



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, October 27, 2021
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, October 31, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 12: 28-34) One of the scribes came up to Jesus, and asked him, “Which is the first of all the commandments?” Jesus replied: *“This is the first: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! Therefore you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. And this is the second, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

Reflection: In this gospel a scribe approaches Jesus with the question, one about which of the 613 Jewish precepts is greatest. Jesus gets to the heart of things, and does more than just answer the scribe’s question; he brings to explicit statement the whole underlying meaning of his ministry and what discipleship and inaugurating the kingdom of God is all about. Knowing the law and even keeping the law are not enough—what is required is whole-hearted love of God and neighbor. Jesus in addition to the commandment to love God above all else, tells his listeners to *“love your neighbor as yourself”*. What links our relationship to God, neighbor, and self is love. Law is not kept for its own sake; ideally, law sustains and protects relationships in a loving way. (*Living Liturgy*, p.242)

Vincentian Meditation: The spiritual genius of St. Vincent lies in the success he had in marrying the two great commandments of the law. The historian, Bremond, tells us: “It is not his love of mankind which led Vincent de Paul to sanctity, but it is rather that sanctity made him truly and efficaciously charitable. It is not the poor who gave him to God, but God who gave him to the poor.” The dynamism, the energy, the love which St. Vincent manifested to the poor did not come from any doctrinaire views on politics or sociology. The source of his energy and the clarity of his spiritual vision came from his contemplation of the words and actions of Jesus Christ in the pages of the Gospel and from his daily contact with Jesus Christ in the quietness of prayer. He became convinced that, once men and women are made new through their personal dedication to Jesus Christ, a new world will follow. (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 468)

How have you found the truth that “It is not the poor who give us to God, but God who gives us to the poor”?

Upcoming Formation & Training Opportunities

OZANAM ORIENTATION - Saturday, October 30th, 9 AM - 3 PM

This orientation is filled to capacity. If you are interested in participating in a future Ozanam Orientation, we look forward to welcoming you in 2022!

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

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

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 Thursday, 11/4/2021, 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, and customers.

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. 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 our official opening date.

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. Winter is coming - clear space in your garage now. Your neighbors and your Council say thanks!

Fall Weather is Here - It's Coats Season!



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://svdpcincinnati.org/coats).

Winter Coat Distributions

We've scheduled 3 distribution events:

- Saturday, 11/8/2021, 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)

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 about Volunteer Opportunities

Casting Call!

We are looking for two volunteers who are available to appear in our new St. Vincent de Paul commercial. Specifically, we are looking for two people to depict Vincentians in a home visit scene. Your role would be quite simple (no talking on camera) and filming would take about 1.5 hours. The commercial will be shot on Monday, November 8th. Are you interested in representing us with your smiling face? Please email SVDP Marketing & Communications Manager Kristen Gallagher at kgallagher@svdpcincinnati.org to sign up.

Our Holiday Programs

Volunteer opportunities are abundant...beginning Monday, 11/1. Please click on this link to explore:

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

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Beacons of Light Initiative

We encourage you to stay current on *Beacons of Light* developments at BeaconsAOC.org. After releasing the draft Families of Parishes configuration at the start of this month, our Archdiocese reports receiving *over 7,800 comments* during their feedback period which concluded Wednesday, 10/20. To allow full review and consideration, our Archdiocese is now committed to releasing the final Families of Parishes by the end of December 2021. Nothing will change immediately. For the time being, parishes will continue to operate as they do now. Priest assignments for the new Families of Parishes will be announced in spring 2022. The new Families of Parishes will be implemented beginning July 2022.

Please continue your active dialogue within and among our Conferences...identifying **opportunities** for enhancing our vocation to realize greater impact for our neighbors, our community, our Church, and our God.

We are not on this journey alone. Similar change initiatives are in various stages of progress in Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago, and elsewhere. We are collecting insight from our fellow midwestern Councils which we will share with you to inform how you and we will together choose to navigate change - to do good even better.

Please know that our Archdiocese has explicitly expressed the hope that we will have Conference presence in each and every Family of Parishes. Your gifts of prayer & active presence are vital now and in the months ahead.

We are called to radiate Christ...to evangelize. We are called to recognize Christ in all around us. This is our Vincentian vocation. *Beacons of Light* is our opportunity to determine how we, and those who follow us, will live our faith for the benefit of all we engage.

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 **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=VVBjcmI4TnZDV0xTbGJ5SytZK3VLdz09>

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...

We are excited to report that FY2021 Q4 reports are rolling in from our Conferences...and

we are hearing great testimonials from Conferences who are finding just how expedited this process can be utilizing **CMS**.

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/>

Some new training videos have been added this week.

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

Employment Opportunities!

Our Council's lean Conferences Support Team has initiated a search for a **Conferences Support Coordinator**. You will find the job description for this full-time role on our website at <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>. You'll find more great opportunities there as well.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

October CAF activity through Monday, 10/25 (17 of 21 Mon - Fri business days in month):

- You've submitted 127 fresh applications (average of 7.5 per business day)
- We've approved 94 applications (from September & October) & 1 was withdrawn
- 53 total currently in process (equates to 7 business days of your submissions)

Margaret & our wonderful volunteers are actively processing and approving applications. We are on approx pace to extend our budgeted provisions of \$60,000 this month. We are committed to approving or otherwise resolving applications within 1 week of receiving your submissions.

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 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. Neighbors are welcome to use our computers to access

records online, print documents, send emails, search for a job or apartment, or whatever else they might need a computer for. 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 staff will once again be offering assistance with rent and utilities through the TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families) program. This program, which will extend 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 begins 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 October date is this Thursday, 10/28, 9am - noon and 1 - 4pm. November dates are 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, beginning Monday, November 1.

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

**O Lord,
teach us how to love God with all our soul,
with all our mind,
and with all our strength,
and our neighbor as ourselves.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

