among other things, the new retail space used to house an old office area in the volunteer portion of the store.



Thrift Store Manager Brittany O'Carroll, Asst. Mgr. Carrie Ragsdale and TS Board Chair Rod Determan pose in the newly created retail space.



Frank Young watches Rod install drywall screws on the wall extension.

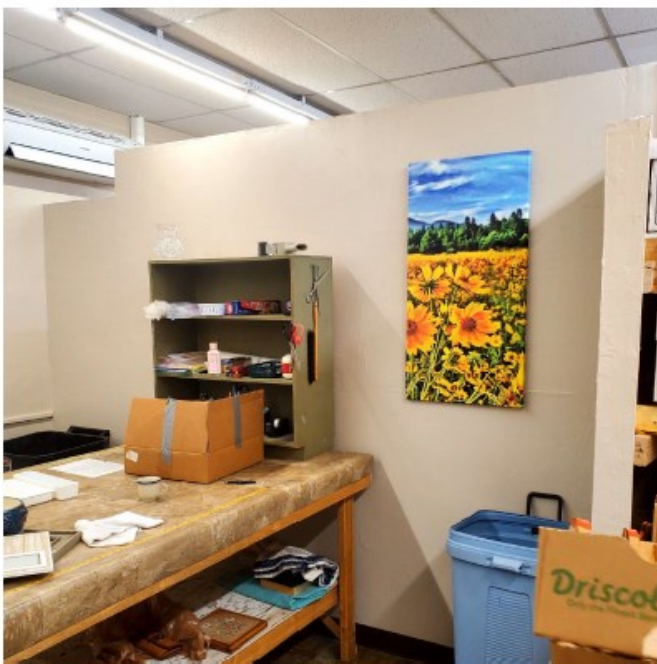
More on Thrift Store addition



The additional space before final trim and carpeting.



The wall extension before texture, paint and carpet



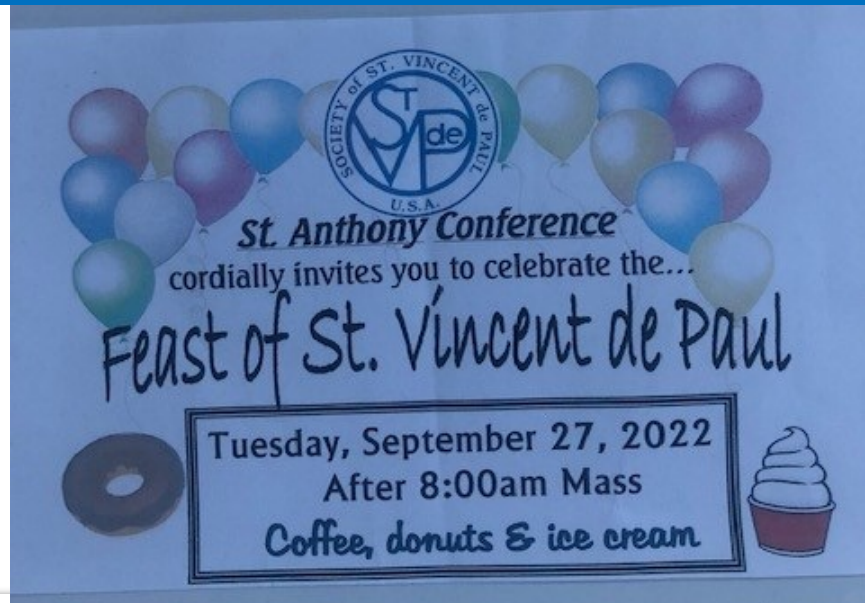
The new wall seen from the "volunteer" side. Not shown were shelves added for the book sorting operation.

***Thank you
to all
our Donors***

Please continue to shop our Stores



St. Anthony Celebrates Feast of St. Vincent de Paul



Our Conference, St Anthony of Padua in Wickenburg, Arizona started the day by praying the rosary at 7:30AM followed by mass at 8:00AM celebrated by our wonderful Pastor, Father Vinhson Nguyen. We then invited our parishioners to a Social where we offered a variety of donut holes, cookies, ice cream, coffee, tea, lemonade, and Aguas Frescas (strawberry with cream and pistachio). We passed out brochures and everyone who attended received a St Vincent de Paul holy card with September 27 date. It was a wonderful gathering and we all visited with prospective members.


News from St. Elizabeth Seton

We had a very nice potluck breakfast after The Feast of St Vincent de Paul Mass celebration. Father Kilian opened up the confessional at 5:15 AM to help us get all of the conditions for our plenary Indulgence. Father Kilian did an amazing job on his homily with a very thorough history of St Vincent. And the beautiful prayer from St. Vincent, "Strive to live content in the midst of those things that cause your discontent. Free your mind from all that troubles you, God will take care of things."

We opened up the breakfast to all Parishioners and hosted an "Invitation to Serve" along with a short meeting. We were graced to have a couple of our Deacons for breakfast also.

Tina





St. Vincent de Paul

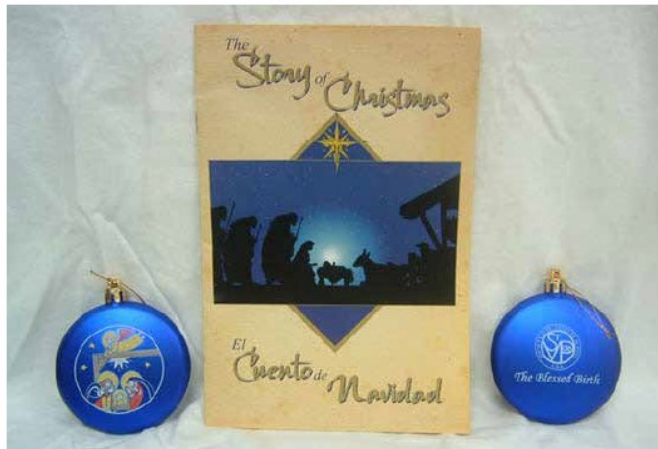
NATIVITY PROGRAM

Helping to put the Christ back in Christmas

Ozanam PR. Corporation
www.magnalitecatholic.com
 1-800-634-0839

At Christmas, we are great Santas, and present bearers, but are we Christ bearers? The St. Vincent de Paul Nativity Program is a way for us to serve the needy by helping to bring Christ back into their lives during Christmas time. We are making available a Nativity Kit which includes a Nativity Ornament and a Booklet of The Story of Christmas, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

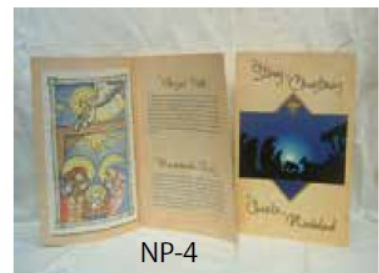
Become a part of Helping to bring Christ into Christmas



Nativity Kit Includes:
 Scriptural Story of Christmas
 Nativity Booklet (NP-4)
 (1) Ornament

\$3.50 each

\$3.50 each	NP-1	Blue Ornament, Blessed Birth (Shown above)
\$3.50 each	NP-2	Pink Ornament, Annunciation
\$3.50 each	NP-3	Green Ornament, Shepherds
\$3.50 each	NP-5	White Ornament, Angels
\$3.50 each	NP-6	Gold Ornament Epiphany
\$1.00 each	NP-4	Story of Christmas Nativity Booklet (only)
\$.60 each	NCB-3	Nativity Coloring Book



FUTURE OFE CLASSES

Oct. 8 & 22, 2022 – Church of the Ascension – 12615 Fountain Hills Blvd. – Fountain Hills, AZ – 9am – 3pm

Jan. 7 & 14, 2023 – Vincentian Support Services – 420 W. Watkins Rd. – Phoenix, AZ – 9am – 3pm

Feb. 4 & 11 – St. Theresa – 5045 E. Thomas Rd. – Phoenix, AZ – 9am – 3pm

Register by text, call, or email to:

Mary Ann Hunter
2144 N Talkington Dr.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

maryannhunter44@gmail.com
928-699-9232

Save the date

Our next Morning of Reflection will be at St. Joan of Arc,
3801 E Greenway Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85032
on Saturday, February 18, 2023

Our presenter will be Fr. Dennis Holtschneider

More information to follow.

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
Barbara Velleman

BLESSED SACRAMENT
Lee Matthews

**CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION**
Caroline Steele
Bob Bruce

HOLY CROSS
Mary Powell
Andy Torres
Dee Shack
Mary Jo Kent
Sharon Culley

**IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**
Rosie Bell
Linda Lee Chambon-Gay
Sue Dori
Scott Marthaler
James Reed
Tom and Barbara Reed
Peg Shandera
Lu Stitt
Mike Vize

MOST HOLY TRINITY
Jackie Jennings

OLPH SCOTTS DALE
John Corcoran
Forrest Dougherty
Dale Nickekl
Mary Zarlengo

**OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE**
Joe DiGiovanni

**OUR LADY OF THE
DESERT**
Rita Hughes
Tony Mueller
Valerie Panagopoulos
Peggy Merrill
Duke Merrill
Mary Austin
Art Austin

**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 PARKER
Dot Creechley
Edith Smith
Dora Norris Family
Fr. John Ikponko
Vernon Norris Family
Peggy Knapp
Ana Lopez
Tomasia Torres
Terry Watts
Marmelejo Family

ST. BERNADETTE
Michael Smalley

ST. BRIDGET
Cheryl Crame
Joe Fellhauer
Terri Lyn Gardner

**ST. DANIEL THE
PROPHET**
Phil Murphy
Don Fraiser

ST. GABRIEL
Jack McAward
Philip Longabardi
Dolores Galligan
Robert Fitzer
Phil Longabardi
Louise Fullam

ST. GREGORY
Edd Harrington
Beverly Heart

ST. HELEN
Charlie & Jean Olds

ST. JAMES
Diane Stofko
Abel Noble

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY
SEDONA**
Betty Winick

**SACRED HEART—
PRESCOTT**

Richard Howell
Herb Bourgault

ST. MARGARET MARY
Ray Baca
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
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'S BASILICA
The Boozer Family

ST. MARY-ST. JUAN DIEGO

Zoe Rainey
Angie Welsh
Winnie Bridgens
Carl Cunningham
Allen Vaughan
Rich Gray
Irene Beard

ST. MARY MAGDALENE
Nancy Weise

ST. JEROME
Nancy Barnes
Yvonne Hurley

ST. MATTHEW
Evelyn Guerra

ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE
Gene Harmeling
Lucia Mastroianni
Joan Katchur
Corlaine Mortenson
Philomena Kamara

ST. JOAN OF ARC
Paul Parent

ST. STEVEN'S
Pat Krause

ST. FRANCES CABRINI
Andre Carrillo
Rosemary McClair

**SVDP EXECUTIVE
OFFICE**
Mr. and Mrs. John Bracken
Tegan Searing
Carla Francesca Martin
Diane Hoeschler
Mike Weigel
Mark Hamblin
Baby Hailey
The Porscha Family
Mary Teller
Brock Weatherup
Mary Lou Goldstein
Eddie Leynes
Glenda Dubes
Judy Edwards
Edmund Voyer
Bessie McNair
Fr. Tom Enneking
Melvin Goldstein
Bill Mulholland
Pat O'Brien
Margaret Pawlak
Rob Sobczak
Dave Najor
Dominic Svorinic
Jon Ehlinger
Louise Kasmikha
Chris Lowrey
Paul Zabilski
Nathan Turner
Steve & Lucy 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 Jakubczyk
Peter McQuaid
Kathleen Nageotte
Ed Koval
Nicole Hazen
Mayuka and Family
David Park
Mary Jo Matthews
Lloyd Bach

REQUIESCAT IN PACE



Jim Russell Pitchford

Our Lady of the Valley

Nancy Cowperthwait

St. Bridget

Bill Brock

St. Elizabeth Seton

Gil Reagan

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Ed Escarcega

St. Louis the King

Angel Ortño

St. Matthew

Bill Tufo

St. Louis the King

***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.***



Current Volunteer Needs



**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.

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.



THE VINCENTIAN ANNUITY

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

SAMPLE ANNUITY RATES

	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%



**THE SOCIETY OF
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 Phoenix, AZ 85002 | stvincentdepaul.net