



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



What We Fail to Do!

'Amen, I say to you, what
you did not do for one of
these least ones, you did
not do for me.'
(Matthew 25:45)

Most Vincentians are familiar with the more positive statement in verse 40 of Matthew 25 where the King says, "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers that you do unto me." But far less often do we recall the more negative statement in verse 45 of the same Gospel, where the King condemns all those who failed to provide assistance and support to others.

So, what does this have to do with Vincentians, after all, we routinely spend a great deal of time and money helping the less fortunate but is that enough? What about the things we are not doing? What about the times we turn neighbors away unnecessarily or when we put impossible requirements or barriers in the way of their success? What about the times when we fail to speak the truth or to be effective advocates for the poor and needy?

Doing what Jesus asks of us means that many times we have to go against the tide of public opinion and this is certainly true when it comes to our country's view of the homeless. How often have we supported or been silent when others demonized or blamed homelessness on the homeless themselves? Yes, it is true that there are a small number of the homeless that have freely chosen to be homeless but that is most assuredly not the norm. And yes, there are homeless individuals living on the streets that suffer from drug addiction, alcoholism and/or mental illness but how well did we as a community address those needs with them before they ended up on the streets.

The answer to solving the problem of homelessness in America is effective action not excusing ourselves from getting involved because the problem is too large, too overwhelming or because the victims created the problem themselves. Today's homeless population includes, families, single parents, the elderly, the disabled, the alienated and the forgotten.

During the month of July, we celebrate the freedom won for us by our forefathers. You and I are free but how do we choose to use that freedom? We are free to speak the truth about the causes of homelessness and the homeless themselves. We are free to advocate for them. We are free to encourage others to support creative and effective programs to help the homeless stabilize and be rehomed. We are free to encourage our friends to allow programs to exist in their local communities. We are free to ask our legislators to provide more Section 8 and affordable housing to low-income families and individuals.

What We Fail to Do!

Continued

The bottom line is that homelessness is about a lack of affordable housing, adequate income and services, and effective treatment programs. We can greatly decrease the homeless population in Arizona if we are simply determined to do so. The success of the Washington street shelter is proof that a good percentage of the homeless want a better life, a home and stability.

The primary focus for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States has been to prevent homelessness and that should never change but it does not mean that we standby and do nothing for those who fall off the grid.

Conferences and their members have a limited scope and resources and those are used primarily to prevent homelessness but there is nothing preventing us from being advocates for those living on the streets and in supporting in word and action the programs that exist to help them including our own Diocesan Council programs and efforts.

Our forefathers gave up financial security, home, family and, in many cases, their very lives to secure our freedom. So, let us use our freedom to help free those living on the streets from the bondage of homeless so that they too can share that freedom. Jesus tells us in no uncertain terms that whatever we do for others we do for Him and whatever we fail to do we also fail to do to Him. May we always remember that Jesus lives inside of each and every person including our homeless brothers and sisters. Let us minister to Him in every way we can.

By Shirley Smalley



Being That Kind of Person

Why does it sometimes seem difficult to withhold judgment when we visit our neighbors in need?

In his famous essay “The Undeserving Poor,” [Serving in Hope, Module IV] the late Bishop Kenneth Untener explains how easy it is to serve a poor child, because they can’t help it if they’re

poor, and they haven’t the ability to work their way out of it.

They are not the ones that are difficult to serve – it’s the ones who seem to be the cause of their own problems; the ones we help up only to see them fall again. You know - *those kind of people*.

In his biography of Sister Stanislaus Malone, *Nun with a Gun*, biographer Eddie Doherty recounts the story of Sister Helen, an older nun who once told an alcoholic to leave and not come back, saying “it would be a waste” of time and resources to keep helping him when he would only start drinking again.

The man left, but not before reminding her that she did not know the temptations he had faced.

After he left, Sister Helen sobbed at her own failure of charity, saying, “*What right had I to assume he would succumb again to the evils of drink? How many battles has he won? Nobody knows. I think only of the battles he has lost – and the battles I myself have won.*”

It is easy to remember that time we beat temptation, or pulled ourselves out of difficulties by our bootstraps, and to let it color our judgment of the failures of others. We forgive and forget our own failures of will or of virtue, because deep inside we understand that our failures don’t define us; that however our own stumbles may be seen by others, we are “*not that kind of person.*”

It was because of this human fallibility that St. Vincent taught that we should “*get in the habit of judging events and persons, always and in all circumstances, for the good. If an action has a hundred facets to it...always look at its best side... even though intelligence and human prudence tell us the contrary.*” [CCD XI:638]

Perhaps this is part of Christ’s meaning when he commands us to “*love your neighbor as yourself.*” [Mt 22:39] Love is offering not only our assistance, but our understanding, our patience, and the benefit of the doubt.

Because we are all made in His image, and we are all “*that kind of person.*”

Contemplate

How can I better “see the good” in all circumstances?

Recommended Reading

Vincentian Meditation II – especially 10. *Expecting and Seeing*



From the Desk of the Conference Resources Committee

Safe Environment Renewals

July 1st marks the beginning of the new fiscal year for the Diocesan Safe Environment Training (SET) program. All Vincentians, Conference volunteers and conference employees are required to complete an annual renewal. Regardless of when you completed your Foundation course or your last renewal, the program year resets on the first of July.

The renewal video for this year is a repeat of last year's video but there have been several changes made in the policies and procedures particularly in the area of working with young Vincentians and/or youth volunteers. In order to be considered an adult in regards to Safe Environment, a person must be 18 years of age or older and out of High School.

When dealing with minors who are conference members or volunteers, Vincentians must communicate with them only through open and transparent communication methods. No private one-on-one communications between youth and adult Vincentians or volunteers may take place. Youth acknowledgement forms and permissions slips must be obtained if older youth are attending meetings or volunteering without a parent being present. Additionally, no adult Vincentian may ever be alone with a youth member or volunteer unless they are the parent or guardian of that individual.

Before you complete your renewal, please open your SET profile and update it. In order to verify your SET status, please be sure we have your legal name and current address and phone number on your conference roster and that it matches exactly your SET file. Failure to keep the roster and your SET profile updated could result in a delay in the verification of your compliance status.

Completing your SET requirements in a timely fashion is important. The Society and its members must be diligent in protecting others especially those who are vulnerable from abuse. Your promptness in responding to this requirement is a reflection of your commitment to helping and protecting others.

National Assembly in St. Louis

The SVdP National Assembly in St. Louis is just around the corner. Please complete the form included in this Newsletter if you plan on attending. Fax or scan and email that form as soon as possible to Sandy Edwards in VSS. Funds to help pay for the registration, hotel and/or air fare are available to a few first-time attendees but you need to apply soon.



BRICKS to build the foundation

Safe Environment Training & Sex Offender Policies

In 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) established the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This document was revised and expanded in 2005, 2011, and again in 2018. This Charter calls for the establishment of Safe Environment programs in every Catholic diocese operating within the United States.

Motivated by this Charter and its application, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council of Phoenix adopted a resolution in March of 2008 preventing sex offenders from joining, volunteering, and/or being associated in any way with the Diocesan Council and its associated Conferences and District Councils. This policy also authorizes the immediate removal from participation in the Society and its works for any member, volunteer or person connected to the Society when said person is convicted of a sexual offense and/or if and when the Society is notified of any such past convictions. (See our Diocesan Sex Offender policy at the end of this BRICK.)

The SVdP Diocesan Council of Phoenix monitors the Safe Environment Training status of its potential and existing members, volunteers and associated persons through participation in the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix's Safe Environment Office and its related programs including training, interviews, renewals and routine background checks that are conducted by a Third Party Vendor through the use of Social Security numbers.

Safe Environment protocols for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council of Phoenix are as follows:

1. No person shall be considered a member, volunteer or associated vendor until the conference president has verified with the Parish Safe Environment (SET) coordinator or the designated SVdP Diocesan Council SET representative that the person is current and compliant with Safe Environment requirements including participation in the background check process and has received the status of "approved".
2. All ministers and volunteers must complete a Renewal class each year. Renewals must be completed between July 1st and December 31st unless an earlier completion date is required by a particular Parish pastor. The renewal time frame is not based on the completion date of an individual's Foundation course and background check but upon the SET fiscal year. Earlier completion dates may be set by the parish and its administration. Such dates must be honored.
3. Compliance with Safe Environment Requirements cannot be certified by obtaining a Class Certificate of Completion only. A Parish Safe Environment Coordinator or the designated SET Coordinator for the SVdP Diocesan Council must verify the current SET status of each member or volunteer.
4. Conference presidents are required to provide their parish SET coordinator with a current membership list no later than August 1st of each year and to submit names of any and all potential members, volunteers and/or associated vendors before that person or company conducts any business or participates in any of the Society's works and ministries.

5. If a member or potential member or volunteer has been granted a "Good Cause Exception" for any offense other than a sexual offense, that background check and exception must be manually verified each year by a staff member of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix and their SET coordinator.
6. If a potential member, volunteer or vendor is not approved by the Diocesan Safe Environment Office, they shall be denied membership or volunteer status and may not be associated with the Society in any way including but not limited to our meetings, works, and programs.
7. Anytime we are notified by the SET coordinator that a current member, volunteer or vendor has lost their SET approval status, that person will be immediately separated from the activities and works of the Society within the Diocese of Phoenix.
8. Once notified that a person or vendor has a criminal record that includes a sex offense, the conference president will immediately contact their SET coordinator to determine if the Pastor and/or Safe Environment Coordinator for the Parish has informed the person of their inability to serve in ministries within the parish including SVdP.
9. If the person has been notified that they are not allowed to serve in ministries within the Diocese of Phoenix, the conference president needs to take no further action other than making sure that this person does not participate in any SVdP activities to include but not limited to conference meetings. The conference president must also contact the chairperson of the Conference Resources Committee and the Director of Vincentian Support Services (VSS).
10. If the person has not been notified by their Pastor and/or SET coordinator that they are ineligible to volunteer or serve within the Diocese, the conference president should immediately notify the chair of the Conference Resources Committee and the Director of Vincentian Support Services for direction and advice. If the person should show up for a meeting, work or activity, the conference president will in private notify the person that they may not participate with SVdP because of their Safe Environment status. That person should then be referred back to the SET coordinator for that location if they have further questions or concerns.
11. Any appeals to a person's Safe Environment approval status must be made through the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix Safe Environment Office and not through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Diocesan Council Participation of Sex Offenders in the Society Policy

The Phoenix Diocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has a zero-tolerance policy related to convicted sex offenders within the Society at any level. The policy is as follows:

1. If and when it is made known and confirmed that a convicted sex offender is a participant in the activities of the Society within the Diocesan Council of Phoenix at any level, the convicted sex offender shall be separated from service in any and all Conferences and Councils associated with the SVdP Diocesan Council of Phoenix.

2. If and when it is made known and confirmed that a convicted sex offender is applying for participation in the activities of the Society at any level, the convicted sex offender will be denied admission.
3. If and when it is made known and confirmed that a participant in the activities of the Society at any level is charged with, but not yet convicted of a sex offense, that person shall be placed on administrative leave from service until such time as the charges are dropped/cleared from that person's record.
4. If and when it is made known and confirmed that an applicant is charged with but not yet convicted of a sex offense, that person shall be denied participation in service until such time as the charges are dropped/cleared from that person's record.

This policy was approved by the General Membership and took effect on March 19, 2008.

**Note: A person who has the status of full or associate member can only be separated from the Society itself through the formal process of removal as delineated in the Rule of the Society, Part III, Statue 17, however, they may, through a formal agreement with the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, be prohibited from participation in the activities and works of a Parish based conference and all council functions.*

Revised July 2023

Why is the SVdP National Council Office for the United States located in St. Louis, Missouri?

In 1845, St. Louis, Missouri, had the honor of establishing the first conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States. Since the practice of the Society is to establish a National Council for a particular country in the same city as the first conference was opened, St. Louis, Missouri was designated as the location for the National Council Office for the United States.



In 1846, a conference was organized in New York City. In 1856 the work of the Society had grown to such proportions in New York that it became necessary to establish a particular council, through which correspondence was opened with the authorities of every Catholic diocese in the United States.

As a result other sections of the country gradually entered into the work, and year by year the Society gained headway, making its influence felt and accomplishing wonders in the work of uplifting the poor. The following statistics of the work of the Society in the United States for the year 1910 will serve to give some slight conception of the progress made: superior councils, 4; central councils, 4; particular councils, 34; conferences, 730; members, 12,062; families relieved, 24,742; visits made, 233,044; situations addressed, 2949; cash donations received, \$384,549; amount expended, \$387,849.



BRICKS to build the foundation

Safe Environment Training Requirements for Members & Volunteers

In 2006, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) implemented the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People designed to respond to the needs of past victims of sexual abuse, to protect future generations, and to re-establish trust through increased fidelity and vigilance. In this Charter, the American Bishops articulate a commitment that includes guaranteeing effective response to all allegations of sexual abuse of minors; ensuring the accountability of our Safe Environment Policies and Procedures; and the protection of the faithful for the future.

Since that time, under the direction of our Bishops, the Phoenix Diocesan Safe Environment Office has adopted policies and procedures that include participating in a training program that includes a foundation course, annual renewals, and periodic background checks.

According to the policies and procedure of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, as of July 1st, 2009, all full and associate members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and those volunteers associated with a conference and it works within our Diocese must:

1. Complete and submit a volunteer application
2. Complete a *Safe Environment Training* (SET) foundation course
3. Participate in a background check through the submission of their Social Security number
4. Complete an annual renewal class between July 1st and December 31st of each year
5. And, participate in a face-to-face interview

There are no exceptions to these requirements. All Vincentians and parish-based Vincentian volunteers must comply with all Catholic Diocese of Phoenix SET requirements before they can attend meetings and/or serve in our works and programs.*

Continued on Page 10

Continued

Currently, the *Safe Environment Training* (SET) program for the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix is managed through Catholic Mutual and may be accessed by visiting www.phoenix.cmgconnect.org. This site allows participants to create a file, submit an online application, take a foundation and/or renewal classes, and submit Social Security numbers to a third-party vendor for secured a background check. Completing the initial process and approval is required before a member or volunteer is accepted into the Society and/or its works.

Regardless of when a participate completes their initial process, their renewal will be due between July 1 and December 31st of each year. Earlier completion deadlines may be set by individual pastors according to the needs of their parish and/or school.

As Vincentians, we are called to follow the guidelines set out by our Bishop and implemented by his staff. We, as a Society, have a unique and important place in the life of our parishes and our community. Through our work, we encounter children, youth, and vulnerable adults in situations and in ways available to few other individuals and groups within the Church. Our Vincentian vocation calls us to reach out, to serve and to protect those who are at greatest risk of being abused, neglected, or underserved. Fully embracing and participating in the *Safe Environment Training* program is one way that we can help protect others.

Please note that all Safe Environment renewals are due each year After July 1st and on or before December 31st. A parish may establish an earlier deadline but may not postpone the deadline beyond the Diocesan date.

If you are having difficulty accessing the system or completing your renewal, contact your Parish SET coordinator or Conference Resources Committee chair for assistance.

**Conferences affiliated with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix through a fraternal agreement must complete the Safe Environment Training and program requirements of their assigned Catholic Diocese.*

Safe Environment Renewals



Continued

The Western Region is also offering scholarship funds to attend the Assembly for first-time attendees in leadership roles, however, our Council must submit their names to the Region by mid-July.

This is a great event and one that helps us to grow in our Vincentian vocation. It is also a perfect way for us to network and promote the Assembly that will be held here in 2024. Join the group from Phoenix that will be traveling to St. Louis. It is where it all began.

Remember to be in “Good Standing” a Conference must:

- Hold in-person meetings at least twice a month. Hybrid meetings with a combination of in-person and remote attendance to accommodate the needs of homebound members may be conducted, however, members attending from out of the parish area must meet all full member requirements in order to vote.
- Have an active Spiritual Advisor and include Opening and Closing prayer and a Spiritual reflection at every meeting.
- Have a full slate of conference officers that meet the full enhanced member requirements.
- Follow the SVdP Meeting Agenda for all meetings.
- Have Secretary minutes and a Treasurer’s Report at each meeting.
- Obtain verification that all members, volunteers & employees are Safe Environment compliant and approved.
- Provide person-to-person services to our neighbors in need and, as often as possible, through Home Visits
- Conduct home and pantry visits in pairs.
- Be represented at 80% of their District Council and 50% of the Diocesan General Membership Meetings.
- Complete and submit Quarterly and Annual Reports in a timely fashion.

SVdP National Assembly 2023 Phoenix Council Member Interest Form

Vincetians, Vincetians volunteers, staff, and employees interested in attending the 2023 Assembly in St. Louis are asked to complete and return this form to VSS to the attention of Sandy Edward no later than July 31st.

Please note that Conferences and District Councils are encouraged to help offset the cost of members attending this event.

Apply early to increase your chances for assistance

Please Print

Attendees Name: _____

Last Name	First name	Middle Initial
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Conference: _____ District Council: _____

Address: _____

Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Please check all boxes that apply:

- ☐ I will attend the 2023 National SVdP Assembly and am willing to work at the 2024 Phoenix National Assembly promotional table during that event.
- ☐ I will attend the 2023 National SVdP Assembly and am willing to volunteer/work during the National Assembly at the Sheraton Downtown in Phoenix, August 14-17, 2024.
- ☐ I will attend the 2023 National SVdP Assembly and will be able to help with preparations leading up to the 2024 National SVdP to be held in Phoenix but will not be unable able to attend the event on August. 14-17.
- ☐ My Conference and/or my District Council is helping to cover my expenses for the 2023 National SVdP Assembly.
- ☐ I want to attend the 2023 National SVdP Assembly but need to discuss possible ways to help offset the costs.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Shirley Smalley at msmal14727@aol.com or Mary Ann Hunter at maryannhunter44@gmail.com. We hope to have a large group attending the Assembly in St. Louis. The 2023 National gathering will provide attendees with opportunities for increased formation, spirituality, fellowship and a chance to experience an Assembly before we actually host one next year. Please consider joining us in St. Louis!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In preparation for hosting the 2024 Society of St. Vincent de Paul National Assembly in August of 2024, we need photos of our various activities, programs & ministries from 1950 through 2000.

We want to share with our brother and sister Vincentians a little bit about our history & how our programs started, developed, and came to be what they are today.

If you have any vintage photos, please bring them to the General Membership Meeting (GMM) on Saturday, June 17th or email them to Shirley Smalley at msmal14727@aol.com or Mary Ann Hunter at maryannhunter44@gmail.com.

Photos

Top: Left - Dining room volunteers Right - Original Dining Room sign
Bottom: Left - people coming in for a meal Center - neighbors eating in the original dining room Right - Original Ozanam Manor



SVdP Thrift Stores

Our Thrift stores are preparing for their Annual "Christmas in July" sale. This is a great opportunity to help support our stores by donating unused and unwanted Christmas decorations and other Holiday items. It is also the perfect time to expand your own collection of Christmas items.

Our stores are an important part of who the Society is in Phoenix and in our outlying areas. The stores within the greater Phoenix area are operated by our Diocesan Council but the outlying stores in Cottonwood, Flagstaff, Lake Havasu, Mayer, Prescott and Payson are operated by conferences. Helping and supporting these locations also helps the Society to help others.



When you are out traveling, discovering Arizona or just trying to escape the Phoenix heat, why not visit one of our outlying stores? They would love to have you stop by to visit and to shop.

July is typically a slow month for our thrift stores, so you can help them by donating items, volunteering and shopping. Our stores are community centers where many individuals experience the Society for the first time. They offer donors the opportunity to support our works through in-kind donations. They provide a safe and caring place for people to volunteer and to visit.

Did you know that our stores not only sell gently used items but they also sell new items that are donated or purchased? We offer guarantees on our used appliances and accept limited returns. We connect shoppers with potential deliver services when they need them. We thank our donors and shoppers and ask how they have been if they have not been in for a while.



Our thrift stores are places of affordable items and sincere caring. We need to tell everyone we meet about them. We need to also stop by and tell them how valuable they are to our works, to the poor, and to the Society. So, stop by one of our stores this month and be part of our exciting work. Shopping can be fun and charitable all at the same time.

Jubilarians Honored at Our Lady of Lourdes Conference



*Thirteen Vincentians awarded their with Jubilarian Crucifixes
At a recent ceremony.*

*The following faithful Vincentians received their
Jubilarian Crucifixes.*

*Robert Conen
Toni Conen (awarded Posthumously)
Kathy Davis (awarded Posthumously)
Anita Dekowski
Rosemary Dougherty
Joanne Harroun
Susan Pechkurow
Sam Pechkurow
Kathi Peterson
Mary Ann Powers
Sally Reyst
Tracy Weber
Gerald Weber*



Jubilarians were awarded their Crucifixes at the 9:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, presided by Father John Bonavitacola.

A reception was held afterwards in Madonna Hall honoring the recipients. Many former recipients and families attended the celebration.



My Visit With Four Sisters

By Steve Jenkins

A couple of days after my arrival in Cuernavaca last January, Gina Ocampo, Executive Director, told me that we were invited to an afternoon tea with the 'Maestra', Guadalupe, a retired teacher. In 2007, Guadalupe and her husband became the foster parents of four orphaned girls who had been referred to them from the St Vincent de Paul Center in Cuernavaca. The girls grew up in the Maestra's home and were assisted by the SVDP Conferences. However, we had not heard anything from them for several years.

The story begins in 2003 when the girls, ages three to eight, and their family were being assisted by one of the SVDP Conferences in Cuernavaca. The family, mom and dad and the four girls, lived in a one-room guest house (casita) located on the property of an estate owned by a family who lived in Mexico City and who would visit on the weekends. The father, Faustino, was the gardener and the mother, Mari, was the housekeeper. For their services, they were allowed to live in this small house. Faustino also did odd yard jobs in the vicinity to earn money to cover expenses. Mari and the four girls, Veronica, Emma, Tania, and Erika, regularly attended the breakfasts that were offered each Saturday at the St. Vincent de Paul Center. Conference members regularly visited the family to provide them with additional assistance. The girls received funds for school supplies and attended local schools.

The family is pictured below in 2005. Tania, Faustino, Veronica, Erika, Leticia (Vincentian conference member), Emma, and Mari are celebrating Erika's birthday.



On a Saturday in 2007, only two of the girls came to the SVDP Center breakfast. Gina Ocampo asked them where their Mom and two sisters were. The girls explained that their Mom was sick and went to bed early and was very cold. They slept with her that night to keep her warm but in the morning she was still cold and not moving. The girls were worried. A doctor was called, went to the home and discovered that Mari had passed away during the night.

Within a short time, a temporary home was provided by a cousin and her family in another area of the city. The conference members maintained contact with the girls and continued to assist them with food, clothing, and funds for school. However, the aunt and her husband had their own children and were not able to adequately take care of four girls. The Conference had to find another solution. Their efforts and prayers were answered.

A retired teacher (maestra), Guadalupe, and her husband lived within two blocks of the St. Vincent de Paul Center. They had raised their family and had an empty room in their house. Guadalupe, 'La Maestra' somehow was contacted by St. Vincent de Paul. When she heard about the girls' situation and met them, she and her husband decided to take them into their home. This was a practical miracle. The girls were given a clean bright room with two bunk beds. St Vincent de Paul provided clothing and other items and continued to assist them with funds for school. In addition, Guadalupe and her husband owned and ran a store in a nearby town called Tepotzlan, a major tourist attraction near Cuernavaca. The girls worked there every weekend and probably learned a lot about running a business.



Emma, Tania, Maestra, Erika and Veronica (year 2009)

In the following years, the girls continued in school and were well cared for in Guadalupe's home and by St. Vincent de Paul. They also continued to attend the Saturday breakfast at the SVDP Center. Every six months, on trips to Cuernavaca, we would see the girls at the St. Vincent de Paul Center and visit them in their home. As years went by each of the girls finished high school and moved out on their own and we lost contact with them. They still remained close to Guadalupe and her husband. I had always wondered how they were doing through those years.

Therefore, it was a surprise to receive the invitation from La Maestra to come to her house for tea in January of 2023. Gina and I arrived at the home at 4:00 pm and were met at the door by Emma. What a surprise! When went to the dining room, we met all of the girls and their children. We sat in a big circle around the dinner table for an hour talking about past years. There were a few tears when they talked about the trauma of losing their Mom on that Saturday years ago. But then talk turned to how their lives had been blessed over the years. All the girls are happily married, have children, and three even own their own businesses.

***Husband, Tania & daughter, Veronica & son, Erika & daughter & son,
Emma & daughter, Guadalupe.***



Usually we never see the results of our visits to families and assistance we provide to them. So it was a special delight and blessing to meet these four special girls and their wonderful adoptive parents and share our stories after so many years.

Back to School Program

**St Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church
St Vincent de Paul Conference**

Our conference has supported a “Back to School Program “ for the last couple of years for our neighbors with school age children who reside within our boundaries. Once again, this year Linda McKinley is chairman of this special project. Linda is a former teacher, and the welfare of children has a special place in her heart. This year the ServWare program helped to identify the families with children whom we have served in the last year, making the task of finding eligible children simpler. The work of calling the families began in June with Yvonne Evans, Jan Sherman, and Lorna Niemantsverdriet assisting. Children in kindergarten through twelfth grade were identified as eligible to receive a gift card to be used to buy needed supplies for the new school year.



Linda McKinley

Thirty-three families were called originally to determine if they wished to take part in this program. Surprised parents were happy to hear of the offer of the unexpected help. With summer bills and added expenses, many were struggling to just survive. The gift cards offered can be used toward supplies, clothes, shoes, or any other needed items for the upcoming school year. After several calls, it was interesting to find that within our conference boundaries there are a variety of caregivers -- two parent families, as well as single moms, single dads, and even grandparents responsible for grandchildren.

Of the thirty-three families called, gift cards will be sent to forty-two children representing twenty families. The callers discovered that some families had moved or were not able to be contacted. Others selflessly opted to give the gift cards to another family in need. As most schools start the school year in August, the hope is that providing these families with the gift cards this summer will help to give the students a start for a successful new school year!

Submitted by Karen Boeck

ServWare News

Our Phoenix Council now has 55 conferences implemented in ServWare! We have another four conferences currently in the implementation process. Congratulations and welcome, to the four conferences which implemented in June:

- St. Daniel the Prophet
- St. Thomas Aquinas
- Sacred Heart (Prescott)
- St. Margaret Mary

Fifteen of our conferences are fully implemented and using all the functionality available in ServWare. These conferences may now be able to progress toward using the ServWare Conference Activity Report (CAR) for submitting quarterly and annual reports.

Throughout July and August, ServWare training/demo sessions are being offered via Zoom. These interactive sessions are designed to assist conferences beginning to use ServWare, help conferences expand their use of ServWare, and prepare conferences for transitioning to the ServWare CAR for quarterly/annual reporting. The five different classes available are:

Session: Neighbors & Assistance

These sessions focus on recording Neighbor information, requests and visits, and assistance provided. This is a great introductory training for members or conferences new to ServWare, or anyone interested in refresher training. Sessions are 1 ½ hours.

Day	Date	Time	Registration Link
Fri	7/7/23	9am	Neighbors & Assistance July 7
Mon	7/10/23	1pm	Neighbors & Assistance July 10
Tues	7/18/23	4pm	Neighbors & Assistance July 18
Thurs	7/27/23	6pm	Neighbors & Assistance July 27
Mon	8/21/23	6pm	Neighbors & Assistance August 21
Wed	8/30/23	4pm	Neighbors & Assistance August 30

Session: Basic Financial Functions

These sessions focus on recording conference receipts and expenses, account reconciliation, and basic financial reporting. This is an opportunity for conferences interested in implementing the financial functions. Sessions are 1 ½ hours.

Day	Date	Time	Registration Link
Thurs	7/6/23	6pm	Basic Financial July 6
Tues	7/11/23	9am	Basic Financial July 11

Tues	7/18/23	1pm	Basic Financial July 18
Thurs	7/27/23	4pm	Basic Financial July 27
Thurs	8/17/23	6pm	Basic Financial August 17
Mon	8/21/23	4pm	Basic Financial

Session: ServWare Configuration and Workflow

These sessions will focus on the configuration standards for our Phoenix Council. Also, configuration options for conference specific operations will be presented. This is an opportunity for conferences to evaluate current processes and identify potential improvements. We will share ideas and practices which other conferences have implemented. Sessions are 1 ½ hours.

Day	Date	Time	Link to registration
Mon	7/10/23	4pm	Configuration July 10
Wed	7/26/23	9am	Configuration July26
Wed	8/23/23	6pm	Configuration August23
Thurs	8/31/23	1pm	Configuration August31

Session: ServWare Reports and Quality Assurance

These sessions focus on routine data entry quality checks and utilizing ServWare reports. This is an opportunity for conferences using ServWare to evaluate accuracy of data entry. Also, to learn about the various reports available.

Day	Date	Time	Link to registration
Fri	7/7/23	1pm	Reports & Quality July7
Tues	7/11/23	1pm	Reports & Quality July11
Thurs	7/20/23	4pm	Reports & Quality July20
Thurs	7/27/23	9am	Reports & Quality July27
Fri	8/18/23	6pm	Reports & Quality August18
Mon	8/28/23	4pm	Reports & Quality August28

Session: Transitioning from [QRP](#) to [CAR](#) for Quarterly & Annual Reporting

These sessions are recommended for conferences that have fully implemented ServWare and are interested in transitioning to the ServWare Conference Activity Report for Quarterly & Annual Reporting. Conference members responsible for completing the quarterly report should attend this session. Also, Conference Presidents and District Presidents who review the reports are encouraged to attend.

Day	Date	Time	Link to registration
Thurs	7/13/23	11am	Transition to CAR July13
Tues	7/18/23	6pm	Transition to CAR July18
Thurs	8/17/23	4pm	Transition to CAR August17
Weds	8/23/23	1pm	Transition to CAR August23
Tues	8/29/23	9am	Transition to CAR August29



OFE CLASSES – 2023

ALL CLASSES RUN 9AM – 3PM

July 15 OFE 1 & 2; July 22 OFE 3 & 4
Corpus Christi – 3550 E Know Rd., Phoenix

Aug. 12 OFE 1 & 2; Aug. 19 OFE 3 & 4
Holy Cross – 1244 S Power Rd., Mesa

Oct. 5 OFE 1 & 2; Oct. 6 OFE 3 & 4
St. Mary/St. Juan Diego at St Mary's –
230 W. Galveston St., Chandler

Oct. 14 OFE 1 & 2; Oct. 21 OFE 3 & 4
Church of the Resurrection -3201 S Evergreen Rd., Tempe

Jan. 20, 2024 OFE 1 & 2; Jan. 27 OFE 3 & 4
St. Gabriel – 32648 N Cave Creek Rd., Cave Creek

To register contact: Mary Ann Hunter
928-699-9232 (Text or Call)
maryannhunter44@gmail.com

What is needed to register?

Your name; email, phone number, address, and your conference name

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

HOLY CROSS

Mary Powell
Andy Torres
Dee Shack
Mary Jo Kent
Sharon Culley

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Michael McCann
Frank Simmons
Rosie Bell
Linda Lee Chambon-Gay
Sue Dori
Scott Marthaler
James Reed
Tom and Barbara Reed
Peg Shandera
Lu Stitt

MOST HOLY TRINITY

Jackie Jennings

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Lynn Schmidt
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 LAKE

Cindy Smith

QUEEN OF PEACE

Susan Petrie
Mary Kay Dunlevy
Martina Bonilla

SACRED HEART PARKER

Edith Smith
Dora Norris Family
Fr. John Ikponko
Vernon Norris Family
Peggy Knapp
Ana Lopez
Tomasia Torres
Terry Watts
Marmejejo Family

ST. BRIDGET

Cheryl Crame
Joe Fellhauer
Terri Lyn Gardner

ST. DANIEL THE PROPHET

Phil Murphy
Don Fraiser

ST. GABRIEL

Jack McAward
Dolores Galligan
Robert Fitzer
Louise Fullam

ST. GREGORY

Edd Harrington
Beverly Heart

ST. HELEN

Charlie & Jean Olds

ST. JAMES

Diane Stofko
Abel Noble

ST. JOHN VIANNEY SEDONA

Pam Klauser
Kathleen DeWeever
Ray West

SACRED HEART—PRESCOTT

Richard Howell
Herb Bourgault

ST. MARGARET MARY

Ray Baca
Mary Esquibel

ST. MARY'S BASILICA

Robert Nue

ST. TIMOTHY

Margaret Hewett
Karl Rusnock
Thea Podrybau

ST. LOUIS THE KING

Ed & Esther Escarcega
Mario & Mary Fierros

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

Joyce Murphy

ST. ELIZABETH SETON

Bob & Pat Purtill

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 Gaumont
Diane Schatz

ST. MARY'S BASICILA

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
Alicia
Alfonso

ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE

Gene Harmeling
Lucia Mastroianni
Joan Katchur
Corlaine Mortenson
Philomena Kamara

ST. JOAN OF ARC

Paul Parent

ST. FRANCES CABRINI

Andre Carrillo
Rosemary McClair
Donna McDonald

ST. THERESA

George Dorley
Twila Stern
Tim Coughlin
Colin Campbell

SVDP EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Reve Holleran
John Lees
Bob Ryan
Kendra Krause
Tommy Pitre
Mary Jane Rynd
Kevin Conry
Margaret Najor
John Marrone
Dale Lehe
Sheila Alvarez
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
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 Zabitski
Nathan Turner
Steve & Lucy Howell
Marie Gallego
Greg Ryan
Lisa Eicher
Jagger Michael Diem
Nancy Phalen
Tom Van Boven
Jim Novotny
Joyce Zabitski
Evan Arriola
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



Mark Wendell

St. Mary's Basilica

Dot Creechley

Sacred Heart Parker

***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.***



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



General Membership Meeting

***September 16, 2023—8:30 am
Mass followed by breakfast, a
short business meeting &
exciting raffle prizes***



Every ton of recycled paper saves about 17 trees

Recycling is something that is often overlooked in our busy lives, but it could make all the difference in what our world looks like in a few hundred years. To produce all the Sunday newspapers in the United States, over 500,000 trees must be cut down. The Sunday edition of the New York Times alone takes over 75,000 trees. However, recycling our paper can make a huge difference. Every ton of recycled paper saves roughly 17 trees. If everyone in the United States recycled all of their paper products, it would save over 250,000,000 trees a year. Is your conference doing its part?