



**Conference News and Notes**  
**for Wednesday, November 17, 2021**  
**Sent to all Vincentians & Staff**

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***Vincentian Reflection for***  
***The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King***  
***Sunday, November 21, 2021***

**Gospel: (John 18:33-37)** Pilate said to Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “*Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?*” Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “*My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.*” So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a King?” Jesus answered, “*You say I am a King. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.*”

**Reflection:** Living the paschal mystery means that we see the victorious Christ even in the everyday trials and difficulties that we face. Living the paschal mystery means that we are ever faithful to the rhythm of dying and rising as it unfolds every day—in our *prayer*, work, leisure. Living the paschal mystery means that we are mediators for those whom we meet — that we are the body of Christ leading others to holier and happier lives. If someone should then ask us, “What have you done?” our answer would come quickly and surely — we have served our King. (*Living Liturgy*, p. 250)

**Vincentian Meditation:** As you serve Christ your King, *be an open door* that is fully open to others, especially the poor. Be an open door to the members in your Conference, that is, be *honest*, truthful and simple in your relationships with one another. Be an open door to all: allow people to use you, to pass through you. Allow people to take you for granted. Be an open door by being humble. An open door does not discriminate, allowing some to pass and some not. Open the door of your heart widely to those who claim a little more understanding from you. Open the door of your heart so widely that you can belong to the truth and listen to the voice of Jesus. (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p.113)

**How can you become more of an “open door”?**

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***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

Please join your fellow Vincentians and SVDP staff for a special session on "Advent Art Prayer".

The time leading up to Christmas can be busy and stressful. Join us from noon-1pm on Wednesday, December 15, in the Neyer Outreach Center's Community Room to set aside time to connect with God and with one another through prayer and art. RSVP to [Ozanam@SVDPCincinnati.org](mailto:Ozanam@SVDPCincinnati.org) .

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Our Spirituality Workshop for Conference Presidents & Spiritual Advisors entitled "The Art of Listening...to our Neighbors and to our fellow Vincentians" was this past Saturday, 11/13, @ St Saviour in Rossmoyne. It featured useful info & perspective, stimulated insightful dialogue, and received positive feedback from the participants. Thanks to all who invested their Saturday morning...and to Mike Hathorn and our St Saviour Conference members for their hospitality.

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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.

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### Communicating Your Vincentian Vocation in Your Parish

This past Sunday, 11/14, Marta Hewett, Bellarmine Conference President, delivered a beautiful homily to her parish community. Her message was thankfully recorded and you can find it by clicking on this link: <https://www.bellarminechapel.org/livestream.html> . Once there, click on the 9am Sunday Liturgy. The homily starts at about the 26:00 mark; you can fast forward to that point using the timeline under the video image. Enjoy!



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL SVDP CHRISTMAS MEETING

Tuesday 12/7/2021 5:30pm - 8:30pm

St. Bartholomew

9375 Winton Rd. Cincinnati OH, 45231

Please bring  
cash or check  
for raffle  
tickets and  
more!

Free to attend!  
We need your RSVP by  
Tuesday 11/30/21 to manage  
capacity and accommodations  
[MKelly@SVDPCincinnati.org](mailto:MKelly@SVDPCincinnati.org)  
or call 513-562-8841 ext. 014



Please consider this your personal invitation to join us for our traditional Conferences Christmas Meeting. Our theme is **United in Hope**. Our intention is to highlight **joy** in our Vincentian blend of faith, friendship, & service. Our evening will include:

- Social hour with beverages
- Catered dinner
- Raffle
- Brief program of featured speakers
- Advent Reflection
- Shared activity
- *Silent Night*

You are welcome to bring your spouse. When not eating or drinking, masks will be required as we remain committed to your health and well-being. **We encourage you to rsvp as soon as possible by contacting Mo Kelly as indicated above or via this [SignUp Genius link](#):**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a48a5a928a0fa7-cincinnati3>

We'll follow-up with additional information.

Special thanks to our St Bartholomew Conference for hosting. Please join your fellow Vincentians as our Advent anticipation builds to Christmas!

### *Fall Weather is Here - It's Coats Season!*



#### **Winter Coat Distributions**

We've scheduled 3 distribution events, beginning this weekend:

- **This Saturday, 11/20/2021, 9am-noon @ Elder High School (3900 Vincent Ave)**
- Saturday, 12/4/2021, 9am-noon @ Central Parkway YMCA (1105 Elm St)
- Wednesday, 12/8/2021, 5pm-8pm @ Clippard Family YMCA (8920 Cheviot Rd)

No pre-registration or voucher is required; open to all residents of Hamilton County. Alternatively, beginning on 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 use to redeem for a coat.

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 that 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](mailto: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](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a48a5a928a0fa7-cincinnati3) .

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

### *Thanksgiving Food Distribution*

We are preparing for our on-site, walk-through distribution to be held **this coming Tuesday, November 23**, beginning at 9am, at our Neyer Outreach Center. This distribution event is limited to "while supplies last", so we cannot state an end time. No registration is required, but neighbors will be required to present a photo ID to receive their food. Each family will receive a turkey, bag of produce, and box of sides. Open to all residents of Hamilton County.

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### ***More Volunteer Opportunities***

#### **Our Holiday Programs**

Volunteer opportunities are abundant. Please click on this link to explore:

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SVDP-Holiday-Programs-Vol-Opportunities.pdf>

You can also learn more about our broad range of volunteer opportunities by contacting Alec Jewell, Volunteer Manager, at [ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org).

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### ***Archdiocese of Cincinnati Beacons of Light Initiative***

We encourage you to stay current on *Beacons of Light* developments at [BeaconsAOC.org](http://BeaconsAOC.org). While our Archdiocese committed to releasing the final Families of Parishes configuration by the end of December 2021, we have heard that we may see the release as soon as Sunday, 12/5.

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### ***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.

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

Last Wednesday, 11/10, Cincinnati City Council voted 9-0 in favor of the "Pay to Stay" ordinance. Many came together to get this compromise legislation passed unanimously. **Under this new ordinance, tenants 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 the eviction hearing, and they would have an affirmative defense to the eviction.** While this ordinance only covers property located in the City of Cincinnati, there is hope that the court will exercise its equitable jurisdiction in cases outside of the city and deny evictions for nonpayment of rent where the landlord can be made whole. We are told there is currently more than \$40 million remaining in rental assistance from the CARES Act and other funds available to help distressed tenants stay in their homes and to satisfy the rightful claims of landlords.

Neighbors facing eviction actions for delinquent rent will be eager to secure documentation of approved rent assistance when the landlord is awaiting your/our check. We are working on a letter template which your Conference could use to document such approved assistance. Please watch for further communication.

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### ***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](mailto: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 .

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### ***Our CMS Movement Accelerates...***

**CMS** training videos are located on the [svdpcincinnati.org](http://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](mailto:Jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.562.1823 to schedule a **CMS** help session, which can be done in small group setting or individual.

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### ***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 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 Tuesday, 12/14, & Wednesday, 12/15, exclusively for our Conferences. Your Conference can reserve a 1 hour shopping window, 9am - 7pm, for up to 4 Vincentians, by contacting Tom Roberts at [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 Wednesday, December 8.

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

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### ***Godspeed, LaMonica***

After more than 21 years with our Council, LaMonica Sherman has accepted an exciting new opportunity. LaMonica's last day here with us will be November 26. LaMonica has been a steadfast presence at SVDP in a variety of roles, including visioning, opening, and leading the Winton Hills Outreach Center. She has been the face of SVDP in that community, and she has had a huge impact. She truly understands and exemplifies our service model of "neighbors helping neighbors". LaMonica has developed deep and lasting relationships with our neighbors and her absence will be felt for years to come.

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### ***SVDP Apparel & Specialty Items***

Just in time for the holiday season, we're excited to announce that the SVDP Apparel Site is now 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!

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## *More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors*

### **Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)**

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

November activity through Monday, 11/15:

- You've submitted 75 fresh applications
- We've approved 91 applications
- We have 38 applications in process toward approval

Please note that this current pace of application submissions & approvals exceeds our budgetary provisions of \$60,000 per month. 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 interviewing candidates in our active search for a full-time Conferences Support Coordinator to augment our team.

**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 Conferences work?** You can learn more by contacting Tom at [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:troberts@svdpcincinnati.org) , Margaret at [mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org) , or Alec Jewell, Volunteer Manager, at [ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org) .

### **Rahe Beds Fund & Program**

Starting with our November vouchers, neighbors will 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 are keeping a limited number of Rahe beds at Este through these first few weeks of November in case a neighbor goes there in error. We have committed our full budgeted number of Rahe Beds in response to your requests this month. You can contact Gabby with any questions at [rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org) .

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.

### **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](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org) .

### **Holiday Programs**

Our applications for holiday programs are now closed. We've received applications from over 2,100 families and are currently processing applications and placing neighbors in programs. If a neighbor is selected for one of our programs, they will hear from us by this coming Wednesday, 11/24. Conference members with questions about holiday programs can contact Erin Nowak at [enowak@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:enowak@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.562.8857. Neighbors who need to update any of their information can email [holidays@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:holidays@svdpcincinnati.org) or leave a message with our help line, 513.421.0602.

### **Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank**

Did you know that we offer assistance with diapers and other infant hygiene and care items? This service is made possible through our partnership with Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank; we've been partners since 2017. If you are serving a neighbor with a child who is under age four or who is experiencing developmental delays, please contact SVDP's

Social Services Coordinator, Brandie Ellery, at 513.345.1765 to begin the enrollment process. Your call will be returned within 24 hours.

### **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](mailto: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](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov)

### **City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County COVID Assistance**

There is a huge sum of COVID federal economic recovery & relief emergency funding which has been allocated to 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 November date is tomorrow, 11/18, 8:30am - 3pm. December dates are 12/2 & 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.

### **Haircuts from the Heart**

This ministry, an extension of our community partner Franciscan Ministries, is to offer free haircuts here on a walk-in basis one afternoon each month. **As of this date, Haircuts from the Heart has once again suspended operations.** We will provide more info when received.

### **Federal Child Tax Credit**

The [Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant](#) allows families to answer a series of questions to quickly determine whether they qualify for the advance credit.

The [Child Tax Credit Update Portal](#) allows families to verify their eligibility for the payments and if they choose to, unenroll, or opt out from receiving the monthly payments so they can

receive a lump sum when they file their tax return next year.

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### *Call to Prayer*

**Let us pray to Christ our King, source of compassion and love,  
may we bring peace to all who have lost hope.**

**For the wisdom to listen to God's voice,  
may we become an open door to all.**

**For the courage to work untiringly for peace and justice,  
may your kingdom come!**

**Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

