



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



Finding a Balance!

No work of charity is foreign to the Society. It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation...

Rule I:1.3

Balance is a word used to describe a state of equilibrium. One of the definitions of the word balance is a condition in which different elements are equal or in the correct proportions. The word balance is often applied to the things such as our diet, health and a balance between body, mind, and soul. Constantly, we are reminded by friends and the media to work towards obtaining a balanced life where we achieve a balance between our work and our social lives.

As Vincentians, we are also told to balance our charitable efforts so that we do not burn out or so that we do not forget about other important things like keeping up with family and friends but how often do we think about finding balance when providing services to the poor? While Conferences check the balances of their checking and saving accounts at every meeting, we seldom if ever check to see if we are balancing the services and the aid we offer to the individual families we serve.

The founders of the Society never aspired to eliminate poverty in the lives of the poor by providing direct assistance to them but rather to alleviate it. The word alleviate means to make something less severe or more bearable, such as relieving pain, stress, or poverty. The word alleviate comes from Latin word *levis*, meaning "having little weight". The idea of alleviating the pain of poverty is not the same as rescuing the poor. Finding balance in providing services to the poor means doing enough but it does not mean that we do it all.

When we visit a family in need, we should include them in the solution to their current situation. Once families know what we can provide, they are often able to think about how they can secure funds or assistance from other sources. Allowing them to participate in the solution to their situation empowers them and shows them that we have confidence in their ability to partner with us. Families often feel they have nothing to bring to the table but, once we step forward with some of the needed resources, doors that were previously shut suddenly open up.

Finding a Balance cont.

Occasionally, we do encounter families that have nothing to bring to the table because they are living on a fixed income because of age or a disability. There are also times when a particular circumstance would warrant us paying for everything instead of part of a bill or payment. For example, years ago a family came to a conference because the young father and sole provider was facing a life threatening brain surgery because the cab of his semi-truck fell on him while he was working on it. In light of this tragedy the Conference paid all of the family's rent and their electric bill allowing the wife to focus on her husband's health crisis.

Being a Vincentian and providing direct assistance to those in need means learning to live between the tension of the yes and the no. We are called to evaluate each and every request on its own merits. We must take the time to ask ourselves honestly what would help this family most; giving them everything they asked for, some of what they asked for, or nothing at all. Balance is about doing enough for those whom we serve but not necessarily doing it all. Finding a balance in service means that we need to think about what the neighbor can control and what they cannot.

May God gives us the grace and wisdom to be open to any form of help that alleviates suffering or poverty and to do so in ways that honor and empower those whom we serve by allowing them to join us as equal partners. Balance in service is not something that can be found, it is something that is created by our hearts, our words, and our works. Finding a balance between our assistance and the efforts of those whom we serve is a goal worthy of our attention and our efforts.

Shirley Smalley

**It's Not Too Late to Solicit
Arizona Charitable Tax Credit
Donations!**

The maximum QCO credit donation amount for 2024: \$470 single, married filing separate or head of household; \$938 married filing joint



Please Note: Arizona law allows QCO donations made during 2023 or donations made from January 1, 2024 through April 15, 2024 to be claimed on the 2023 Arizona income tax return. The maximum credit that can be claimed on the 2023 Arizona return for donations made to QCO's is \$421 for single, married filing separate or head of household taxpayers, and \$841 for married filing joint taxpayers. If a taxpayer makes a QCO donation from January 1, 2024 through April 15, 2024 and wants to claim the higher 2024 maximum credit amount, the taxpayer will need to claim the credit on the 2024 Arizona return filed in 2025.



The First Bloom

When we hear the expression “from the heart” we understand it to mean that the speech or action is both emotional and sincere; it is powerfully felt, so much so that the action it inspires cannot be resisted. When we open our hearts, we invite others in so that they may know us more deeply. When we are sad, our hearts are broken; when happy, they fill with joy.

St. Vincent often expressed his own love, sympathies, and joy by speaking of his heart, once saying to his beloved friend St. Louise that *“my heart is no longer my heart, but yours, in that of Our Lord, Whom I desire to be the object of our one love.”* [CCD I:172]

Our hearts are moved by each other, moved by pain, moved by joy, and moved by love most of all; the love of family, of friends, of romance – and the greatest of all loves, *agape*, the love of God. *“That is because,”* Bl. Frédéric once explained, *“the human heart easily allows itself to be captured by love and there is always much love there where there is much faith.”* [Letter 145, to Velay, 1837]

Just as our hearts seek one another and seek God, He also seeks us. His love comes first, unbidden and gratuitous; he is, as St. Catherine of Siena said *“crazy in love”* with us. [Dialog 153] This is the love that truly fills our hearts. It is the love that Frédéric said *“which gives itself without diminishing, which shares itself without division, which multiplies itself, which is present in many places at once”*. [Letter 107, to Curnier, 1835]

When we visit the neighbor, seeking to learn what Frédéric called *“the secret of his lonely heart”* [Baunard, 279], we can really only do so by *“serving them from the heart”* as St. Louise taught. [SWLM, a.85]

Our first Rule, in 1835, explained that Members share a friendship that “will make of all our hearts one heart”. Our vocation calls us to share that friendship not just with each other, but with the neighbors we serve; to share our hearts, and the love of God within them. As was said at the Society’s National Assembly of 1911, ***“were we to search carefully, we would find in this world, more hungry hearts than hungry stomachs... Humanity is made up of hearts, and hearts need sympathy more than material aid.”***

This is the great lesson of our patron, and the reason Frédéric said in the first annual report that ought to model not only his works, but *“the manner in which he understood his works. Charity does not consist so much in the distributing of bread as in the manner it is distributed.”* Vincent’s life, he said, *“is a life to be carried on, a heart in which one’s own heart is enkindled”*. [Letter 175, to Lallier, 1838]

In this, may we each have, as Vincent wished for Louise, *“a young heart and a love in its first bloom for Him Who loves us unceasingly and as tenderly as if He were just beginning to love us.”* [CCD I:408]

Contemplate

Do I let the neighbor in to my open heart?

Recommended Reading

Praying with Vincent de Paul



Home Visits: A Time-Honored Vincentian Family Tradition

As members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we often think of home visits as an activity unique to us but nothing could be further from the truth. While home visits should be the cornerstone of our Vincentian conference activities, these visits were actually initiated by St. Vincent de Paul in the 1600's. Vincent knew from personal experiences that visiting the poor, sick, and marginalized in their homes changed not only those who were visited but those who were doing the visit as well.

In his book, *Mystic of Charity: The Fire in the Heart of St. Vincent de Paul*, Robert P. Maloney, C.M. shares the following insights and history of the introduction of home visits in the development of the Vincentian Family.

From the very beginning, home visits have played a role in the Vincentian Family's service to those in need. But they were to be no ordinary visits; they were to be a faith-filled encounter. Vincent de Paul insisted:

When you go to visit them, rejoice and say to yourself, "I am going to these poor people to honor the person of Our Lord. I am going to see in them the Incarnate Wisdom of God."

In 1617, when he founded the Confraternities of Charity, Vincent directed the members to go two by two to the homes of the sick and disadvantaged. As he set up confraternities throughout France, he made this an explicit mandate. A typical Rule stated: "The Ladies of the Company will take their turns, two by two to serve the sick poor."

When describing the Congregation of the Mission, founded in 1625, he wrote that "we... always go two by two" during missions to visit the homes of the marginalized. Whenever Vincent evaluated the missions given by conferences and other, home visits were among the things he carefully assessed.

Being a Vincentian requires us to leave the security of our own homes, our food pantries, our thrift stores, our offices and our parishes and venture out into the streets to encounter Jesus in the person of the poor where they live, where they work, where they are. No check, financial assistance or food box speaks as loudly of our care and concern for them than our willingness to come to where the poor live and work.

The world and social service agencies require the poor to appear where others dictate them to be and when it is convenient for their members and workers. That is not the Vincentian way. We go to the poor to share not only our resources but to share our hearts and the fire in our hearts cannot and should not be contained within a building. The fire within our hearts needs to be released into the world and into the homes and lives of those in need.

Inspiration

At least once in a person's lifetime
They get a signal from up above
My signal did not come in my prime
But it came with a lot of love

It didn't come from 12 years of religious training
Nor from being raised as a cradle Catholic
It didn't come from the good life, abstaining
And not from anything pragmatic

It didn't come from the military or my career
From my family, it did not come
And not from any of my peers
It wasn't from the days of beer, wine and rum

From where did this signal emanate
It came from the St Bernard SVDP conference
And it came in my life, very late
But provided a huge source of confidence

The home visits provided an epiphany
Of life changing inspiration
To this day, I hold them dear
As I journey through this difficult situation



Larry Riedel
St. Bernard of Clairvaux



In the Interest of Fairness!

A recent airline announcement at the boarding gate caught my attention. Passengers are no longer permitted to carry previously purchased alcohol on board to consume. Of course, the airline is still pleased to sell you some in your seat. A pilot seated next to me said that "too many passenger fights showing up on the Internet" was the driving force behind this new federal regulation. In that case, it might have been easier to ban cellphone videos rather than alcohol!

People who want to get drunk on an airplane will find a way to do so. They might have several drinks at that bar just a few steps from the gate. They might mix alcohol with that Coke or Sprite they just bought in the post-security gift shop. So long as they don't appear too intoxicated when boarding, they can manage around the regulation. Therefore, it's the law-abiding good person, as so often happens with regs and legislation, who is the real disadvantaged patron of the rule, intentional or not.

Before we cry about this unfairness, let's first look in our Vincentian mirror. Chances are, we have our own rules for serving people in need that were created because of one or two bad experiences. Remember that guy who came to us every month for rent assistance? That's why we limit our help to (number) of times annually. Remember that family who asked for rent, then utilities, then food, then anything else not bolted down? That's why we now have a financial limit on how much we can spend per family. The exception has sometimes driven our policy for everyone. In some Conferences, the people who needed the most help ultimately restricted the help we can give anyone.

In the interest of "fairness," have we made life harder for some whom we seek to serve? In a quest to standardize operations and financial decisions for our volunteers, have we bypassed or totally cut out conversations about support around the Conference table? Have we forsaken the opportunity for personalized service, and even sound judgement calls? Do our policies not only demonstrate that we don't trust those we serve, but also that we don't trust our own members?

Any two Vincentians might disagree on how much or how often to help someone in need. The personal encounters we have in our Home Visits provide us with more information, and context, than can be provided in an application form or initial phone call. I hear all the time how someone came to a Conference for help, and we gave them more than what they requested, because they didn't know the scope of our resources. Or perhaps they were embarrassed to ask, but our visiting team saw the need and asked if the Society could please help.

Please take time at an upcoming Conference or Council visit to review your giving and other policies. Perhaps dollar limits were set when your group had a different level of available resources. An annual assessment based on the past year's experiences and economy might be a good idea. Do your rigid policies need to be only softer guidelines, subject to what we see and in individual cases and subsequent discernment?

Can policy be replaced in part with member training, so that everyone understands the need for some restraint but operates at a judgement level informed by experience and observations?

Can part of every Conference meeting be devoted to discussing those we serve, their needs and requests, and recommendations from our visitors for the Conference to decide together?

As a parent, would you ever limit your child to asking for help only once every year, or every quarter? Of course not. We might instead have to say No to some of their requests. The difference between the policy restriction and the individual response is in the formation and strength of our relationships. Help desks and nameless bureaucrats limit requests. Real people, especially Vincentians, listen whenever possible and seek solutions together even if money isn't always available. We are the Face of Christ to those we serve. Would Christ ever tell us to come back and pray again for help in 6 or 12 months?

Resources are always limited. God's love, however, is infinite. How can we as Society members do better to take both in consideration as we serve our neighbors?

Yours in Christ,

Dave Barringer

Nation SVdP Council CEO

Article as it appeared in the E-Gazette of 11-09-2023.



BRICKS to build the foundation

Member Reimbursement for Mileage

“Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in this mission of charity.

As members of the Society, we repeat these very words in the Opening prayer for our Conference and Council meetings. This concept of sharing ourselves and our possessions is part of the very DNA of Vincentianism. It echoes our commitment to serve the poor for love and for love alone.

In the early days of the Society, Frederick Ozanam addressed the issue of the financial investment of Vincentians in the works of the Society by saying, *It is often the price we are called upon to pay while trying to experience what the poor experience*. Frederick, Vincent, Louise and Rosalee Rendu all felt that until we live like the poor, we can never truly understand their needs.

While most Vincentian do not live in real poverty, our willingness to bear the cost of naturally incurring expenses related to and with serving and visiting the poor can serve as a reminder of the sacrifices that the poor make each and every day.

It is clear that the Society strictly prohibits Vincentians from personally providing goods or financial support to the neighbors we serve, however, our Rule and mission do encourage us to donate to Secret collections, the Society and to pay for our own expenses. We must remember that we are called to serve the poor *without compensation*. Our time, our gas, and the wear-and-tear on our vehicles are part of what we offer to the Lord for all the wondrous things He has given us. Our offerings and sacrifices are offerings of gratitude.

Although paying for your own gas for Vincentian work, Council activities, and home visits is the preferred protocol, we must also be mindful that Conferences may decide to reimburse members for their mileage. In some of our rural areas, Vincentians may need to drive greater distances to make visits than in the metropolitan areas. It is not uncommon for Vincentians in our outlying Conferences to need to drive more than fifty miles round trip to make just one home visit. In those cases, reimbursement may be an appropriate option.

Continued

Member Reimbursement for Mileage

If a Conference decides to assist Vincentians with compensation for gas, it must be a reimbursement not a pay forward policy. The Conference must decide as a group if they are reimbursing for mileage, for what events and activities, and at what rate. The rate needs to be set in advance and should be standard regardless of the type of vehicle being used. The Conference needs to keep in mind that the standard reimbursement rate for mileage for volunteers as stated by the IRS is \$.14 a mile. While that amount may be a little low, most charitable organizations reimburse their employees for mileage at approximately \$.65 a mile.

If the cost of gas is an issue for members, Conferences can be creative. As Vincent believed love is creative to infinity and, as Vincentians, we are a resourceful people and we can find solutions to the challenges we face. Conference can look to partner members who cannot afford to pay for gas with those who can. Conference can look at grouping home visits by area thus reducing the amount of gas that is actually needed. Each conference must make its own decision based on the distances being travel and the financial resources of their members.

We must always remember that Home Visits are at the heart of the Society and its works. These visits should not be limited or eliminated simply because members cannot afford to pay for gas. In order to save money and time, the poor should never be required to come to us. If we as members cannot afford gas to visit those in need, how can we expect the poor to pay for gas to come to us?

God is asking us as Vincentians to use our hands, feet and our resources to help those in need. We were called and we responded to that call to be Vincentians. Routinely we ask God to help us to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves. May we honor that request and trust in God's Divine Providence knowing that He will help us to do just that.

Approved 02/02/24



Society today seems to me to be not unlike the wayfarer described in the parable of the Good Samaritan. For while journeying along the road mapped out for it by Christ, it has been set upon by thieves of evil human thought. Bad men have despoiled the wayfarer of all his goods, of the treasures of faith and love... .

The priests and the Levites have passed him by. But this time, being real priests and true Levites, they have approached the suffering, wretched creature and attempted to cure him. But in his delirium he has not recognized them and has driven them away. Then we weak Samaritans, outsiders as we are, have dared to approach this great sick patient. Perhaps he will be less affrighted by us? Let us try to measure the extent of his wounds in order to pour oil into them. Let us make words of peace and consolation ringing in his ears.

Then, when his eyes are opened, we will hand him over to the tender care of those whom God has chosen to be the guardians and doctors of souls. *Frederick Ozanam*



LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Lent is one of the two penitential seasons that are included in the Catholic liturgical year. These two seasons, Advent and Lent, are placed within our Church calendar to help us prepare our hearts and our lives for two of the greatest Christian celebrations, the Nativity and the Resurrection of our Lord. During these penitential seasons, the Church calls us to spiritual growth through prayer, personal sacrifice and repentance. There are many opportunities available for us to prepare ourselves as Conferences as we journey through Lent to the celebration of Easter. Some examples are listed below:

Attend Lenten Liturgies Or Services Together:

Attendance at daily mass, Stations of the Cross or any other special Lenten liturgy or services are an excellent way to promote spiritual growth among Conference members. To gather in addition to our normal meetings for such services, provides our members with additional opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship. Celebrating and praying together not only helps us to grow in holiness, but it also makes the bonds between us grow stronger.

Schedule a Group Holy Hour Each Week:

Schedule a specific Holy Hour for each week of Lent for your Conference members to go to the Adoration Chapel at your parish Adoration Chapel or at one in your area. Spending time in silent prayer and meditation before the Lord will provide your Conference and its members with a unique opportunity to sit in silent prayer with the Lord while in the company of their brother and sister Vincentians.

Attend a Retreat or Day of Recollection:

Spiritual growth is the goal of the Lenten season. An excellent way to grow in holiness is by participating in a Retreat or Day of Reflection /Prayer.

Your Conference and/or District could select a scheduled event and attend it as a group. Your Conference or District president and spiritual advisor could work with your priest, deacon a spiritual advisor or a Catholic retreat master to develop and host a Lenten Retreat focused on the mission and values of the Society. Other Conferences could even join you.

Vincentian Lenten Prayer:

A Prayer that can be said together as a Conference:

Reader 1: Jesus said to his disciples: "[But] take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others.
Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward."

Reader 2: "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

Reader 3: "But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

Reader 4: "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to others to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you." (Matthew 6: 1-6,16-18)

Reader 5: May Jesus gift us with his presence this Lent, so that we can be a gift to others as we:

Right side:

Fast from judging others
Fast from unrelenting pressures
Fast from self-concern
Fast from personal anxiety
Fast from discouragement
Fast from criticism
Fast from complaining
Fast from social media
Fast from resentments

Left Side:

to feast on kindness.
to feast on trusting God.
to feast on compassion.
to feast on hope .
to feast on encouragement.
to feast on affirmation.
to feast on complimenting.
to feast on prayer and silence.
to feast on forgiveness.

Together:

Lord, give us the grace to fast during Lent, so that we can truly celebrate Easter. Amen. *This prayer is taken from the Spiritual Advisors Handbook.

Prayer and Soup:

A Conference could offer or sponsor a prayer or para-liturgical service such as Stations of the Cross followed by a Soup Supper. The Soup Supper could include soup donated by individuals who would bring their favorite soup to share with others along with their recipe. You could also encourage individuals and families to bring their own soup bowls and spoons and possibly some bread to share with others. Participants could even be asked to donate what their normal meal would have cost to the Conference with those donated funds being used to buy food for the poor.

SVdP Coffee Can Campaign:

During the Season of Lent, we often recall the Parable of the Widow's Mite (Mark 12.41-44). The widow put two small copper coins into the collection (which represented a real sacrifice for her) while Scribes and Pharisees were making a big show of giving large amounts which came from their excess funds. The Lord judged the Widow's offering to be a better one.

By sponsoring a "Coffee Can Campaign", your Conference could help families remember the need to help people less fortunate by personal sacrifice. Parents could be encouraged to lead by example and suggest a daily offering from each member of the family explaining that this offering will enable the St. Vincent de Paul to help feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Young adults often have a real awareness of poverty from what they see among their friends and classmates. Ask them to do their part to help those in need.

Example of Bulletin Campaign:

WHAT: JOIN US IN THE SVdP COFFEE CAN CAMPAIGN. MAKE THIS A LENTEN FAMILY EFFORT. Simply take an empty coffee can and cut a slit in the lid. If you have younger children, they can even wrap the can with special drawings of Jesus or the widow with her offering. Place the can in a prominent place in your home. Each family member can deposit money into the can over the course of the Lenten and Easter seasons. Be creative. Deposit your change, allowance or any special offering you might have to help feed the hungry and to be more like the generous widow.

WHEN: The Coffee Can Campaign runs from the beginning of Lent to Pentecost Sunday (the last day of the Lenten/ Easter Season).

Donations can be collected by your Conference perhaps at all masses on Pentecost Sunday or another weekend during the Easter season.

A similar activity is the Rice Bowl program sponsored by CRS (Catholic Relief Services). Before considering offering your own program, consult with your pastor to make sure the Parish is not also doing the Rice Bowl program Please note, Conferences can apply to receive funding from CRS for the purchase of food items.



From the Desk of the Conference Resource Committee:

As a council, we are fortunate and filled with gratitude to have the Albertsons Companies stores (Albertsons & Safeway) support our mission to feed those in need. For over 5 years, they have raised money to provide food to those in need, and as a partner, they trust St. Vincent de Paul to ensure the funds raised go directly into the hands of those we serve.

This year each conference received a gift card distribution in November, and then again in December. It is important to make sure that your conference distributes the cards within 60 – 90 days. Please do not hold onto them. I

f your conference is fortunate and does not have a need for the cards, you have the option of twinning them to another conference that would be able to use them for their Neighbors.

If you would like suggestions for a conference to twin with you can contact Ally Geinosky at allyngee@gmail.com or Mary Ann Hunter at maryannhunter44@gmail.com. It is important we continue to meet our goal of being a good partner with the Albertson Companies and get the cards directly into the hands of our Neighbors that need them.

It was brought to our attention that there were a few times where a Neighbor contacted the conference stating their card was not working. If that happens, there is a number on the back where you can check to see the balance. If a problem is encountered, please replace the card and call Vincentian Support.

As a friendly reminder, if you are shopping in a Safeway or Albertsons store let the manager/employees know how much we appreciate their ongoing support of St. Vincent de Paul.

ServWare News

Conference Activity Report (CAR)

Conferences which have fully implemented ServWare are now able to transition to using the ServWare Conference Activity Report (CAR) for Quarterly and Annual Reporting. This report is easily generated from within ServWare and eliminates the need for entering information into the QRP Workbook.

During the past Fiscal Year (2022 – 2023), six conferences successfully used the CAR report for Quarterly and Annual Reporting. Several additional conferences plan to transition to the CAR for our current fiscal year (2023 – 2024). Our Phoenix Council goal is to have all Conferences using the CAR by October 1, 2025.

To be eligible to begin the process of transitioning to the CAR, a Conference must:

- Fully implement ServWare – Neighbors & Assistance, Membership, Financial Functions
- ServWare Conference configuration consistent with Phoenix Council Standards
- Utilizing routine data quality checks

The process for a Conference to transition from the QRP Workbook to the ServWare CAR:

- Submit both the QRP and the CAR (in excel format) for two consecutive quarters
- Obtain approval from the District President
- Obtain approval from Vincentian Support Services

Upcoming training sessions are available, if your conference would like to learn more about the transition.

Day	Date	Time	Link to registration
Wednesday	Jan. 17, 2024	10am	Transition to CAR 02/17/2024
Monday	Jan. 29, 2024	3pm	Transition to CAR 01/29/2024
Monday	Feb. 12, 2024	1pm	Transition to CAR 02/12/2024
Thursday	Feb. 29, 2024	7pm	Transition to CAR 02/29/2024

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can contact Jenney Clark (jclark@svdpaz.org) or Rebecca Gourrinat (rgourrinat@svdpaz.org).

Jenney Clark



IMPORTANT DATES

**MARCH 9 - GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING &
MORNING OF REFLECTION**

**JUNE 15 - GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN
FLAGSTAFF**

**AUGUST 15-17 - SVDP
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SHERATON PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

**For questions or more information
call Sandy Edwards at 602-261-6803**

SAVE THE DATE

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

maryannhunter44@gmail.com

or

928-699-9232

*Please give your name, email, and district number/
conference name.*



**Father Joseph Patterson Council for opening
the SVdP District 10 Charity Community Dental Clinic**

After years of dreaming, District 10 was able to open their own local SVdP Dental Clinic on Friday January 19th. Over the past year, the District's Dental Clinic Committee under the direction of Kritina Mohr, Rod Determan and Dr. John Stropko worked diligently to make this dream a reality. The clinic located in Prescott Valley will provide basic services to those unable to afford basic dental care. Referrals will come from the Prescott, Prescott Valley Mayer, and Chino Valley area conferences.

The District provided funding and secured a dental office, equipment, supplies and volunteer dentists and support staff for their clinic. The group was supported by Diocesan Council Conference Resource committee chairs and staff including Dr. Scott Meyers, his team, and vendors along with the Facilities staff and Marc Anderson. Hats off to everyone involved for a job well done.

Colorado River District Two Council SVdP Lake Havasu Food Pantry

Following the December closure of the Our Lady of the Lakes thrift stores and conference former conference members and pantry volunteers stepped forward to reopen the Food pantry on January 3rd. Without missing a beat, the new crew quietly began providing food to the needy of the area. Former neighbors continue to be served and new neighbors have been added. This pantry has historically served about 350 families a year making this an important part of services to the needy in the area. It is clear that the volunteers and members of the former Conference were committed to keeping the doors open in service to the poor.

A special thanks goes out to Terry Dock and her District along with Mary Ann Hunter for making this opening possible. Also, hats off to Cyndi Jones for stepping forward to serve as interim pantry coordinator and Dennis Kirsch for being a big part of the transition and the ongoing operations of this food pantry. Hats off as well to Diocesan Council VSS and Retail Operations staff members Jerry Castro, John Junker, Corey Christensen, and Mike McClanahan for spending time in Lake Havasu and on this project. This was truly a collaborative effort. Thanks to everyone for being so positive, creative, and resilient.

Christ the King Conference

Hats off to Conference president Gael McKelvey and her members for reaching out and working with Michael Fleming on his Member Recruitment and Retention pilot project. Former District Nine Council president Doris Kilroy connected the Conference which needed new members with Michael. Michael and the Diocesan staff created a recruitment brochure for the Conference and with the support of Norma Carrillo presented an Invitation to Serve presentation at all of the masses one weekend.

The Conference is now up to nineteen members with eight definitely coming from the pilot project and at least three more saying they are joining. The secret ingredient appears to have been getting potential members to sign up to work on a single volunteer project as their introduction to the Society. What a perfect way to grow new members! Excellent job and best wishes for continued growth.

Santa Claus comes to Town!

Santa visited the dining hall over at Santa Teresita on December 14th. He brought lots of smiles to the children and the parents seeing how happy their kids were. Lots of toys and clothes donated by GCU City Serve was given out by Santa. GCU CityServe works with national retailers and suppliers to distribute new/gently used products — primarily household goods— through local churches and faith-based organizations.

SVdP is truly grateful for this program and has assisted so many less fortunate families and the homeless.

Before opening the doors to our neighbors, Mike Ward led us all in prayer.



Santa Teresita serves around 150 meals a day from 9:00 am- 11:00 am Mon-Friday. It is located at 14016 N. Verbena St in El Mirage across the street from the Church.

Submitted by: Tina Prosenick



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

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

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
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 OF PADUA

Jerry Gervais
Barb Baxter
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

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 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

Alicia Garibaldi
Carmen Alfonso

ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE

Lucia Mastroianni
Corlaine Mortenson
Philomena Kamara

ST. JOAN OF ARC

Paul Parent

ST. FRANCES CABRINI

Donna McDonald

ST. STEVENS

Barbara Ott

ST. THERESA

George Dorley
Twila Stern
Tim Coughlin
Colin Campbell

SVdP EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Mary Kay Post
Baby Caroline Ford
and Parents of Caroline
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
Mary Jane Rynd
Kevin Conry
Dale Lehe
Sheila Alvarez
Mr. and Mrs. John Bracken
Tegan Searing
Carla Francesca Martin
Mark Hamblin
Baby Hailey
The Porscha Family
Mary Teller
Mary Lou Goldstein
Judy Edwards
Edmund Voyer
Bessie McNair
Bill Mulholland
Margaret Pawlak
Rob Sobczak
Dominic Svorinic
Jon Ehlinger
Louise Kasmikha
Chris Lowrey
Paul Zabalski
Nathan Turner
Steve & Lucy Howell
Marie Gallego
Greg Ryan
Lisa Eicher
Jagger Michael Diem
Nancy Phalen
Tom Van Boven
Jim Novotny
Joyce Zabalski
Jayden Southern
Robert Jacobs
Ed Koval
Mayuka and Family
Mary Jo Matthews
Lloyd Bach

REQUIESCAT IN PACE



Bill Murphy
St. Louis the King

Vince Kempton
St. Thomas Aquinas

***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.***



**St. Vincent de Paul Society
Vincentian Support Services
P.O. Box 13600
Phoenix AZ 85003**

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PERMIT NO. 115

General Membership Meeting

March 9, 2024

Bishop Hying will be our celebrant



Vincentians, please submit changes or additions to the prayer line to Sandy Edwards: sedwards@svdpaz.org