



# St. Vincent de Paul Society NEWSLETTER



Published by and for Vincentians  
Diocesan Council of Phoenix, AZ

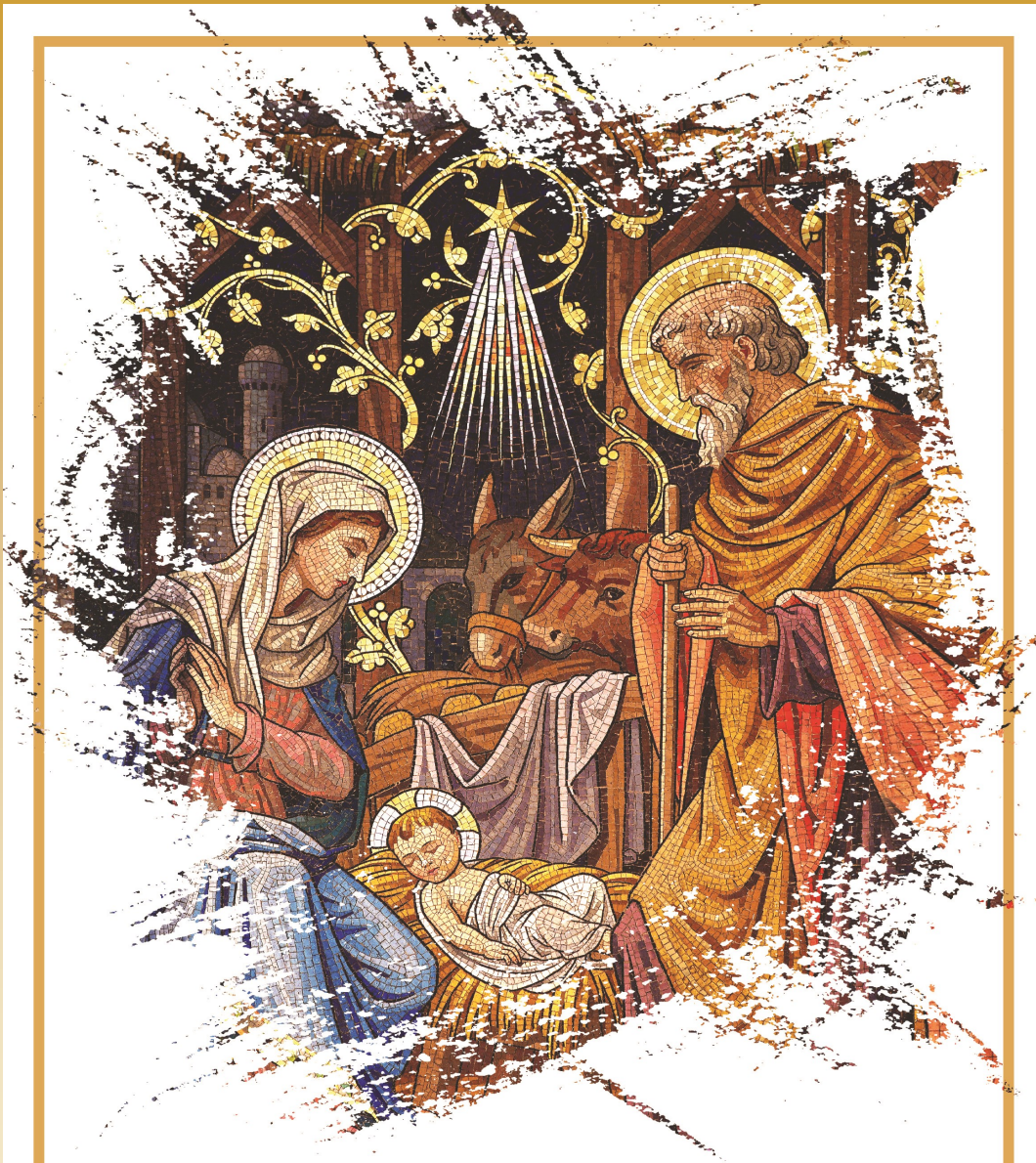
<http://www.stvincentdepaul.net/Vincentian-Support>

December 2023

Vol. 25 No. 12

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

## Merry Christmas



"FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN  
BORN FOR YOU WHO IS CHRIST AND LORD." — LK 2:11

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI



## Living the Season

*We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manager of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another.*

*St Teresa of Calcutta*

As Catholics, our new liturgical year begins with the start of Advent a time for prayer and spiritual preparations. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the Holiday season, we strive to resist the temptation to begin celebrating the Christmas holiday the day after Thanksgiving. For us, Advent is not meant to lead us to a single day of eating and gift giving but to the celebration of Christmas as a true liturgical season.

Our Christmas season opens with the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord on December 25th and ends with the celebration of his Baptism. During this liturgical time period, there are several special feasts and celebrations including the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God and Epiphany. The song the Twelve Days of Christmas actually refers to the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany not on counting down the shopping days until 25th . (See the explanation of the meaning of that song on the next page.)

When our family and Vincentian Holiday commitments, activities and programs finally quiet down, we have time to more fully open the true meaning of the birth of the Christ child. Not only did the Incarnate Word of God come to dwell among us, he came as a newborn, fragile and dependent on his mother Mary and his earthly step-father Joseph.

Jesus was born in a humble stable and placed in a manger used to feed farm animals. He came in simplicity and humility to show us the way of truth and light. The King of the Universe came to earth quietly and small being oh so careful not to overwhelm us but to embrace us.

Our Lord was fully human and fully divine. He experienced every aspect of the human condition except for sin including joy, sorrow, hunger, fatigue, suffering and death. Why did he leave the beauty and splendor of heaven to walk among us? Because he loves us so perfectly and completely and wants us to be one with him for all eternity.

As Vincentians, the Christmas season calls us to be Christ-like. Opening up the gift of the Nativity challenges us to reflect the light of Christ, to love as he loved, to serve as he served, and to give to others with hearts full of joy.

The gift we bring to the Christmas season is the gift that we have been given; the gift of unconditional love and kindness.

*Shirley Smalley*

## "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?



The religious wars in sixteenth century England made it dangerous to be a Catholic. Many people practiced their faith in secret. As the legend goes, Catholic families courageously developed unique ways to secretly pass the faith onto their children, like "The 12 Days of Christmas." The well-known song was used to teach children about the Catholic Church. Although the lyrics may sound like nonsense, the song actually contains hidden references:

**The First Day of Christmas: A Partridge in a Pear Tree** - A partridge in a pear tree symbolizes Jesus Christ, with the partridge representing Christ's willingness to sacrifice himself and the pear tree symbolizing the cross.

**The Second Day of Christmas: Two Turtle Doves** - Two turtle doves represents the Old and New Testaments, highlighting the harmony and connection between the two.

**The Third Day of Christmas: Three French Hens** - Three French hens signifies the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love (or charity).

**The Fourth Day of Christmas: Four Calling Birds** - Four calling birds symbolizes the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which spread the good news of Christ's life and teachings.

**The Fifth Day of Christmas: Five Golden Rings** - Five golden rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch or the Torah, emphasizing God's covenant with His people.

**The Sixth Day of Christmas: Six Geese A-Laying** - Six geese a-laying symbolizes the six days of creation, emphasizing God's power as the creator of the world.

**The Seventh Day of Christmas: Seven Swans A-Swimming** - Seven swans a-swimming represents the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

**The Eighth Day of Christmas: Eight Maids A-Milking** - Eight maids a-milking symbolizes the eight Beatitudes preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, highlighting the virtues and blessings of a righteous life.

**The Ninth Day of Christmas: Nine Ladies Dancing** - Nine ladies dancing represents the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**The Tenth Day of Christmas: Ten Lords A-Leaping** - Ten lords a-leaping signifies the Ten Commandments, which provide guidance for a moral and righteous life..

**The Eleventh Day of Christmas: Eleven Pipers Piping** - *The Eleven Faithful Apostles: Peter, Andrew, James the Elder, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Younger, Simon, and Jude.*

**The Twelfth Day of Christmas: Twelve Drummers Drumming** - Twelve drummers drumming represents the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the core beliefs of Christianity.



## Be Like Vincent

One of the many things I learned from Deacon Gene Smith, former President of the National Council, is that Vincent de Paul was actually a fundraiser. And not just a part-time, run-of-the-mill fundraiser, but one who set the standard for all of us.



So how do we non-saints (at least, that term applies to me) go about raising money to support our Conferences and those in need? After all, most of us are not professional fundraisers. It starts by creating a *culture of philanthropy* in your Conferences and Councils. I have seen firsthand how this type of culture can significantly increase funding — **but only when people and organizations have the genuine desire to do so.**

Where do we begin if we want to “*Be Like Vincent?*”

**First: Become a Storyteller.** Not just any storyteller, but someone who passionately shares with others the exceptional work of your Conference and/or Council. Tell people about the single mother you visited this week — how she is working two jobs and is still not able to pay her rent and utility bills because one of her young children has ongoing medical expenses. Talk about the veteran who skips meals in order to pay his rent, and the recently unemployed father who is desperately seeking work. These individuals would likely all become homeless if not for our efforts.

Although we might think we don’t have many stories to share, in fact, the stories are too numerous to count. Take a moment to reflect on the people you have met in just the last few days — I’m certain you’ll recall a story. I have often heard people say, “*If only I had known about.... (fill in the blank) I would have gladly helped.*” Let’s make sure they **do** know. We can tell our stories in-person, from the pulpit, during meals with friends and colleagues, in parish bulletins, in local newspapers, emails, mailings — the opportunities are virtually endless. The key is, we have to be willing to share the work we do as Vincentians with others. We simply must.

**Second: Ask.** Yes, ask. We cannot be afraid to ask others, anyone, everyone, if they would be willing to help a neighbor in need. Our true calling as Vincentians is to ask others to support our work. Some will say no, but think of how wonderful it is when someone says, “I’d love to help.” Not only are we then able to help more people in more ways, but we have also given the donor the opportunity to experience the joy and the satisfaction that comes with helping another person.

Few things bring as much fulfillment as knowing that our efforts made a real difference in the life of another. While I can still get nervous when asking someone for a gift to support St. Vincent de Paul, reciting the simple prayer “*Come, Holy Spirit*” reminds me that this is not about me. It’s never about me. It is between God and the other person. And even when someone says no, I’ve come to understand that many times, a no is simply a “not today.” Often at a later date, we receive a gift from that initial “no,” and it is sometimes far greater than anything we would have imagined.

**Third: Say Thank YOU.** Showing appreciation and gratitude — sharing with a donor how she or he made a

***Be Like Vincent continued***

“real difference” in the life of another person. Saying Thank YOU in person, on the phone, via email, and maybe best of all, through (multiple) handwritten notes, is essential. It is almost impossible to show too much gratitude, yet very easy to show too little.

I have never heard a person express unhappiness for being thanked multiple times. But I can’t begin to count the number of times when someone shared disappointment about being overlooked. An unexpected thank you letter, especially months later after a gift, provides another opportunity to “story tell” about how an individual’s contribution helped change lives and/or save lives. This is one of the greatest blessings we can provide to our donors. Additionally, showing genuine gratitude goes a long way toward helping secure future gifts, larger gifts, monthly gifts, planned gifts, and even estate gifts.

Creating this *culture of philanthropy* isn’t difficult, but it does take a real commitment. It doesn’t require an advanced degree or a high-priced consultant to be successful — what it does require is a Vincentian desire, to *Be Like Vincent*, to continue his legacy, and to become our own hero using the three steps to guide you:

- share stories
- ask others
- show gratitude.

I am reminded of one of my favorite quotes, from the movie *A League of Their Own*, when Tom Hanks (Jimmy) tells Geena Davis (Dottie; who just informed him that she was quitting the baseball team he manages because it got too hard):

***“It’s supposed to be hard. If it wasn’t hard everyone would do it. The hard is what makes it great.”***

If every Vincentian told one story each week (just one) and asked one person each week to support our mission (just one) and wrote one thank you letter each week (just one) — countless new individuals would become part of our Vincentian family, enabling us to serve more people. We would change our community. We would change our country. We would change our world. Think of how proud Vincent de Paul would be with each of us.

Please let me know how you are doing. Call or email me, I really mean that. I can be reached at (480) 556-7122 or [szabilski@svdpusa.org](mailto:szabilski@svdpusa.org). I’d love to hear from you, learn from you, and offer any thoughts or suggestions as each of us strives to *“Be Like Vincent.”*

Advent and Christmas blessings, and a prosperous New Year — may this be one of those resolutions we really do keep.

God Bless,  
Steve Zabilski  
2nd Vice President and Chair of the National Development and Communications Committee



## Our Call to Servant Leadership

When we think of leaders, we are acculturated to envision military commanders, heads of state, celebrity CEOs, and the like; dynamic, charismatic, larger than life. Leaders, we are taught, are “large and in charge.” It is difficult, then, for most of us to believe that we can be that person; that we are called to leadership. But if you are a Vincentian, you are called.

Rather than the province of kings and generals, ours is a special type of leadership, modeled for us by Christ Himself. Most memorably, in the Gospel of John, Christ washed the feet of the disciples, afterwards explaining: *“You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”*

In a passage that was a favorite of St. Vincent’s, Christ further explained the role of a leader, saying, *“let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant.”*

A Vincentian servant leader, such as a Conference President, is not called to be the boss or the commander. Rather than making all the decisions, Presidents fulfill the decisions of the Conference members.

In 1651, one of Vincent’s confrere superiors wrote to him, complaining of the men in his care, even going so far as to complain that he “preferred to direct animals rather than men.” In reply, Vincent explained that this approach *“is true of those who want everything to give way to them, nothing to oppose them, everything to go their way, people to obey them without comment or delay, and, in a manner of speaking, to be adored.”*

But that, Vincent explained, is not our way. He reminded the missionary that leaders should *“consider themselves the servants of others, who govern in the light of how Our Lord governed.”* [CCDIV:181-182]

Christ could have come to us as a king, a warrior, or a man of wealth. Instead, as Frédéric pointed out, he “was hidden for thirty years in the workshop of a carpenter.” [Complete Works, Lecture 24, quoted by Gregory] He “did not come to be served but to serve...” [Matthew 20:28]

In the Society, the person does not seek the office, the office seeks the person. [Manual, 35] Servant leaders are called less to *be* something, than to *do* something; we are called not to be “large and in charge,” but instead, to be small, and for all.

### Contemplate

How does servant leadership look? Am I called right now to servant leadership? To be an officer, committee chair, or something else?



# BRICKS to build the foundation

## Membership Status: What Does It Mean?

The Society of St. Vincentian de Paul has many individuals and groups that are intimately involved with our organization including our members, volunteers, donors, and neighbors in need. Most of these individuals and groups have a deep commitment to and interest in the Society and thus serve as stakeholders. A stakeholder is a person who has a vested interest in an organization or society and in its success. So that means that all Vincentians are stakeholders in the Society.

Because of the very nature of being a stakeholder, the majority of the Society's members value and treasure their membership status. This is at times unfortunate because in truth the Society values all members regardless of their membership status. If we understand that being a Vincentian is a lifelong vocational call, it is easy for us to understand that such a call would naturally ebb and flow as we live through the various stages of our lives. And so, for most Vincentians, our membership status will change from time to time.

The terms and definitions of active and associate members are meant to be an indication of a person's activity level within the Conference and its works at a particular moment in time. The Rule defines active members as those Catholic Vincentians who, in addition to meeting formation and safe environment requirements, attend meetings and participate in the works of their Conference on a regular basis. Associate members must meet safe environment requirements but do not have to be Catholic or attend or participate in Conference meetings or works on a regular basis. They do however need to be associated with the Conference in some active way even if that association is limited in time and scope.

The Society holds that while the support and activity of associate members is of great value, the right to serve as an officer and to vote is reserved for those members who are Catholic and actively involved in the day-to-day operations of the group. We must always keep in mind that the Society is stable but not static, and that unless members are involved in a Conference on a regular basis, they miss the tenor of the group and its movements.

The Society allows each Conference to define what is regular attendance and activity thus allowing every group to decide when and how membership statuses will change. A Conference can establish a guideline that says after a member is absent for a certain amount of time or meetings/activities that they will be automatically moved to associate membership status. The same group should also define when and how a member would be moved up from associate to active status by virtue of returning and active participation in the conference meeting and works..

This type of fluidity of membership status allows a Conference to adjust its quorum and to keep track of those members who are eligible to vote and hold office. Being a long time Vincentian does not qualify someone to be automatically listed as an active member. Members who are no longer able to attend or participate in our meetings and works must be held in the highest regard, included in our prayers and communications, and invited to join us as much as possible but none of these things are contingent on their membership status. Associate and absent members are still important and a vital part of our Vincentian family not because of their membership status but because they are our brothers and sisters for life.

When we keep names on our active membership list that are no longer really active it not only skews our quorum requirements, but it also allows the active member status to become enshrined as a sign of value and importance. When that happens, members' feelings are deeply hurt when their membership status is finally changed, or their names completely removed from our rosters. They feel demoted and often demoralized when nothing is farther from the truth.

If Conference officers monitor and change the status of members as needed, then the concept of membership status takes its rightful place as a mere snapshot of a Vincentian's activity level within the Conference at a particular time. A stakeholder is a stakeholder regardless of whether they are full or part-time.

As Vincentians, we have a vocational call to grow in holiness and that call is encapsulated within our overall commitments in life including work, family, and God. It is not tied to our membership status but to our hearts and our love for God and others. Our membership status is a name that conveys our activity level; it is not who we are but merely a designation of what we are doing with our Conference today.



## ***From the Desk of the Conference Resources Committee***

### **Home Visits**

The Standards of Affiliation adopted by the Diocesan Council of Phoenix, require Conferences to do at least 20% of their services to their neighbors through home visits. Home visits are the hallmark of the Society and the heart of what we do as Vincentians. Conducting interviews or visits in a pantry or office should be the exception rather than a standard practice. As a Society, we are more concerned with individuals and families than we are about being efficient or comfortable. Office and pantry visits may meet our needs but they seldom meet the needs of the poor.

Being efficient suggests acting in such ways as to avoid loss or waste of energy. Efficacy suggests possession of a special quality or virtue that generates power. Being more efficient is not a Vincentian virtue being efficacious is. Our willingness to go to the poor, to sit in their homes and to listen to their stories conveys a caring and compassion that cannot be conveyed in an office setting. Being efficacious means we provide the highest quality of services and that requires us to go to where the poor live and as Frederick Ozanam said, "Knowledge of the poor and need is not gained by pouring over books or in discussions with politicians, but by visiting the slums where they live, sitting by the bedside of the dying, feeling the cold they feel and learning from their lips the causes of their woes." Let us then go to the poor with joy and determination to meet them where they are.

### **Safe Environment Training**

The deadline for the completion of SET Renewals is December 31st. All Vincentians and Vincentian volunteers must complete their Safe Environment requirements prior to December 31st. Any member or volunteer not in compliance may not serve with the Society including attending our meetings. Missing even one year's renewal requirements will result in an individual being required to go back and complete the initial foundation course.

#### **Remember to be in "Good Standing" all Conferences 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.





Growth and change for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and its Council programs are on the way and the air is full of excitement, energy, hope and expectations. Our Ozanam II building is taking shape and is scheduled to be completed in June of 2024. The construction is on schedule and on budget. This building will allow us to house 100 more residents providing them with the same services and support that we provide in Ozanam I.

On December 9th, our Mesa and Lake Havasu thrift stores were closed. The current economic conditions have led to these closures. Donations and volunteer numbers are down as housing, grocery and gas prices continue to increase. As these conditions stabilize, we will be looking for opportunities to open a new thrift store in the East Valley. For now, vouchers will be accepted at our three other Diocesan thrift stores and we will work with conferences on transportation of furniture and mattresses. Donations will be accepted at the Mesa Dining room.

Our Chris Becker Dining Room in the Sunnyslope area is scheduled to close in February of 2024. Meals in that area will be shifted to new sheltering programs that will provide residents with supportive services aimed at helping them obtain permanent housing and economic resources.

The current Resource Center at the Dan O'Meara Center that provides walk-up services to the homeless will be closing to enable use to convert that space to a Workforce interim transitional housing space that will house the employed and those seeking employment. It also will provide a living space, food and wrap around services to the residents. This space will allow us to temporarily house seventy-one individuals that are in need of short term housing.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the answer to homelessness is two fold. The first response to ending homelessness is what our conferences currently provide and that is homelessness prevention. The next step is to help people get off the streets and into some form of housing. Homelessness is about housing just as poverty is about a lack of resources.

As our Council shifts from providing emergency assistance to the homeless to more effective models of service, some things will be left behind, new things will be implemented, and adjustments will be made along the way. Our success in rehousing the homeless as a partner in the Washington street shelter has proven to us that integrated and comprehensive approaches to homelessness are what is needed now.

We continue to look for ways to support our conferences in their efforts to prevent homelessness because no matter how many individuals we assist in being rehoused it will not make a difference if even more people end up homeless.

Together we can grow, adapt and change to better meet the needs of the poor. In all periods of growth and change, there are inherent struggles, losses, and some discomfort but those negative factors are far outweighed by the energy of the process and the potential for greater success. Frank Barrios would always say he was "just one of many" and so it is with our attempts to make a difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable. As our councils and conferences work together and with other corporate and agency collaborators, our effectiveness will increase experientially. Our focus will never be primarily on rehousing the homeless but it is an important piece of who we are and how we work within the community and for the disenfranchised who look to us for assistance each and every day.



Did you know that our Diocesan Council helps individuals with travel needs in order to move an individual from homelessness to stability or to prevent an individual from falling into homelessness? The Travel Aid Center (TAC) Ministry at the Resource Center has been helping homeless and/or stranded individuals with travel assistance for many years. It is currently staffed through Vincentians of the St John Paul II Special Ministries Conference.

Individuals in Phoenix who are homeless or stranded may be eligible for travel assistance. TAC can help relocate individuals or assist them in traveling home to family or a job. Neighbor inquiry phone calls to TAC are returned daily for pre-screen processing. Currently, the TAC Ministry office is open a few days a week to conduct client interviews and to complete assistance requests. Our assistance is designed to help by providing Greyhound bus transportation or gas cards if a reliable car is available. Requirements differ for each method and must be met. Other guidelines are also used which are especially important to understand because of the multitude of different vulnerable “at risk” populations that we serve.

Vincentians and volunteers answer calls, perform team in-person interviews and evaluations of requests for transportation assistance including preparing and archiving documentation supporting team decision outcomes. Vincentian team assessments are made to determine if a person qualifies for assistance. If an individual meets the requirements and it has been determined that they have a safe place to stay at their destination, Vincentians finalize travel arrangements.

TAC would like to continue to provide assistance with the possibility of expanding access and is asking for Vincentian volunteer support in this effort. Volunteer scheduling can be flexible to meet your needs. Volunteering for as little as once a month is fine or can be more frequent if desired.

Vincentians performing in-person interviews would be required to work at the TAC office at the Dan O’Meara Center on Watkins but TAC pre-screening work does not have same attendance requirement and may be done from home or a remote location.

For TAC volunteer opportunities or for further information about TAC please contact Jackie Solares at the Saint Vincent de Paul Center or contact [volunteer@svdpaz.org](mailto:volunteer@svdpaz.org) at 602-261-6886.

*The Diocesan Council is also looking for new members to join the Conference Resources and Stores Committees and chairs for the Governance and Disaster Committees. Your help can make a difference for our programs and those whom we serve. Contact Shirley Smalley at [ssmalley@svdpaz.org](mailto:ssmalley@svdpaz.org) for information or to volunteer.*

## Thank you SVdP Scholarship Program (One At A Time)

*Dear SVdP Donors,*

*My name is Gabriella Cerna, and I am a first-generation college student pursuing concurrent degrees in biochemistry and microbiology at Arizona State University. I am writing this letter to thank you for your constant support throughout my college education.*

*The funds I have received through the OAAAT scholarship program have made obtaining a college education possible for me. As I enter my final year of college, I am filled with gratitude at the opportunity to have had a quality education and am in awe of the ways it has positively impacted my life.*

*Besides the support I have received through the OAAAT scholarship program, I am most appreciative of your donations which have allowed me to study abroad this past summer. The positive impact this unique opportunity has had on my education and professional development is indescribable.*

*Throughout the summer, I pursued a research internship at the Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology in Marburg, Germany. My project involved investigating agricultural improvements to raise crop yields and address rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels. The academic environment at the Max Planck Institute, with its abundant resources and stimulating atmosphere, was unlike anything I had experienced before. My time there allowed me to learn valuable research skills and make connections with other scientists, but more importantly, it prepared me well for pursuing advanced research positions after I graduate.*

*After returning to ASU with all that I gained from my study abroad, I found myself set up to thrive. In addition to being on track to graduate this year, I have secured a post baccalaureate research position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After this, I aim to pursue a PhD and a career as a science researcher. I hope that my story of growth shows just how transformative financial support programs can be for first generation college students.*

*Thank you,  
Gabriella Cerna*

## Turkey Tuesday

St. Elizabeth Seton Conference  
St. Vincent de Paul Society



On Tuesday, November 21, 2023, our conference convened at Bashas' on 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Beardsley for our annual Turkey Tuesday event. In the early morning we were positioned out front of the store, with our team and a huge container for our donated turkeys. Another SVdP Conference was at work at the second Basha's entrance, also collecting turkeys for the needy families in their district.

We served 37 families throughout the day with a turkey, groceries and a gift card, donated to each recipient by Bashas' making their Thanksgiving complete. Teams worked two-hour shifts to receive donated turkeys and pass them on to our neighbors.

Our conference members had packed and brought some of the holiday food items from our pantry, which had been given by our parishioners' contributions at our October food drive. Several customers purchased and donated potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce and other foods from Bashas' for our turkey drive. These extra food items rounded out the meals for our neighbors. Anonymously one donor contributed several large bags, which had been bought and left in a cart inside the store. Our conference also received \$2,215 in donations, which will be used to feed our families in the future.

By 7:00pm we had tallied donations of 132 turkeys, moving 20 to our church pantry freezer, as our container for turkeys was overflowing!! We were so very pleased by the many who stopped and assisted us with turkeys, food stuff, and donations. One gentleman donated a total of 20 turkeys, which helped cause our overflow! Some of the many turkeys were shared with our downtown Watkins center, which feeds thousands of homeless and needy people on Thanksgiving Day, and beyond.

Our dedicated co-chairs, Yvonne Evans and Barbara Scott, made the day run smoothly. They had some fun along the way, wearing their turkey hats, along with one of our members who donned our turkey costume, which amused the shoppers.

We are so grateful for the generous response from the Bashas' shoppers who stopped to chat and donate! Many were complimentary of SVDP and the work we do for the needy.

Thanks be to God for the giving, kind souls who assisted our needy neighbors and for the beautiful day we spent sharing God's blessings!

By Karen Boeck





## *St. Anthony of Padua*

*Having a little fun while collecting turkeys  
on Turkey Tuesday*



*Thank you  
to all  
our Donors*

## *Neighbor Assistance*

### St. Elizabeth Seton Conference

Every now and then our conference experiences a home visit that gives us a feeling we wish to share. On one of our routine home visits our home visitors had a call to a new neighbor that invited them into her home and apologized that they would have to sit on the floor. It had been a very difficult year for her. She went on to say her prior relationship had been very tumultuous with periods of violence and abuse. She had to get herself and her four children out of that environment for her sanity and the safety of her family. She left with only a few items, leaving most of her belongings behind. She explained that she continues to be threatened and has sought law enforcement assistance.

As our partners listened, they told her that they were there to provide support, peace and do whatever they could to help her and her children. The lady is working full time from home and is proud of her job. She is working at a small card table for her computer and a chair. The living/dining room is bare. Several bags of food and household supplies were brought, and help was given with a partial rent payment. While there, the lady was told of our relationship with City Serve (program operating out of Grand Canyon University Campus, which has surplus goods for charity organizations), and our Thrift Store, and Auto program. There is no vehicle because she was in an accident a few months prior with a "hit and run".



The visit was ended by praying for God's grace and blessing and telling her she would be our new "neighbor and friend". There were many ways the partners hoped to help her. With the holidays ahead she was told our "Turkey Tuesday" and "Adopt a Family" events.

After taking care of the rent payment and leaving, we called our president to discuss ordering needed furniture for the family, and determining whether she could be a recipient of our "Auto Fund" program. Necessary items were ordered from City Serve and "like new" furniture was obtained from a close neighbor in Sun City. About 10 days after the visit, delivery of the furniture was arranged.

Delivery was marked with delight by the twin 7-year-old son and daughter, along with her 16-year-old son, who plays football and gladly stepped up to help. He gladly carried the large chair, sofa, end tables and cushions to the second story apartment. It was a great celebration with tears and hugs all around! A few days later bed frames and a table lamp were delivered.

Then came the delivery of a wonderful, donated truck! The Chevy Silverado had many miles but had new tires and an engine in good working order. Our conference paid about \$1000 for some repairs. The lady could now transport her children, go to the doctor appointments, and attend meetings with her employer. Our president said she never had such a warm, grateful hug as the lady gave her that day!



St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Catholic Daughters stepped up to the "Adopt a Family" Christmas Sponsor for this deserving family. It has been an experience blessed by the Holy Spirit for all who participated to help the family get back on their feet in a secure environment they can call "home".

*Y. Evans and K. Boeck  
St Elizabeth Seton SVdP Conference*

## *ServWare News*

### **Conference Membership**

ServWare includes the ability to input conference members and assign roles for each member. Once members are entered, members are available in various drop-down lists used to:

- Assign a member to a Neighbor's request for assistance
- Enter hours and miles related to conference activities
- Send messages

Additionally, the membership tracking in ServWare supports recording member age range and ethnicity for quarterly and annual reporting, track member training such as Ozanam Formation Experience, and printing a conference roster.

Our national council recently updated the age groups for members. Conferences which have already recorded this information in ServWare need to update each member's age group using the new groups:

- 18 & Under
- 19 – 29
- 30 – 39
- 40 – 55
- 56 – 70
- 71 & Over

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can contact Jenney Clark ([jlark@svdpaz.org](mailto:jlark@svdpaz.org)) or Rebecca Gourrinat ([rgourrinat@svdpaz.org](mailto:rgourrinat@svdpaz.org)).

*Jenney Clark*

**OFE CLASSES – 2024**  
**ALL CLASSES RUN 9AM – 3PM**

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

**Feb. 10, 2024 OFE 1 & 2; Feb. 24, 2024 OFE 3 & 4**  
**Vincentian Support Services – 420 W Watkins Rd., Phoenix**

**Mar. 2, 2024 OFE 1 & 2; Mar. 3, 2024 OFE 3 & 4**  
**St. Margaret Mary – 780 Marine Blvd., Bullhead City**

**Apr. 27, 2024 OFE 1 & 4; Apr. 28, 2024 OFE 3 & 4**  
**St. Germaine – 7997 E Dana Dr., Prescott Valley**

**May 18, 2024 OFE 1 & 2; May 25, 2024 OFE 3 & 4**  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Help – 7655 Main St., Scottsdale**

**Oct. 12, 2024 OFE 1 & 2; Oct. 19, 2024 OFE 3 & 4**  
**St. Raphael – 5525 W Acoma Dr., Glendale**

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

**What is needed to register?**  
**Your name; email, phone number, address, and your conference name**



# SAVE THE DATES



## DIOCESAN COUNCIL ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT

**When:** Thursday, February 15, 2024, 8:30am-3:00pm

**Where:** Mt. Claret - 4633 N 54<sup>th</sup> St. Phoenix

**Who:** Council Board Members, Conference Presidents,  
Conference Resource Committee Members & Staff

## Join Bishop Hying for an Evening of Inspiration

**When:** Friday, March 8, 2024, 5:30pm

**Where:** Hall of Banners – 420 W Watkins Ave, Phoenix

**Who:** Council Board, District, and Conference Presidents

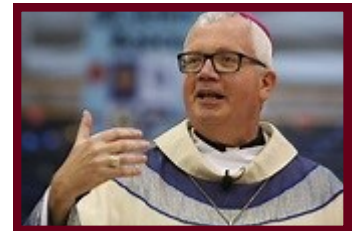
### **Agenda:**

5:30 Dinner in the Family Dining Room

6:30 – 8:00 Bishop Hying Presentation

8:00 Assist in set up for GMM

Register by contacting Mary Ann Hunter



Register with Mary Ann Hunter :

[maryannhunter44@gmail.com](mailto:maryannhunter44@gmail.com) or at 928-699-9232

Send your name, email address, phone number,  
Conference, District and/or position.

**REGISTER FOR ONE OF BOTH EVENTS  
BY FEBRUARY 2, 2024**

## ***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  
Eddie and Terry Wilson  
Pat Galea

**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

**PRINCE OF PEACE**

Greg Roark

**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. ANTHONY**

Ann Casaus  
Kathy McDonald  
Cecilia Laubenthal  
Marnee Ballay  
Cheri Massie  
Ken & Lorraine Hesketh

**ST. BRIDGET**

Cheryl Crame  
Joe Fellhauer  
Terri Lyn Gardner

**ST. DANIEL THE  
PROPHET**

Phil Murphy  
Don Fraiser

**ST. GABRIEL**

Clare Marion  
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

**ST. JOSEPH MAYER**

Dennis Baile, Sr.

**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**

Esther Escarcega  
Mary Fierros

**ST. CLARE OF ASSISI**

Joyce Murphy

**ST. ELIZABETH SETON**

Bob & Pat Purtill

**ST. GERMAINE**

Don Rien

**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**

Alicia Garibaldi  
Carmen Alfonzo

**ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE**

Lucia Mastroianni  
Corlaine Mortenson  
Philomena Kamara

**ST. JOAN OF ARC**

Paul Parent

**ST. FRANCES CABRINI**

Donna McDonald

**ST. THERESA**

George Dorley  
Twila Stern  
Tim Coughlin  
Colin Campbell

**SVdP EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

Julian Kring  
Beth Shultz  
Emily Trust  
Paul and Claudia Critchfield  
Jan Hoeschler  
Reve Holleran  
Jerry Bailly  
Bruce Talone

**Sandy Bruner**

Paula Garlick  
Dennis Gougion  
Abigail Etheridge  
Joan Goldfarb  
Megan Ford  
Cannon Jon Lewis  
Reve Holleran  
John Lees  
Bob Ryan  
Kendra Krause  
Tommy Pitre  
Mary Jane Rynd  
Kevin Conry  
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  
Margaret Pawlak  
Rob Sobczak  
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  
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



**Dan Gomez**

*St. Vincent de Paul Conference*

**Charles Seps**

*St. Matthew Conference*

**Gene Harmeling**

*St. Joachim & St. Anne Conference*

**Lydia Pancratz**

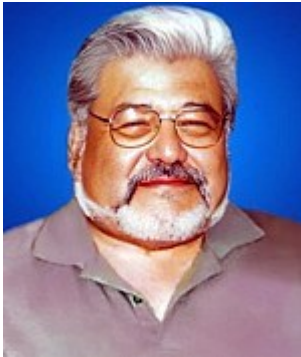
*St. Elizabeth Seton Conference*

**Bob Purtill**

*St. Elizabeth Seton Conference*

***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.***

## *Remembering Dan Gomez*



Dan graduated from Saint Mary's High School in 1967 and played in the 1967 Arizona High School state championship. Dan began his post-secondary education but then chose to join the United States Air Force serving for over 10 years.

Dan was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fray Francisco Garces Assembly. In addition to his volunteer service with the Knights of Columbus, Dan served at the St. Vincent de Paul pantry delivering and collecting food for those in need. As a result of his service, Dan later served as President of St. Vincent De Paul Conference for six years.

May he rest in peace.







# 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](https://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](mailto:plannedgiving@svdpaz.org).

P.O. Box 13600 Phoenix, AZ 85002 | [stvincentdepaul.net](https://stvincentdepaul.net)