



**Conference News and Notes**  
**for Wednesday, October 6, 2021**  
**Sent to all Vincentians & Staff**

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***Vincentian Reflection for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time***  
***Sunday, October 10, 2021***

**Gospel: (Mark 10: 17-30)** As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother." He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

**Reflection:** In reply to the man's profession that he has kept the commandments, Jesus lovingly says to him, "You are lacking in one thing." This suggests that, flowing from an undivided heart, dispossessing oneself and following Jesus are one and the same thing. To turn this around: if one is to follow Jesus one must come empty-handed. This doesn't mean that we literally sell everything; we all have family and social obligations that make having things a necessity. Jesus is saying that we can't let possessions (or anything else, for that matter) divide our hearts. Too often possessions possess us; we must let go so only God can possess us. It is hard to enter the kingdom of God because too often our hearts are divided - we want to let go and follow Jesus at the same time we want to hang onto our possessions and, indeed our very lives! Divided hearts just won't do. God wants our all so God can give all in return. (*Living Liturgy*, p. 224)

**Vincentian Meditation:** Did the young man tend to rely too much on negative goodness? He had not broken the commandments, but how much good had he done for others? Was Our Lord saying to him: "With all your possessions, with all your wealth, with all that you could give away, what positive good have you done to others? Have you gone out of your way to help and comfort and strengthen others as you might have done?" Perhaps Our Lord was saying to him: "Stop looking at goodness as consisting in not doing things. Take yourself: take all that you have and spend yourself and your possessions on others. Then you will find true happiness in time and in eternity." (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 715)

**What "possessions" - time, money, talent - are you called to give to the poor?  
And how do you further share your gift of love?**

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***October Formation & Training Opportunities***

**SECOND WEDNESDAY FORMATION**

***"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.

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

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89237621188?  
pwd=TE1HR2RybDNNSG5mT3pvWDhmcFVUdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89237621188?pwd=TE1HR2RybDNNSG5mT3pvWDhmcFVUdz09)  
Meeting ID: 892 3762 1188  
Passcode: 477175

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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](mailto:kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.345.1767)**

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## **OZANAM ORIENTATION - Last one in 2021... ONLY 4 SPOTS LEFT!**

**Saturday, October 30th, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, in our NOC**

Ozanam Orientation is the standardized national orientation designed to get new Vincentians started on the right foot, and to help veteran Vincentians reacquaint themselves with the Society. Wherever you are in your Vincentian journey, please consider joining us!

**To register for Ozanam Orientation: [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) or contact Kelly Albainy-Crosby (see above)**

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

The draft of the Families of Parishes configuration was released this past Friday, 10/1/2021. You can review this draft, access more info, and provide your feedback to our Archdiocese at [BeaconsAOC.org](http://BeaconsAOC.org). 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 our Conference Presidents via email this past weekend. We will facilitate bringing together the leadership of those Conferences which are contained within each Family of Parishes so you can coordinate next steps. Our Archdiocese intends that each Family of Parishes will collaboratively discern and then collectively act upon their own vision.

**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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We are partnering with the GCL South and Skyline Chili to help tackle hunger. Fans are invited to bring non-perishable food items to the following football game:

- **La Salle at St. Xavier: this Friday, October 8, 7:00pm**

Skyline will be offering a FREE coney coupon to anyone who brings items to donate! We hope to see you at the game...thanks for supporting SVDP and our neighbors in need.

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

Please join us as 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.

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

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

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### ***Our CMS Movement Accelerates...***

Six - count 'em, 6! - Conferences implemented **CMS** on 10/1/2021. This brings us to 32 Conferences now on board. Two more are committed to implement on 11/1/2021. Bravo! 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 on 10/8 & 15 as our NOC Ed Center will be utilized for holiday program application submissions. 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 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](mailto:ahoward@svdpcincinnati.org) .

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### ***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 Council's 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 get in touch. 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).

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

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

September results: 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.

September CAF assistance extended exceeds \$61,000!

Huge thanks to our expanding circle of volunteers who are teaming with Margaret Rahn, Conferences Manager, and you to make this happen.

**Amplifying news of FY2022 (which began 10/1/2021) CAF budget provisions:**

**In response to the volume of need/requests you are responding to, and thanks to the availability of financial resources, our CAF budget has been temporarily increased from \$40,000 to \$60,000 for the months of October 2021 to March 2022. This effectively matches our current run rate of CAF submissions.**

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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 are currently in the process of mailing out vouchers for all bed requests submitted by October 5. We will reach out by October 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](mailto: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](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org).

### **Holiday Programs**

Applications for holiday gift programs through the Outreach Center are currently open! We've already received more than 1,000 applications from our neighbors in need. Neighbors can visit [www.svdpcincinnati.org/holidays](http://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 Monday through Friday and 8am-noon on Saturdays) 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](mailto: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.

### **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 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](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.](#)

### **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 October dates are 10/7 (tomorrow), 10/14, & 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.

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### ***Call to Prayer***

**For the grace to let go of my possessions,  
God of mercy, hear my prayer.  
For the grace to have an undivided heart,**

God of mercy, hear my prayer.  
Amen.

STAY CONNECTED

