



**Conference News and Notes**  
**for Wednesday, October 20, 2021**  
**Sent to all Vincentians & Staff**

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***Vincentian Reflection for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time***  
***Sunday, October 24, 2021***

**Gospel: (Mark 10:46-52)** As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples, Bartimaeus, a blind man, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." Many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "*Call him.*" So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him, "*What do you want me to do for you?*" The blind man said, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "*Go your way; your faith has saved you.*" Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

**Reflection:** The dynamic between Bartimaeus and Jesus is a perfect description of what faith is: Bartimaeus *heard* Jesus, *cried out* to him, *persisted* in his prayer, *came* to Jesus when he called, and *spoke boldly* of his need. All these actions: *hearing, crying out, coming, speaking* describe our Christian discipleship. We must let our faith lead us to Jesus and then we must follow him. Without persistence in prayer it will be impossible for us to follow Jesus faithfully on the road of self-giving. The encounter with Jesus in prayer keeps our relationship with God healthy and strong. The prayer of petition reminds us that disciples can do nothing on their own without Jesus' help. At times we are *doing* our faith by reaching out to those around us in need; at other times we are *being* our faith by taking time to let our God be present to us in prayer. (*Living Liturgy*, p.232)

**Vincentian Meditation:** Our Lord wants us to persevere in prayer and not be discouraged because God seems slow in answering our prayers. Perhaps the reason we become discouraged in prayer is that we feel in a vague way that God is not taking us seriously. The truth is that it is not God who fails to take us seriously when we pray to Him, but rather we fail to take God seriously. Sometimes in our heart of hearts we pray without full confidence that He is going to give us what we ask. I wonder if God is slow in answering our prayers at times in order to perfect the confidence which He wishes us to have in Him who is our Father. Sometimes the reason of God's delay in answering our prayers is that He wants to make us ready to accept what He desires to give us. (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 142-3)

**When have you found that sometimes God seems slow in answering your prayers?  
Have you subsequently come to recognize the perfection in God's pace?**

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***October Formation & Training Opportunities***

**STORYTELLING & COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP is today!**

***Registration is STILL OPEN!***

**Wednesday, October 20th, 6:00 - 8:30 PM, in our NOC**

Sharing the stories of your work as a Vincentian is one of the most powerful

communication techniques you can use. This practical and interactive workshop featuring our External Relations professionals will introduce best practices for oral and written storytelling and provide tangible examples of how to put storytelling into action for recruiting, fundraising, and other communication efforts. By the end of this workshop, you will better understand how to effectively communicate through storytelling and be equipped with communication tools that can lead to a stronger Conference.

To register for this Storytelling & Communications Workshop: [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) or contact Kelly Albainy-Crosby ([kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.345.1767)

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**OZANAM ORIENTATION (Saturday, 10/30) 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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***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 will run from October 18 – 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://SVDPCincinnati.org/coats).

We are finalizing plans for our 2021 Coat Distributions, which will begin before Thanksgiving. Please be on the lookout for information about dates and locations in the upcoming weeks.

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

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

The draft of the Families of Parishes configuration was released on Friday, 10/1/2021. This past week, our Archdiocese released the proposed number of priests envisioned to serve in each Family of Parishes. You can review this draft, access more info, and provide your feedback to our Archdiocese at [BeaconsAOC.org](https://BeaconsAOC.org). The Archdiocese's announced feedback period closes today - Wednesday, 10/20 - and they project receiving 5,000 responses. Review of this input will lead to the release of any revisions to the Families of Parishes configuration by the end of 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.

Our current Cincinnati District Council Conferences are located within the Archdiocese's Southwest & South Deaneries (plus St. Mary in Aurora, IN). Our Hamilton County parishes currently hosting Conferences are proposed to be included in 26 Families of Parishes. We're uplifted by the active dialogue within and among our Conferences. Our Archdiocese intends that each Family of Parishes will collaboratively discern and then collectively act upon their own vision. We encourage our Conferences to actively engage in this process. Within 3-5 years, our Archdiocese expects that each Family of Parishes will have effectively advanced upon their own vision to create a single parish. Please know that our Archdiocese has explicitly expressed the hope that we will have Conference presence in each and every Family of Parishes.

**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.**

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### *Introducing our 2021-22 Vincentian Volunteers of Cincinnati*



Our three VVCs arrived near the end of August to begin their year of service and have been living in community and contributing full-time with us for almost two months. Sarah Miller is from Fishers, Indiana, graduated from Mount Saint Joseph University, and is serving as an Associate on our Social Services team. Born in Chicago, Ana Liu graduated from Saint Mary's College and is investing her year supporting programming in both the Ozanam Center for Service Learning and our Re-Entry Program. Gabby Garcia was born in Taos, New Mexico, but says that "home is wherever she makes it" as she has moved quite a bit in her life. Like Ana, Gabby also graduated from Saint Mary's College and is serving in our Outreach Programs, assisting with the Rahe Bed Program and in our Catino Choice Food Pantry. Our VVCs' favorite things about Cincinnati so far: the beautiful murals and Graeter's ice cream.

As part of their formation, our VVCs typically join an existing local adult Conference. However, this year our VVCs have the exciting opportunity to be involved in the forming of a new Young Adult Conference named after St. Jude.

Pictured above are Sarah, Ana, and Gabby (left to right). Please join us in wishing them a year filled with grace, joy, and connection.

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### *Our Charitable Pharmacy Unveils Fresh Strategic Plan*

This month marks the beginning of a Strategic Plan that will guide our Charitable Pharmacy over the next three years to **Expand Access, Broaden Services**, and

**Diversify Resources** to meet the health needs of our neighbors. The NOC Pharmacy will be enhancing its level of care with on-site nurse practitioner-led Health Services and programming for people with diabetes in our Teaching Kitchen. The Western Hills Pharmacy will be expanding its hours of operations to increase its capacity to help more neighbors. We are very excited to announce that our Milford Thrift Store will be home to the third location of the Charitable Pharmacy in 2023! These bold initiatives are the culmination of much prayer and partnership to ensure that, together, we will save more lives in the years ahead.

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### *Our Resource Spotlights Shine*

Spotlight #7 provided useful info on resources for our senior neighbors from Pro Seniors and Meals on Wheels this past Wednesday.

Spotlight #8 on **Monday, 11/8, 1pm**, will feature our **Re-Entry Program, presented by our Re-Entry Manager Dion Crockett**. If you have not yet met Dion, you are in for a treat. Zoom info to come.

Info at your fingertips: You can access recordings of 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...*

In the words of your fellow Vincentian Karen Gandert:

"This **CMS** system will certainly be a great help to us here at St. Michael the Archangel Conference (Sharonville). We can see if a neighbor has been helped before at any Conference; that's a big benefit. Also, the check register will help us during the month to see if everything we have done has been entered. The treasurer's quarterly reports will be done as we go through the quarter and we can see where we stand at any time. This will be especially helpful if/when we change treasurers." Karen closed with a thanks to John Wessel for his training & support. Amen.

**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](mailto:Jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.562.1823 to schedule a **CMS** help session.

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### *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.

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### *More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors*

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

Our FY2022 is here. We've passed the midpoint of October, your CAF requests are flowing in, and Margaret & our wonderful volunteers are actively processing and approving applications as we are entrusted with budget provisions of \$60,000 per month through March, 2022.

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**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 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**

We have a limited number of bed vouchers still available for October, which can be

requested by emailing Gabby at [rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org). As a reminder, we also 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 our 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](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 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 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](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 begins 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.

**SafeParish & Protecting Vulnerable Populations**

You may have recently heard mention of a program called SafeParish, either at your church or through SVDP. SafeParish is a program designed to educate individuals on best practices to keep youth and vulnerable adults safe from abuse. It replaces Virtus, which some of you may be familiar with, and offers a shorter initial training with quarterly, rather than monthly, update bulletins. Our decision to switch platforms follows the guidance of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, who also recently moved to SafeParish.

Our transition to SafeParish is complete and we have already been helping Vincentians, volunteers, and staff get trained on child protection. As such, we would like to extend an open invitation to you. If you would like to know more about child or adult protection in order to better serve our neighbors or to work with young people, please reach out. You can contact your local Safe Environment Coordinator, Sunnie Johnson-Lain, at [slain@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:slain@svdpcincinnati.org) or, Alec Jewell, at [ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org).

**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 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.

**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***

**For the sick and the poor who wait for healing,  
Lord, hear our prayer.  
For the grace to persevere in prayer and trust in God,  
Lord, hear our prayer.  
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

