



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

Called to Discern

He (God) is greatly honored by the time we take to weigh with mature deliberation matters having to do with his service, as are all those with which we deal. St. Vincent de Paul



Since the early days of our Society, it has been held that being a Vincentian is a vocational call. Through our vocation, we are called to serve Christ through service to the poor. Our call is not for everyone nor is it always easy. It is a journey into holiness that takes an open heart, a listening ear, and a willingness to learn and grow.

St. Vincent de Paul and the ministries and programs he founded helped many of the poor and needy of his day, but they did not help everyone. They could not physically help everyone that needed assistance, and neither can we. So how do we decide who and how to help the poor?

The Vincentian charism is centered around making decisions through a discernment process rather than a more traditional style of business decision making. By definition discernment is a wise or enlightened way of evaluation that includes seeing things in a more sensitive and perceptive way where unspoken and unseen factors become visible. For us, our goal is to try to see each neighbor as God sees them. To take the time to sit and reflect on

their story, their request, and God's plan for them and for us.

Looking at the bare facts of a situation without trying to understand the neighbor, their story and their options, often leads us to be harsh, rigid and judgmental. Being rigid and judgmental can lead us to inaccurate conclusions and to premature decisions based primarily on our own opinions, impressions, and preconceived ideas about situations and other people. We have a tendency to see their life and situations through our own experiences, opportunities and choices not theirs.

Discernment does not require us to say yes to every request. Sometimes the best way to help a neighbor is to say no, maybe, or can we work on resolving this issue together? Discernment takes time, thought and prayer. Discernment leads to compassion and creativity. Discernment considers conference guidelines, financial factors, and outcomes but it includes so much more than those factors. Discernment is not an *all or nothing* process but one that is more organic, flexible and Christ-centered.

As Vincentians, we are called to discern and to act with compassion and empathy. We need to realize that the majority of people we encounter are doing the very best they can with what they have available to them and that some people will never be capable of being sustainable. Some neighbors come to us again and again not because they are using the system but because they simply have no other viable options.

We are called to pray, to call upon the Holy Spirit, and to discern God's will concerning our responses to each neighbor's request. We must continually ask the Lord to show us how we can best serve each person we encounter. The Gospel tells us that whatever we do for the least of our brothers, we do for Jesus but it goes on to warn us that what we do not do for the least of our brothers, we do not do for Christ.

We should never be in such a rush that we say no when there is a more God centered way to respond. If we are to err, let us pray that we always err on the side of generosity. May we strive to make decisions with mature and Christ-centered deliberation.

By Shirley Smalley
Diocesan Council Board President



DISCERN, NOT TO DECIDE

In the Society of St Vincent de Paul, “*all decisions are made by consensus after the necessary prayer, reflection and consultation.*” [\[Rule, Part I, 3.10\]](#) In other words, we don’t simply vote the minority “off the island,” but instead ensure that every voice is heard as we seek to arrive

at a solution that everyone can support. The process of prayer, reflection, and consultation that we follow to arrive at consensus is discernment.

Discernment, in turn, is not simply a decision-making process, in which we tally up the pluses and minuses, or offer arguments for our positions. It is instead a search for truth, and that truth, for us, is always the will of God. To truly discern requires that each of us let go of our attachment to our own ideas, keeping our minds and hearts open not only to the ideas of others, but to the idea that our purpose is not to choose from among competing alternatives, but to find the one truth that is God’s will.

Our first Rule explained the importance of self-denial in this process, saying that “*The man who is in love with his own ideas, will disdain the opinion of others... We should, therefore, willingly acquiesce in the judgment of others, and should not feel annoyed if our own propositions be not accepted by them. Our mutual good will should proceed from the heart and should be without bounds.*” [\[Rule, Intro, 1835\]](#)

These words echo St. Vincent de Paul, who said that we should “*deny ourselves totally for love of God, to bring our judgment into harmony with that of our neighbor... and conforming to God’s judgment of things!*” [\[CCD XII:175\]](#) For Saint Vincent de Paul, the will of God was always the center of holiness, and always the guiding light for his works and his plans.

Discernment is not a contest to determine whose will is strongest, but instead is always a seeking of God’s will to guide us, whether discerning our individual pathway, discerning the best way to help a neighbor, or discerning a plan for new special works. If we truly believe that God called us to this Vincentian vocation, we must also believe that the God who called us here is here; that he is within and among us; that each of us individually and all of us as a group were called here by God; and that it is His voice and His will we are called to continue to serve. He makes His will known to us through Holy Scripture, through the Rule and traditions of the Society, and through the people and events in our lives. To deny ourselves in this process doesn’t mean refusing to say what we think. It means offering our reasons, but not our judgment. It means having the humility to recognize that we do not know all the answers, and being willing to accept God’s will as it is revealed to us, even – and especially – when it contradicts our own preconceived notions.

In other words, if we truly wish to hear His voice, we must first lower our own.

Contemplate

Am I sometimes too attached to my own opinions at Conference meetings?



Urgent: Calling All Vincentians!

The SVdP National 2024 Assembly is just around the corner and we still need more volunteers for this event. Our volunteer sign-up genius is easy to

access and use. It is organized by days, times, locations and volunteer duties. You might want to review the entire list of volunteer opportunities before you sign up. Here is the link to the Sign-Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AA8AF0-50202649-svdp - />

The main part of the Assembly begins on Thursday, August 15 and closes on Saturday, August 17th with an evening banquet and a few special receptions. Volunteers are needed from Tuesday, August 13th through Saturday, August 17th.

The greatest number of volunteers will be needed for our Host City Event on Friday but we are still in need of volunteers in several areas including greeters at the airport. Consider signing up with a friend or two and even carpooling especially if you are not attending the Assembly or staying in the hotel.

We are extremely honored to be hosting this national event and we need everyone to consider helping. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to serve others, to meet Vincentians from across the country, and to learn more about the Society.

All volunteers will be asked to wear an event vest which will be given to you when you report to work your shift (s). If you volunteer for 3 to 4 hours, you may attend up to two workshops without registering/paying but cannot participate in the meals that are being served during major events and speakers. You may not attend workshops/meetings during your volunteer shift. If you wish to attend the assembly or some of the meals, please go online and register for the event. The link is in the E-Gazette.

Your primary task for most Volunteer positions is to assist and interface with attendees. We want everyone to experience the fellowship that permeates this Council and its members. One of the strongest aspects of our Council is our heart and our connectedness to the mission and one another. Let's be sure to share that warmth with everyone.

Please consider answering this call to help support our Council's efforts!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AA8AF0-50202649-svdp - />



Disaster Appeals

“When disasters, war or major accidents occur, the Society launches emergency initiatives on the spot and provides funds for the local Society to help victims.”

Rule Part I: 4.2

There are two types of assistance when discussing disasters: domestic disaster assistance and international disaster assistance. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, tsunamis, and fire are all causes for a disaster. Although SVDP is usually not a first responder, SVDP is on the ground, providing comfort, support, and financial assistance.

In the Rule Part III: Statute 26 we are reminded:

“However, no matter how worthy the cause, funds shall not be diverted in the form of donations or contributions to other organizations or charities, except, occasionally, for other branches of the Vincentian Family.”

When a family loses a home, it is a disaster for that family and their needs will be addressed at the conference level. When a disaster is declared at the national or international level a significant number of people are affected.

A request for financial assistance is issued through either our National Council's Disaster Fund or through our International Council General's offices. Assistance is sent to conferences serving in the area of the disaster. This assistance should be sent to our National Office and identified as either for National Disaster or International Disaster. There is no need to be more specific than that. Please do not list a specific disaster as then the money is restricted for that one particular area. There must be active conferences that can provide the assistance.

When Ukraine was attacked, several conferences wanted to contribute disaster funds. However, there were no conferences in that country still operating and many people were fleeing to other countries. If the money was labeled “For Ukraine” it could not be used in the countries with conferences receiving the refugees. If it was identified as “International Disaster,” it would first be sent to our National Office and then be forwarded to the International Office which maintains records and communications with our brother and sister conferences outside of the United States and where emergency funds are needed.

All disaster funds, whether for national disasters or international disasters should be sent to:

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Disaster Services
66 Progress Parkway
Maryland Heights, MO 63043-3706



FROM THE DESK OF CONFERENCE RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Standards of Affiliation are minimum standards that should be included and followed in every conference set of guidelines. Conference operational guidelines should not contradict this minimum standard set.

Membership

Participation in the works of the society is open to all, with no exclusions based on gender, age, race, ethnic background, or sexuality. Part III of the Rule states that only Catholics may be “Full” members or officers. Diversity within Conferences is healthy. Youth (minors) should be accompanied by a parent or other designated adult. Meetings should be planned to include people who work. New members should be invited regularly and welcomed.

Standing Committees

Conferences may have standing committees, i.e. Store committee, Pantry Committee, Systemic Change Committee. All committees should be open to any member willing to provide consistent service.

Training

TRAINING IS REQUIRED in order to live the Vincentian vocation fully and to assure quality in services. For day-to-day work the training takes place at the Conference level. Anyone wishing to become a full member of the conference, with voting privileges, are obligated to attend the 4 session Ozanam Formation Experience (OFE). All Conference officers must have taken OFE or agree to attend OFE within one year of taking office. A refresher of OFE is suggested for every three or four years.

Safe Environment Training

All Members of the Society (and volunteers with regular commitments) must comply with the training and background check requirements of the Diocese of Phoenix.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Question: Can Associate members go on home visits?

Answer: Associate members can go on home visits if the Conference has confidence in their knowledge of the Society, their understanding of the purpose and format of home visits, and in their judgment. Associate members should not go along on home visits just to fulfill the two Vincentian requirement. They must be able to participate fully in the encounter with the individual and/or families being visited.

Question: Can membership in the Society be terminated by a Conference president?

Answer: No. A member is considered separated from the Society under the following Conditions:

- Voluntary resignation or cessation of effective membership (e.g., protracted unexcused absence from Conference meetings).
- *Enforced resignation. Implemented only for grave reasons and for the common good of the Society. Approval for such action must first be obtained from the National President. (Rule, Pt. II, Statute 17)*



“God has already touched your heart, or you would not be giving up your precious free day to serve the poor. And, because you see Christ in his poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as His servant. Always remember, that if we had been through the hardships they have had to meet— if our childhood had been one of constant want — perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred, as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter.” • Bl. Rosalee Rendu

SVdP Thrift Stores

Your Conference Can Make a Difference to the Success of our Stores!



Our Diocesan Council Thrift Stores are an important part of the Society's presence and works within the greater Phoenix area. Our stores are often the first place that people experience the Society, our works and our charisms. They provide a place where donors give their unwanted items being confident that they will be used to help the poor. They are a place for people to volunteer, to form community and to make friends. They offer conferences a way to help the poor and a place for people to find a treasures and items where the profits will benefit those in need.

As great as our stores are, the face of thrift and secondhand stores have over the past few years changed. More people are purchasing items online through bargain and auction sites. Dollar and other secondary market stores are on every corner. Inflation has led many donors to sell unwanted their items instead of donating them. . In the past few years, many of our long-time volunteers have aged out and many others simply did not return after the pandemic. In addition to those factors, salaries and benefits for our employee and gas prices have increased putting a strain on the stores' bottom line.

So, what can your conference do to help? You can help by helping us secure donors, shoppers and volunteers. Our marketing department has developed some new Church bulletin ads that you can submit to you Parish bulletin editor for inclusion as part of



your SVdP space. Doing this will help us reach individuals in ways that are effective and meaningful. Your parishioners want to help the poor and helping the stores is an easy way to do that.



These bulletin pieces are located on the VESS section of our website under the Stores tab. They are in portrait and landscape jpg format and can easily be sized to fit in spaces that are available in the bulletin, Our ads can be great fillers or a focus item depending on the space your bulletin has available. Help us help others by supporting our stores

It was all smiles at the First Annual Breakfast in Prescott.

SVdP District 10 Community Dental Clinic held its first annual Morning Smiles Ask Breakfast, Friday June 28 at The Club at Prescott Lakes. Kritina Mohr, District 10 President welcomed everyone and asked Tim Parker, Pastor of Missionary to provide an opening prayer. She then gave recognition to representatives from the Phoenix Council. And introduced Rod Determan, President of Sacred Heart Conference and Chair of the Dental Standing Committee to carry on as EMCEE for the event.

Presenters included Dr. Scott Myers, SVdP Phoenix Charity Dental Clinic Director; Dr. John Stropko, District 10 Dental Clinic Director and Dr. Robert Carlisi, District 10 Dental Clinic Co-Director.

Standing Committee members were also introduced and community guests numbering 88 individuals included many dentists and dental professionals.

District 10 wishes to thank all who attended and showed their support by generous financial donations. To add to our success a few dentists have responded with an interest to care for patients in the dental clinic. This is GREAT NEWS and we look forward to next year's Morning Smiles Ask Breakfast knowing GOD IS GOOD IN ALL WAYS.

Blessings,

Kritina

Kritina Mohr, President
SVdP District 10



Rod Determan and Kritina Mohr



First Annual Juneteenth celebrated at SVdP

On June 19, 2024 invited guests and staff celebrated Juneteenth for the first time in the Hall of Banners. Chef Chris prepared an appropriate breakfast to celebrate the occasion.

Bob and Beverly Elliott, founders of the African American Museum of Southern Arizona, shared the history of Juneteenth and the impact that the holiday has on our entire state.



Feast Day Celebrated at St. Maria Goretti

Members of the St. Maria Goretti Conference celebrated the Feast Day of St. Maria Goretti on July 6th, 2024. The parish hosted a great spaghetti dinner

☺...Ann



Out and About At St. Germaine



Pictured above is the Class of 2024 OFE Graduates from St. Germaine I Prescott Valley, District 10. This was one of the largest classes ever in St. Germaine.

Congratulations to our new Vincentians!

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

September 14, 2024 OFE 1 & 2; September 28, 2024 OFE 3 & 4
St. Timothy – 1730 W. Guadalupe Rd., Mesa

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

Teresa Quadros
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

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
The Boozer Family

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

Michael Aguiar
Patty Couch
Roger and Rita Gaumont
Diane Schatz

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. PADRE PIO

Dolores Witherspoon
Lucia Mastroianni
Corlaine Mortenson
Philomena Kamara

ST. JOAN OF ARC

Paul Parent

ST. FRANCES CABRINI

Donna McDonald

ST. STEVENS

Barbara Ott
Frank Greco
Winnie and Hugh Collins

ST. THERESA

George Dorley
Twila Stern
Tim Coughlin
Colin Campbell

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

Patty Lucus

SVdP EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Mary Kay Post
Emily Trust
Reve Holleran
Jerry Bailly
Bruce Talone
Paula Garlick
Dennis Gougion
Megan Ford
Reve Holleran
Kevin Conry
Dale Lehe
Mark Hamblin
Margaret Pawlak
Rob Sobczak
Jon Ehlinger
Paul Zabalski
Steve & Lucy Howell
Greg Ryan

**REQUIESCAT
IN PACE**



Larry Dixon
Holy Cross Conference

Tom Donnelly
Our Lady of Mount Carmel

*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%

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



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

FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.