



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, November 3, 2021
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, November 7, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 12:38-44) Taking a seat opposite the treasury, Jesus observed the crowd putting money into the collection box. Many of the wealthy put in sizable amounts; but one poor widow came and put in two small copper coins worth about a cent. He called his disciples over and told them: *“I want you to observe that this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury. They gave from their surplus wealth, but she gave from her want, all that she had to live on.”*

Reflection: The widow is described as poor; she contributes “all she had.” Surprisingly, the “large sums” given by the “rich people” pale in comparison to the widow’s far greater gift of “two small coins.” She gives her all, her whole livelihood, “from her want.” It is not the size of the gift which measures its value but the depth of the self-gift from which it comes. This is the kind of giving of which Jesus takes note. The widow in the gospel is the model for the radical demand of discipleship: she gives her all. Discipleship doesn’t mean that we necessarily do big and heroic things. It does mean that we do everything and meet whatever challenges come our way with hearts set right — we give of ourselves for the good of others. (*Living Liturgy*, p.246)

Vincentian Meditation: In the movie *Monsieur Vincent*, there is a scene where Queen Anne of Austria is talking to Vincent towards the end of his life. She is listing some of his great achievements. He listens pensively and then mutters: “I have done nothing.” She continues to catalogue the works he has initiated and again Vincent mutters: “I have done nothing.” The Queen becomes a little impatient with him and says: “Monsieur Vincent, if you say you have done nothing, what must we do if we are to save our souls?” Monsieur Vincent slowly raises his head and with his piercing black eyes looks at the Queen and utters one word: **“More.”** (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p.467)

With clear recognition that you are doing so much, we are presented with this simple, soul-searching question: What “More” can we do?

Upcoming Formation & Training Opportunities

FIRST FRIDAY FORMATION - this Friday, November 5th, Noon - 1:00 PM
“The Practice of Gratitude”, via Zoom

As we begin the month of gratitude, we will reflect on the ways in which a spirit of thankfulness guides our Vincentian ministry, and all aspects of our lives.

Please join us via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84228391827?pwd=T1RXdWxyOXUvUmhxcGNHem84OGZHZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 2839 1827

Passcode: 261697

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SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP for Conference Presidents & Spiritual Advisors

"The Art of Listening...to our Neighbors and to our fellow Vincentians"

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.

News from our Thrift Stores

Jobs Available at 8 Thrift Store & Donation Center Locations

Our next hiring fair is tomorrow (Thursday, 11/4), 10am-4pm, @ our Outlet Store, 4545 Chickering Ave, 45232. We're looking to fill multiple opportunities including cashiers, donation attendants, and floor associates. Full-time and part-time positions available, starting at \$12/hour, with flexible schedules and multiple benefits including paid holidays; paid time off; medical, dental and vision insurance; 401k enrollment; employee discounts; workforce development programs; and opportunities for advancement. Applicants can attend this hiring fair, fill out a short application, and have a same-day interview, with opportunities to start working the following week if hired.

Motivated job-seekers who cannot attend this hiring fair are encouraged to apply online at www.SVDPcincinnati.org/employment. SVDP is an equal-opportunity employer.

We love Conference referrals - candidates, volunteers, customers, & donors.

To learn more about volunteering in our thrift stores, or about referring an employment candidate, please contact Julie McFarland, our Stores Retail Sales Manager, at jmcfarland@svdpcincinnati.org, or 513.853.1003.

Clothing and Home Resource Center to open very soon!

We're completing the final preparations on the 1st floor of our Liz Carter Center (LCC, 1125 Bank St), which is fully dedicated to neighbors redeeming clothing & household goods vouchers issued by our Conferences & outreach centers. We expect to open within a week. Neighbors will still be able to redeem vouchers at each of our thrift store locations. Our LCC will also soon be the new home and exclusive pick-up site for our Rahe Beds Program. Please stay tuned for updates.

In-kind Donations actively accepted at each of our thrift store locations...

or you can deposit clothing and household goods at our convenient collection boxes spread throughout Hamilton County. Your neighbors and your Council say thanks!

Fall Weather is Here - It's Coats Season!



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 .

Winter Coat Distributions

We've scheduled 3 distribution events (please note the date correction for the Elder High School event):

- 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 and they will be given a voucher which they can use to redeem for a coat at our Clothing and Home Resource Center in our LCC.

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.

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

Thanksgiving Food Distribution

We are planning to return to an on-site, walk-through distribution this year. The event will 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.

Conferences Christmas Meeting - Tuesday Evening, December 7, 2021

Please save this date.

To be hosted, in-person, by our St Bartholomew Conference (Greenhills / Finneytown). More info to come.

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 .

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Beacons of Light Initiative

We encourage you to stay current on *Beacons of Light* developments at BeaconsAOC.org . We await our Archdiocese's release of the final Families of Parishes configuration by the end of December 2021; some revisions in response to feedback are expected.

What can you do in the meantime? 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 boosters 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 is this coming **Monday, 11/8, 1pm**, featuring our **Re-Entry Program, presented by our Re-Entry Manager Dion Crockett**. We have new energy in our Re-Entry Program; please join us for an hour and see for yourself.

To join Zoom Meeting, click on this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87975768895?pwd=VVBjcml4TnZDV0xTbGJ5SytZK3VLdz09>

Meeting ID: 879 7576 8895

Passcode: 498907

Info at your fingertips: You can access recordings of our previous 7 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/>

New training videos have been added.

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

CMS help sessions are available on Fridays in the NOC Education Center, 9-10am and 3-4pm. 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.

Please contact our policymakers to keep the present housing investment strong in the Build Back Better bill. The vote is expected within days; then the bill goes to the Senate Budget Office for analysis. **Vincenians**, you can make a difference; stand up for our neighbors today. Message, call, or text our leaders to keep the investment in HOUSING strong.

Senator Sherrod Brown: 513-684-1021 or <https://www.brown.senate.gov/contact/email>

Senator Chuck Schumer: <http://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck>

Nancy Pelosi: 202-225-4965

Today, the revised Build Back Better bill allocates \$150 billion over 10 years for housing.

The 3 largest projects are as follows:

- **Rental Assistance:** \$25 billion - for Housing Choice Vouchers/Section 8 (\$22.1 billion); Project-based rental assistance (\$1 billion); and the remainder for those at risk of homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, and extremely low-income households.

Our neighbors wait 2 years for a voucher; in some states, 8 years.

- **Public Housing:** \$65 billion to renovate and preserve public housing, much of which was built in the 1960s-70s. This money will protect 2.5 million residents from health hazards such as lead paint and pipes, and increase energy efficiency and resilience to natural disasters.

- **Housing Trust Fund:** \$15 billion to preserve 150,000 rental homes for households with extremely low incomes. Nationally, we have a shortage of 7 million homes that are both affordable and available to the nation's extremely low-income renters.

Housing is the biggest cost our neighbors incur; it affects every aspect of their lives. If this bill is not passed, estimates are that unstable housing will cost an estimated \$111 billion in health-related costs of mothers and children who have either experienced homelessness, moved two or more times, or been behind on rent in the previous year.

Our federal government must invest in housing so everyone has a fair shot. Like vaccines, housing keeps families safe now and in the future.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

October CAF activity was brisk. By current counts:

- You submitted 160 fresh applications (average of 7.6 per business day)
- We approved 120 applications (from September & October); 2 were withdrawn; 1 was determined ineligible
- 40 total currently in process (equates to 5.3 business days of your submissions)

Margaret & our wonderful volunteers are intently processing and approving applications...and we have an active search for a full-time Conferences Support Coordinator.

Please note: At an average application request of \$450, 160 applications in a month would equate to approx \$72,000 in assistance, which is beyond our (already boosted through March 2022) \$60,000 of monthly budgetary provisions. If this pace continues, we will need to make process adjustments.

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

With the impending opening of our new Clothing and Home Resource Center, our Rahe Beds Program will be moving to our Liz Carter Center (LCC, 1125 Bank St). Starting with the November vouchers, neighbors will take their bed vouchers to the Clothing and Home Resource Center to be redeemed. The bed vouchers will be updated to reflect this new location, but please make sure your neighbors are aware of this change. All Rahe beds will be at the Este location until this change is made and we will keep a limited number of Rahe beds at Este though the first few weeks of November in case a neighbor goes there in error. We will be able to extend our full budgeted number of Rahe Beds in November, so each Conference is invited to submit up to five bed requests to Gabby at rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org by this Friday, 11/5.

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

In addition to the CMS Friday help sessions for Vincentians, 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 November dates are tomorrow (11/4), 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.

Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, November 7

At 2 am this Sunday morning, to be exact. We adjust our clocks back 1 hour. Enjoy an extra hour of blissful sleep; you've earned it. Happy dreams!

Call to Prayer

**Jesus, our guide,
give us the generosity to give "from our want."
Jesus, our life,
give us loving hearts.
Jesus, our light,
give us the grace to do "More."
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

