



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, October 17, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 10:35-45) Jesus said to the disciples, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Reflection: Jesus responded to his disciples by saying that leadership isn't about power - "lording it over them" - or making their authority felt. Leadership is about servanthood, even when it entails suffering and giving one's life. The only way to glory is by self-emptying, serving, giving one's life. Much of our doing for others is simply part of our everyday life, for example, parents taking care of children, spouses doing thoughtful things for each other, a co-worker cooperating with others in the office. Being a "slave" of all, as Jesus says, isn't always something extra or big; most of the time it is simply doing our everyday tasks and keeping in mind that others are the body of Christ. It is doing our everyday tasks with loving care. (*Living Liturgy*, p. 228)

Vincentian Meditation: People are not looking for leaders who can solve all their problems or answer all their questions. Often they know the answers already or they know their problem has no immediate solution. More than anything else people look to us who minister to them for our presence of loving, caring and forgiving others. They want our help in their efforts to handle pain and frustration. They look to us for understanding; they seek a sensitive and consoling response to their hurt feelings; they need the spiritual comfort we can bring through our ministry. They want someone who will pray with them, whose presence will remind them that no matter what their difficulties might be, God really loves and cares for them. They want assurance that God will never abandon them. This is the leadership that we are called to live. (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 310, quoting Cardinal Bernardin)

**How do we in our “servanthood” manifest the presence of a loving, caring and forgiving people?
Or how do we not...and how can we do good better?**

October Formation & Training Opportunities

SECOND WEDNESDAY FORMATION IS TODAY

"Hail Mary, full of grace...pray for us: Praying the Vincentian Rosary"

Please join us via Zoom as we explore this cherished devotion through the lens of the Vincentian vocation.

Today - Second Wednesday, October 13th, 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89237621188?>

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STORYTELLING & COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

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

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OZANAM ORIENTATION (Saturday, Oct. 30th) IS FILLED TO CAPACITY!

If you are interested in participating in a future Ozanam Orientation, we look forward to welcoming you in 2022!

Cincinnati District Council Leadership Transition



On September 30th, Dan Long (Our Lord Christ the King Conference) completed his second 3-year term as our Cincinnati District Council President. Dan has provided positive leadership and emphasized unity of our Conferences and centralized resources to better serve our neighbors while enhancing our Vincentians' experience.

Alison Zlatic (Church of the Nativity Conference) was commissioned as our new Council President at our Fall Fellowship Mass & Ceremony on Sunday, September 26th. We invite you to learn more about Alison at <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/2021/10/01/meet-alison-zlatic-our-cincinnati-district-council-president/> .

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://www.beaconsaoc.org) . The Archdiocese's announced feedback period closes next Wednesday, 10/20, leading to the release of any revisions to the Families of Parishes configuration in advance of Thanksgiving. Our current Cincinnati District Council Conferences are located within the Archdiocese's

Southwest & South Deaneries. Our Hamilton County parishes currently hosting Conferences are proposed to be included in 26 Families of Parishes. We have shared a summary of the draft and relevant context with your/our Conference Presidents. We're encouraged 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. 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.

In closing this latest *Beacons* update, please know that our Archdiocese has voiced appreciation for our Society's ministry and 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.

Resource Spotlight #7 - Resources for Seniors - Today! ***Wednesday, October 13, 2pm, via Zoom***

Mary Day of **Pro Seniors** will describe their organization's good works in providing solutions to legal and long-term care challenges for our neighbors who are seniors. Laura Proto, Philanthropy Officer of **Meals on Wheels**, will also participate in our conversation. Please join us!

To join this Zoom Meeting, click on the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87187074308?pwd=QVRaTzJQcjFra0dqUWpXV1d2enBUUT09>

Looking ahead to November, Resource Spotlight #8 will feature our Re-Entry Program, facilitated by our Re-Entry Manager Dion Crockett, via Zoom on Monday, 11/8, 1pm.

Our CMS Movement Accelerates...

32 of our Conferences have implemented and are now utilizing **CMS**. 2 more are committed to implement on 11/1/2021.

Our Council is actively teaming with SVDP-Georgia and SVDP-Houston (as the 3 most prominent Councils deploying **CMS**) to visualize and advance further **CMS** enhancements with Agular Systems, the developer/vendor.

If you are still on the sidelines, what are you waiting for?

Simply put, **CMS** is a tool that will help you & us do good better...and our **CMS** training & support system is strong. You can do this!

CMS help sessions are normally available on Fridays in the NOC Education Center, 9-10am and 3-4pm. Please be aware that these regularly-scheduled sessions will not be available this Friday, 10/15, as our NOC Ed Center will be utilized for the final day of holiday program application submissions. Please contact John Wessel, your Resource Analyst, at Jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.1823 to schedule a **CMS help session.**

Employment Opportunity Within Our Social Services Team

Our Council's centralized Call Center, under the capable, compassionate leadership of Adriana Howard, is seeking a full-time Call Center Specialist. This role is designated non-exempt, with normal Monday-Friday work hours, located in our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC). The Call Center Specialist is a consistent point of contact for those requesting engagement, services, and assistance with our organization. Learn more about this role at <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/jobs/call-center-specialist-st-vincent-de-paul-cincinnati-oh> . If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Adriana Howard at ahoward@svdpcincinnati.org . If you know of someone who would be a great fit, encourage them to contact Adriana promptly. Interviews are beginning.

Our Thrift Stores

Yes, our thrift stores are connecting neighbors with incredible purchasing value every single day.

Yes, our thrift stores are actively accepting in-kind donations...and are always eager to work with you to facilitate a Bundle Sunday or placement of a donation box.

Yes, our thrift stores are redeeming a once again growing volume of vouchers issued by our Conferences and Social Services team.

Now, please add:

- Each of our thrift stores is actively hiring, meaning this is an opportunity for you to connect a motivated neighbor with gainful employment that can have lasting impact
- Our systemic change program, *Working Better Together*, is providing select new thrift store employees with perspective, relationships, and resources to sustain an upward trajectory
- Each of our thrift stores is actively seeking Vincentians as volunteers interested in performing retail roles such as sorting, tagging/pricing, and stocking, while contributing alongside our employees

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.



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. Sweet Cheeks and our Council have 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.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

September results: We extended \$63,741 in CAF assistance. You submitted 101 fresh CAF applications; we approved 139 applications, meaning we achieved huge progress in reducing our count of applications/requests in various stages of processing to just **10** as of 9/30.

We completed our 2021 fiscal year on 9/30, totaling \$711,605 in CAF assistance extended. This is more than double our 2020 fiscal year total of \$344,578.

Huge thanks to you, our expanding circle of volunteers, Conferences Manager Margaret Rahn, and all who contributed funding for stepping up and responding to our neighbors' need.

Empowered by committed CAF funding of \$60,000 per month for the current 6 months through March 2022, October activity remains brisk.

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 or Alec Jewell, Volunteer Manager, at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org .

Rahe Beds Fund & Program

Vouchers have been mailed for all eligible bed requests submitted by 10/5. We will reach out by this Friday, 10/15, if we're able to offer additional vouchers this month. As a reminder, we currently 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 at rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org . 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, the 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 - Applications period concludes this Friday, 10/15!

Applications for holiday gift programs through the Outreach Center are currently open! We've already received more than 1,800 applications from our neighbors in need. Neighbors can visit www.svdpcincinnati.org/holidays to request assistance through October 15. Neighbors without internet access are invited to call their Conference and have a Conference member complete the application for them or the neighbor can come down to our NOC during normal business hours (8am-4pm through this Friday) to use one of our computers. Please encourage neighbors to complete the application from home wherever possible so we can avoid large crowds at the NOC. Due to call volume, the NOC Call Center is unable to accept any applications over the phone.

Neighbors are eligible to receive holiday assistance this year (2021) if they meet the following criteria:

- Must live in Hamilton County
- Must have at least one child age 17 or younger in the household
- Must not have received gift assistance in 2020

Please note that neighbors will be required to submit a copy of their photo ID and a document with the name and date of birth for each child in order for their application to be considered complete. Completing an application does not guarantee assistance. Conference members with questions about holiday programs can contact Erin Nowak at enowak@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.8857.

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 to 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 goes in effect on October 18, 2021 through April 15, 2022.
- The HEAP Winter Crisis Program begins on November 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 dates are 10/14 (tomorrow), & 10/28, 9am - noon and 1 - 4pm. 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.

Call to Prayer

**Christ calls us to be servants to each other, and so we pray,
Lord, help us to be loving, caring and forgiving.**

**For the grace to help others in their pain and frustration,
Lord, help us to be understanding and sensitive.**

For the grace to bring peace and healing to others,

**Lord, help us to give the “assurance to the poor that God will never abandon them.”
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

