



**Conference News and Notes**  
**for Wednesday, December 22, 2021**  
**Sent to all Vincentians & Staff**

---

***Vincentian Reflection for Christmas***  
***December 25, 2021***

**Gospel: (Luke 2:1-14)** Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold I bring you good news of great joy...for a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

**Reflection:** Why do we wish each other "Merry Christmas"? Surely, not because Jesus was born into a perfect world and not because we have a perfect world or perfect families today. "Merry Christmas"? Perhaps not for all. But because of Jesus, *all* of us can celebrate a Christmas that is joyful and blessed. The Savior of the world was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. Jesus comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there. That is why we can say to each other "Merry Christmas"! (*Living Liturgy*, p.24)

**Vincentian Meditation:** In working to restore all things in Christ we are not alone. God is with us: Emmanuel. His poor also are close to us. May we never forget that the ultimate source of hope and joy for the poor lies in our sharing with them our own deep personal conviction, born of prayer, that with the birth of Christ the Kingdom of God has come; a kingdom of justice, of love and of peace. May your celebration of Christmas be a joyful one! (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 366)

**In what ways have we shared with the poor our own deep personal conviction of the kingdom of God?**

***Our Call to Prayer***

**On this day, joy was reborn into the world,  
may we share the joy of Christ with everyone.**  
**On this day, hope was reborn into the world,  
may we bring the hope of Christ to those who are poor.**  
**On this day, love was reborn into the world,  
may we bring the love of Christ to our family and our world.**  
**Amen.**

---

**Vincentian Reflection for the Feast of  
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph  
Sunday, December 26, 2021**

**Gospel: (Luke 2:41-52)** The parents of Jesus used to go every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover... and as they were returning at the end of the feast, the child Jesus remained behind unknown to his parents. Thinking he was in the party, they continued their journey for a day, looking for him among their relatives. Not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him. On the third day they came upon him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard him were amazed at his intelligence and his answers. His Mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? You see that your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow." He said to them: "*Why did you search for me? Did you not know I had to be in my Father's house?*" But they did not grasp what he said to them.

**Reflection:** Parenting is a great entry into the paschal mystery! Good parents spend their children's growing up years emptying themselves of their own desires for the sake of the well-being of their children, endlessly and willingly sacrificing for them. Then, when the children are adults, parents must be willing to "let go" so that the children can be about their own business. By letting go, parents can help their children know their true identity is that they really belong to God. Thus can they find their real place in the world. Family is about relationships. A holy family is one in which their relationships include God at the center. (*Living Liturgy*, p.30)

**Vincentian Meditation:** In his great joy Frederic wrote about his first-born, Marie, his observations proclaiming the unconscious apostolate of children, which, in God's providence is to make parents richer and stronger spiritually. "We will begin her education early," wrote Frederic, "and at the same time, she will begin ours; for I perceive that Heaven has sent her to us to teach us a great deal, and to make us better. I cannot look upon that face, so full of innocence and purity, without seeing the sacred impression of the Creator...How could I dare teach her lessons that I did not practice? Could God have found a kinder way of instructing me, of correcting me, of setting my feet on the road to heaven?" (Frederic Ozanam: *Derum, Apostle in a Top Hat*, p.186)

**How have you found that children do "teach us a great deal and make us better?"**

**Our Call to Prayer**

**Jesus, thank you for the children who have touched our lives,  
may they grow in age, wisdom and grace.  
Jesus, thank you especially for grandchildren,  
may they grow in age, wisdom and grace.  
Jesus, thank you for "instructing and correcting us" through children,  
may we all grow in age, wisdom and grace.  
Amen.**

---

**Our Holidays Schedule**

Please note our Neyer Outreach Center's - and your Conferences Support Team's - special holidays arrangements:

- Christmas Eve, Fri, 12/24 - close @ noon
- Christmas Day, Sat, 12/25 - Mon, 12/27 - closed
- Tues, 12/28 - Thurs, 12/30 - open normal hours, 8am-4:30pm
- New Year's Eve, Fri, 12/31 - Sun, 1/2/2022 - closed
- Mon, 1/3/2022 - reopen for normal hours

---

**Our Latest on Holiday & Seasonal Programs**

- **Christmas Food** - Our Christmas Food is now fully distributed. We have provided the makings for Christmas dinner for 1,100 families. Our Catino Choice Food Pantry

- continues to provide our year-round food assistance during our NOC's open hours.
- **Angel Toys** - We still have Angel Toys available for our Conferences to shop for your neighbors, while supplies last, until this Fri, 12/24, @ noon. Thus far, 13 Conferences have made 16 shopping visits for 80 neighbor families = 238 children. Your Conference can still reserve a shopping appointment, even if you have already visited, by contacting Tom Roberts at [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:troberts@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.345.4910.
  - **Winter Coat Distribution** - Neighbors who have not received a coat from us this season may now come to our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC, 1146 Bank St) and request a coat voucher. Alternatively, if a neighbor approaches your Conference with a need for coats, you can email Erin Nowak at [enowak@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:enowak@svdpcincinnati.org) with the name and DOB for all family members who would like a coat, as well as the address where the voucher should be mailed. This may be the Vincentian's address, in which case the Vincentian would then give the neighbor the voucher, or the neighbor's address. Vouchers will expire 30 days after the issue date or on March 1 (whichever comes first). Vouchers can be redeemed for a coat at any of our SVDP thrift stores.
  - **Soaring Winter Utilities Costs** - Duke Energy has provided a series of toolkits to help their customers navigate. We have posted these resources to our website; you'll find the webpage at this link: <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/2021/12/20/winter-utility-bill-resources-for-neighbors/>  
We will continue to update this page as we receive additional content.
- 

### **Share Your Impact: Our 2021 Annual Report**

Our External Relations team is putting together the 2021 Annual Report for our Cincinnati District Council. Part of this publication will include stories about the people involved in St. Vincent de Paul and the neighbors you've engaged & served. Was there an experience helping a neighbor that sticks out in your mind? A memorable interaction that you'd like to share? Please email Kristen Gallagher, our Marketing & Communications Manager, at [kgallagher@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:kgallagher@svdpcincinnati.org).

---

### **City of Cincinnati "Pay to Stay" Ordinance**

We informed you of this new ordinance back in November when it was enacted. Under its provisions, tenants within the city can tender **all** rent and fees owed, or present a guarantee of payment, such as a voucher, letter, or approval form from a social service agency or non-profit (such as your Conference), up to the time of an eviction hearing, and they should successfully avoid eviction for delinquent financial obligations to their landlord. In cases where your/our neighbor faces such an eviction action, and your Conference and/or CAF has approved assistance but that payment will not be made until after the neighbor's court date, our neighbor should appear for the hearing with documentation of the approved assistance. We have created a letter template your Conference can customize for a neighbor facing this reality. This template is now listed on the "Member Support and Forms" page ( <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/conferences-members/member-support/> ) of our website as "Pay-to-Stay Letter on Letterhead – Updated 12-2021." You can use the following link to go directly to this template: <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/12-2021-Pay-to-Stay-letter-on-letterhead-re-rental-assistance-approved-in-active-eviction-cases.pdf> .

---

### **Beacons of Light**

We shared the following content with our Conference Presidents via email this past week:

1. *Beacons of Light* Families of Parishes – a visual presentation of the revised – termed "final" – release from our Archdiocese on Sunday, 12/5/2021, with manual mark-up of info most relevant to our Conferences & Council; Our Archdiocese incorporated significant refinements in response to feedback on the draft version released in 10/2021;
2. *Beacons of Light* Background & Overview – outline presentation, summarizing info we've previously shared and where we are now; &

3. *Beacons of Light* Considerations & Guidance Document – again, in outline/bullet format, including suggestions of how to proceed.

We hope this stimulates fruitful interaction within your Conference and your Family of Parishes after the holidays. Much opportunity ahead!

---

### ***Twinning...and Tornado Recovery in KY***

In response to recent inquiries from our Vincentians & Conferences who may be discerning where and how to deploy their resources beyond their own Conference footprint, locally & regionally, in this season of sharing:

- Our Council has made a donation to SVdP Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, PO Box 1203, Owensboro, KY 42302, to help those so deeply impacted by the recent tornadoes.
- We have Conferences within our own Council who are struggling to assemble sufficient resources to respond to the needs within their own footprint. You can contact Tom Roberts at [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:troberts@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.345.4910 to learn more.
- If your Conference discerns to further assist those in Mayfield, KY and the surrounding communities, you can donate directly or to our Council, stating your intentions, and we will pass the funding along. Please remember that your Conference's financial resources should only be shared within SVDP to respect the intentions of your donors.

Our prayers are with those who have suffered loss and those mobilized in the recovery.

---

### ***Requesting Your Help...***

We're looking for the lucky winner of the "Cooler & Umbrella - Sun Fun" raffle prize at our Christmas Party @ St Bart's on Tues, 12/7. We sent you home without 2 additional parts of your umbrella. If you really want to have it "made in the shade", contact Tom Roberts at [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:troberts@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.345.4910 to claim the rest of your prize. :-)

---

### ***Merry Christmas!***

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government will be upon his shoulder,  
and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah, 9:6)

Your Conferences Support Team and all of our Council's Staff wish you and all those you love best a blessed, safe Christmas. May you be wrapped in the abundance of God's loving care.  
Amen.

STAY CONNECTED

