



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, November 10, 2021
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, November 14, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 13:24-32) Jesus said: “*In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky. Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you will know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates...Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*”

Reflection: Conformity with Jesus’ words means that we hear the teachings of Jesus and live them out. We have to live *now* to create a future for ourselves that we want and that *God wants* for us. When we live in conformity to the Word, hearing Jesus’ words and living them out, the future holds no fear for us. Rather than fear, we anticipate our future with joyful expectation. On this second-to-last Sunday of the liturgical year, we realize that we have been faced with a choice throughout our journey during this past liturgical year: to be rooted in this world *or* in the words of Jesus. Our choices *do* make a difference. (*Living Liturgy*, p.246)

Vincentian Meditation: “On the journey of life, we must make choices. Our instincts, our selfishness, our pride will often suggest to us to follow them. It is an easier road. But Christ, His Church and our consciences suggest another way. To follow that road, we must say *no* to our natural instincts. It may be difficult and demand much effort, but that effort will bring with it a peace and contentment that money will not buy. Do we take the easy, downhill road in every choice we make? Sometimes we need to apply the brakes to downhill movements in our lives and try to change direction and to change gears. We do that by allowing Jesus to have a greater say in our lives, in our decisions, and in our thoughts.” (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 589-90)

Where do we need to allow Jesus to have a greater say in our lives, in our decisions, in our thoughts, and in our choices?

Upcoming Formation & Training Opportunities

SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP for Conference Presidents & Spiritual Advisors

“The Art of Listening...to our Neighbors and to our fellow Vincentians”

This Saturday, November 13th, 9 AM - Noon, @ St Saviour in Rossmoyne

We are called to both SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST and to HEAR HIS VOICE in our Vincentian ministry. Presidents and Spiritual Advisors, please watch your e-mail for more details and to register for this gathering, at which we will explore how active listening can be a useful tool for encounters with neighbors as well as for dialogue with other Vincentians as new Families of Parishes plan for the future.

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Thanks to each and all of you - participants & facilitators - who have invested your valuable time in formation & training in 2021. Our Formation Committee is reviewing 2021 activity and your feedback as we create a relevant, compelling schedule of 2022 offerings.

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Formation staffing news: Kelly Albainy-Crosby has made the decision to return to hospital chaplaincy as she misses the relational immediacy of this vocation. Kelly has been a blessing in her short time with us; we wish her much fulfillment as she ventures forth. Kelly's last day with us will be Wednesday, 11/17/2021. We have initiated a search for a new full-time Formation and Service Learning Director.



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
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 add joy to 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!

Clothing and Home Resource Center in our LCC is Now Open!



Our Thrift Stores Team opened our bright, new Clothing and Home Resource Center on the 1st floor of our Liz Carter Center (1125 Bank St) this past Monday, 11/8. Key info for our neighbors & you:

- Exclusively available to neighbors who already have a current clothing & household goods voucher (issued by a Conference or our Outreach Center) in their possession; vouchers are not issued @ our Clothing & Home Resource Center; no cash or credit card purchases @ this location
- Operating hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm, & Sat, 9am-1pm; closed Sun
- Neighbors enter & exit through the LCC gated garden
- Now also the exclusive pick-up site for our Rahe Beds Program; neighbors with a bed voucher should come to the Clothing and Home Resource Center's checkout station (@ entrance/exit) to present bed voucher, then pick up bedding @ LCC dock
- No other furniture is available at this location; the 2 best SVDP thrift store locations to shop for furniture (with or without a furniture voucher) remain Este & Western Hills
- Parking is available in our LCC & NOC lots
- In-kind thrift store donations are welcomed with gratitude @ our other 7 thrift stores and our blue collection bins all over Hamilton County, including on the north (back) side of our Neyer Outreach Center (1146 Bank St, across the street); in-kind donations are not accepted @ our LCC as we maximized Clothing and Home Resource Center & Rahe Beds space
- Clothing & household goods vouchers are also still redeemable @ our other 7 thrift stores
- Your Conference should continue to issue clothing & household goods vouchers and furniture vouchers to eligible neighbors seeking this assistance through your normal process

We are excited to add this Clothing and Home Resource Center as a further convenience for our neighbors.

Fall Weather is Here - It's Coats Season!



Share the warmth **DONATE A COAT TODAY!**

Visit [SVDPCincinnati.org/coats](https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/coats)
for drop-off locations.

Winter Coat Distributions

We've scheduled 3 distribution events, and the first is quickly approaching:

- **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 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.svdpcincinnati.org/coats).

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 on **Tuesday, November 23, beginning at 9am, at the 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.

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.

We encourage you to stay current on *Beacons of Light* developments at BeaconsAOC.org. While we await our Archdiocese's release of the final Families of Parishes configuration by the end of December 2021, our Archdiocese is adding new content to their website including more answers to FAQ's. In case you missed this last week, we re-offer the following:

Please consider reaching out as a Conference to your pastor (and/or parochial vicar, if your parish is so blessed) to help him better understand your experience of faith, friendship, & service. You could:

- Invite him to join you for a Conference Meeting
- Most impactfully, share stories of neighbor interactions and how you are growing spiritually through your faith-lived Vincentian vocation in complement to the sacraments
- Thank him for his support & advocacy for this ministry
- Help him better understand all the various forms of assistance you extend (directly and through our centralized resources), all in a manner consistent with our mission as a Catholic lay organization
- Provide him with some summary info from your 2021 year completed 9/30 - number of members in your Conference; number of neighbor households or people you engaged; \$ amount of funds you raised and assistance you extended (if you use CAF, you likely extended more \$ of assistance than you raised)
- Let him know how committed you are to Radiate Christ...and to see Christ in our neighbors
- Invite his input

While we do not yet know who will be the pastors of the Families of Parishes, this sharing will nurture your relationship with your current pastor and likely lead to a better tomorrow.

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

Our Spotlight #8 this past Monday, 11/8, featured **our Re-Entry Program** as facilitated by our Re-Entry Manager Dion Crockett. Thanks to those of you who joined us for this 1 hour Zoom meeting. If you missed it, or you would like to view it again, the recording will be available soon.

Does your Conference engage neighbors whose lives are impacted by felony convictions? You can help change the trajectory of a life, a family, our community.

Would your Conference like to go deeper on Re-Entry with Dion?

Dion is based in our Neyer Outreach Center. He welcomes your emails at dcrockett@svdpcincinnati.org; your calls at 513.562.8851; and your invitation to be with you at an upcoming Conference meeting.

Suggestions for future Resource Spotlights? Please forward to Conferences Manager Margaret Rahn at mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.345.4983.

We will return with our Resource Spotlight #9 in January 2022.

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](https://www.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.

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 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 Wednesday, December 8.

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

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

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

November activity through Monday, 11/8:

- You've submitted 38 fresh applications
- We've approved 44 applications
- We have 48 applications in process toward approval

Margaret Rahn & our 13 wonderful volunteers are intently processing and approving applications. Our active search for a full-time Conferences Support Coordinator is progressing.

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, Margaret at mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org, or Alec Jewell, Volunteer Manager, at 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 though the first few weeks of November in case a neighbor goes there in error. We are in the process of extending our full budgeted number of Rahe Beds this month. We will reach out to you if there are still beds available after we process the

original November requests. You can contact Gabby at 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 .

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 Wednesday, 11/24. 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.

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 .

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 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 dates are tomorrow (11/11) & 11/18, 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

We are excited to welcome *Haircuts from the Heart* back to our NOC. This ministry, an extension of our community partner Franciscan Ministries, offers free haircuts here on a walk-in basis one afternoon each month. Dan Pedigo, a licensed cosmetologist, barber, and instructor, will be providing these services on the first Monday of each month, 1-4pm.

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.

Call to Prayer

Jesus, our light,
guide us in our decisions.
Jesus, our joy,
guard us in our choices.
Jesus, our life,
root us in your words.
Amen.

STAY CONNECTED

