



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for The Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021

Gospel: (Luke 3:10-18) The crowds asked John the Baptist, “What should we do?” He answered, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.”... Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached the good news to the people.

Reflection: The “good news” is a message of a topsy-turvy world. John baptizes and preaches to the crowds, the “common folk”, and in answer to the question “What should we do?” he answers to the effect, “more than you would wish to do or that can be expected of you” - share what you have with those who have not. John’s good news is that of a totally different way of seeing life. The question, “What should we do?” is asked three times in today’s gospel, and the answer is invariable: reach out to the marginalized with whatever you have and they need. This is the good news of John, and it is identical to the good news Jesus preached. John directs our attention to Jesus and the inauguration of his ministry to the poor and those in need. And so we ask, “What should we do?” (*Living Liturgy*, p. 14)

Vincentian Meditation: Sr. Rosalie said: “One night I dreamed that I stood at the judgment seat of God. He received me with great severity and was about to pronounce my sentence to perdition, when suddenly I was surrounded by an immense throng of persons carrying old shoes, hats, and clothing which they showed to God and said, ‘She gave us all these things!’ Then God looked at me and said, ‘Because you gave all these old clothes in My Name, I open heaven to you. Enter, for all eternity!’” (*White Wings and Barricades*, p.161)

When we look to Jesus and ask, “What should we do?”, what answer does he give to us?

Formation & Training Opportunities

We are hiring for the new, full-time position of Formation and Service Learning Director. This position will be responsible for advancing St. Vincent de Paul’s mission through the development and facilitation of formation and training content and events for Vincentians, staff, retreatants, and volunteers as well as offering strategic oversight of the Service Learning program, made up of the Ozanam Center for Service Learning and the Vincentian Volunteers of Cincinnati programs. The Formation and Service Learning Director values and models Vincentian spirituality, friendship and service and acts as a spiritual animator for the District Council. Learn more at <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/> .

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**ADVENT ART
PRAYER**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
12-1PM IN THE
NEYER OUTREACH CENTER
COMMUNITY ROOM

The time leading up to Christmas can be busy and stressful. Join us to set aside time to connect with God and with one another through prayer and art.

RSVP by emailing
Ozanam@SVDPCincinnati.org.

This is this coming Wednesday, facilitated by Sunnie Johnson-Lain.
For your convenience, you can RSVP via this link: Ozanam@SVDPCincinnati.org .

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Our Formation Committee is reviewing 2021 activity and your feedback as we refine a relevant, compelling schedule of 2022 offerings which we expect to release in December.

Fall Weather is Here - It's Coats Season!

Share the warmth
**DONATE A
COAT TODAY!**
Visit SVDPCincinnati.org/coats
for drop-off locations.

Winter Coat Distributions

We scheduled three distribution events. Two are completed (with over 1,400 neighbors enjoying the warmth of a new coat); the final one is this evening:

- **@ Clippard Family YMCA (8920 Cheviot Rd), 5-8pm**

No pre-registration or voucher is required; open to all residents of Hamilton County.

Alternatively, beginning this coming Monday, 12/13/2021, neighbors may come to our

Neyer Outreach Center (NOC, 1146 Bank St) and request a coat; they will be given a voucher which they can redeem for a coat at any of our SVDP thrift stores.

Eligibility information:

Neighbors must bring their photo ID and an ID for all household members who will be receiving a coat (even if they're not present). Limit of one coat per person.

Winter Coat Drives & Donations

Your Conference is invited to join us in collecting coats for our annual coat drive! This year's drive runs now through January 30, and you are welcome to facilitate your drive anytime within this time frame. Together, with your help, we hope to provide 2,000 coats to our neighbors in need this season.

To schedule a coat barrel drop-off, please [click here](#) and follow the prompts – being sure to indicate your delivery address and how many barrels you are requesting. If there isn't a timeframe listed that works with your availability/schedule, please reach out to Renee Berlon at rberlon@SVDPcincinnati.org so alternative arrangements can be made. You are also welcomed and encouraged to use your own containers for collection – large bins and boxes work well.

Once you are ready for a pick-up, you may use the same link to schedule.

More information about this year's drive (including some responses to general FAQs) can be found here: SVDPcincinnati.org/coats .

Thanks for your help in keeping our neighbors warm this winter!

Our Conferences' Opportunity to Shop Angel Toys for Your Neighbors

We are hosting 3 Angel Toy events in our NOC during December for neighbors selected from among our 2021 Holiday Programs applicants. The last of these 3 events is this Monday evening, 12/13.

As in prior years, we are offering our Conferences the opportunity to shop the remaining toys & gifts for your neighbors. We have reserved this coming Tuesday, 12/14, & Wednesday, 12/15, exclusively for our Conferences. Tuesday is now fully booked. We still have open slots for Wednesday. Your Conference can reserve a 1 hour shopping window, 9am - 7pm, for up to 4 Vincentians, by contacting Tom Roberts at troberts@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.345.4910.

Please understand that this is subject to availability of toys, gifts, and time slots. Once you are confirmed, you will be provided with an extremely brief info sheet which must be completed for each family for which you shop.

If your Conference is interested in collecting toys for our Angel Toy Program, please reach out to Mo Kelly at angeltoy@svdpcincinnati.org for more information. We ask that toys be brand new, unwrapped, and in the \$20-\$25 range. Toys can be dropped off at our NOC during normal business hours or we can arrange for a pick-up. Angel Toy serves families with children ages 0-17, so any items are welcome, but we are often in greatest need of gifts for teenagers. We can provide you with a list of suggested donations, but creativity is also welcomed! We ask that gifts be received by this coming Wednesday, 12/8.

Thanks for joining in spreading more joy to our neighbors in need this Christmas season.

SVDP Apparel & Specialty Items

Just in time for the holiday season, our SVDP Apparel Site is up and running. Have fun exploring all the SVDP clothing options that come in both women and men sizes and in a variety of colors. There's also a "Specialty Items" section with hats, scarves, totes, and insulated tumblers. Ordered items can be delivered to your home for an additional delivery charge, or picked up for free at U Sports (7751 Five Mile Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45230). Visit this SVDP Apparel Site at <https://svdpcincinnati.itemorder.com/> . Happy shopping!

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Beacons of Light Initiative

Our Archdiocese released the revised Families of Parishes configuration this past Sunday,

12/5; multiple changes were integrated. Your Conference can expect info & guidance from your Conference Support team in the coming week. We encourage you to stay current on *Beacons of Light* developments at BeaconsAOC.org .

COVID Vaccine & Booster Available now in Our Charitable Pharmacy

Our Charitable Pharmacy is now able to provide J&J COVID vaccine - as initial treatment or as a booster - for Ohio residents. In accordance with the FDA and CDC guidelines, a second dose of J&J COVID vaccine is recommended for those who received the first J&J dose over two months ago. The J&J vaccine can also be used as a booster for those who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over six months ago and are age 65 or older or work/live in a high-risk environment. Vincentians and neighbors alike can utilize either location of our Charitable Pharmacy for vaccination without an appointment. Please be sure to bring your vaccination card with you so the pharmacist can add documentation of the booster.

Our Resource Spotlights Shine

We will return with our Resource Spotlight #9 in January 2022. Suggestions for future Resource Spotlights? Please forward to Conferences Manager Margaret Rahn at mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.345.4983. Info at your fingertips: You can access recordings of our previous Resource Spotlights on our website's Members page. Just click on the "Learn More" tab under Member Support and Forms, password: member .

Our CMS Movement Accelerates...

CMS training videos are located on the svdpcincinnati.org website, accessed via the Members tab, or just use this link:

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/cms-support-page/>

If prompted for a password, use the word "member", all lower case and without the quotation marks.

CMS help sessions are available in our NOC Education Center or by virtual connection. Please contact John Wessel, your Resource Analyst, at Jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.1823 to schedule a **CMS** help session, which can be done in small group setting or individual.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

We extended \$53,118 in CAF assistance in October.

November was more active:

- You submitted 140 fresh applications
- We approved 149 applications & you withdrew 1 application

December activity through yesterday, 12/7:

- You've submitted 23 fresh applications
- We've approved 13 applications
- We have 45 applications in process toward approval

Please note that November's pace of application submissions & approvals exceeded our budgetary provisions of \$60,000 per month. We were able to roll forward underextended October provisions to cover the overage. We encourage you to fully consider our neighbor's situation and other resources which could be deployed as you discern a request for CAF assistance.

Margaret Rahn & our 13 wonderful volunteers are intently processing and approving applications. We are hopeful we will welcome our new full-time Conferences Support Coordinator in early January.

Our volunteers are a vital blessing. Considering volunteering on site at our Neyer Outreach Center to help us process CAF applications and to join in other forms of support

of Conference work? You can learn more by contacting Tom at troberts@svdpcincinnati.org , Margaret at mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org , or Alec Jewell, Volunteer Manager, at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org .

Rahe Beds Fund & Program

Neighbors now take their bed vouchers to the Clothing and Home Resource Center in our Liz Carter Center to be redeemed. Please make sure your neighbors are aware of this change. We expect to extend our full monthly provision of Rahe Beds assistance in December. Our team is currently reviewing your Conference's December requests submitted by this past Monday, 12/6. We will notify you if we have additional beds to extend in December. You can contact Gabby with any questions at rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org .

Our SVDP Thrift Stores' leadership has advised that our supply chain has sufficiently stabilized to once again offer your Conference the opportunity to purchase (the same Rahe) beds for neighbors outside the Rahe Beds Program. For more info or to purchase, contact Dave Chidlow, Stores Retail Resource Manager, at dchidlow@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.853.1002.

We still have a limited number of pack 'n' plays available for neighbors with children too young for beds (under age two). These do not count against the limit of two Rahe beds per household per lifetime. If you have a neighbor who is in need of a pack 'n' play, please contact Gabby. Please note that these are available while supplies last, so please wait until you have confirmation from Gabby before telling the neighbor we'll be able to assist them. If we have pack 'n' plays available, Gabby will make arrangements with either you or the neighbor to pick up the item from the NOC.

Holiday Programs

Our 2021 holiday programs are underway. If a neighbor has already been selected for one of these programs, they have heard from us. If more program slots become available, we will continue to select and notify eligible applicants. Conference members with questions about holiday programs can contact Erin Nowak at enowak@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.8857. Neighbors who need to update any of their information can email holidays@svdpcincinnati.org or leave a message with our help line, 513.421.0602.

Education Center Within Our Neyer Outreach Center

Our NOC Education Center is available for neighbors to use during our operating hours: Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm, and Saturday, 8am - noon. If neighbors need a little help with the technology, we have a volunteer available on Wednesdays, 11am - 2pm. If you're a Vincentian with computer knowledge you'd like to share, please reach out to Alec Jewell, Volunteer Manager, at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org .

City of Cincinnati's Eviction Prevention Initiative (EPI)

We have extended our collaboration on this initiative and we are actively accepting and processing applications for this assistance from eligible City of Cincinnati residents in Conference footprints.

Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF)

Our Social Services team is once again extending assistance with rent and utilities through the TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families) program. This program, through at least June 2022, will pay for up to four months' rent for neighbors who meet the following criteria:

- Hamilton County residents
- US citizen or qualified non-citizen
- Has custody of at least one minor child and/or at least six months pregnant
- At risk of homelessness
- Have a household income that is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (currently \$53,000/year for a family of four)

If you are serving a neighbor who meets these criteria, please encourage them to call our Help Line at 513.421.0602 and leave a message. A member of our Social Services team will return their call as soon as possible.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)

GCWW has partnered with Promise Network, Inc (PromisePay) to provide an easy way to set up payment plans for past due charges.

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions, [click here](#) .
If you need additional materials or information, please contact GCWW at GCWWCares@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov .

Duke Energy

For questions on accounts or pledges for neighbors requesting utility assistance, please contact Duke Energy's Centralized Agency Team at 800.241.3194. Advocates are currently available Monday through Friday, 7:30am - 5:30pm.

Seasonal developments:

- The Winter Reconnect Order went into effect on 10/18 and runs through 4/15/2022
- The HEAP Winter Crisis Program began on 11/1/2021
- Find more info at energyhelp.ohio.gov

City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County COVID Assistance

There is still a huge sum of COVID federal economic recovery & relief emergency funding available in our area. If you encounter a neighbor who has experienced financial hardship due to COVID, please refer them to <https://513relief.org> .

Tip: The Hamilton County 513 Relief Bus (the Hamilton County Equity and Resources Mobile Tech Bus) travels throughout Hamilton County to bring resources directly to those who need it most. Google 513 relief bus to find a schedule of dates, destinations & times.

Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation Vision Clinic in our Neyer Outreach Center

The Vision Clinic operates **by appointment** on certain Thursdays as designated by CEIF. **Our remaining December date is tomorrow (12/9), 8:30am - 3pm.** A limited number of walk-in exams can also be accommodated. To schedule an appointment, or to inquire for additional info, please call 513.207.6140.

Call to Prayer

**As our Advent journey continues, we turn in hope to Christ and ask,
Lord Jesus, what should we do?
Watch over all children, that they may know your love,
Come, Lord Jesus, and do not delay.
Protect all who are abused and neglected,
Come, Lord Jesus, and do not delay.
Strengthen all Vincentians in their efforts to reveal your love,
Come, Lord Jesus, and do not delay.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

