



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, September 29, 2021
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, October 3, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 10:2-16) People were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, *“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”* Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hand on them.

Reflection: The disciples had been with Jesus and heard his teaching for quite some time, but they developed a hardness of heart, and so Jesus became indignant. This gospel is about human hardness of hearts and about to whom the kingdom of God belongs; not to those with hard hearts, but to the innocent ones who keep themselves turned toward God. Jesus illustrates this by saying *“accept the kingdom of God like a child.”* Anything else he might have said to his disciples was not recorded; but we might surmise that he was saying we must lose our hardness of hearts by being open and accepting like little children, by being innocent like children, by being trusting like children, by not picking up the sinful baggage that develops as we grow into and live adulthood. We must lose our schema of things so we can find God’s intention. Lose the hardness of heart. Find the kingdom. Our embracing the kingdom embodies our being embraced by Jesus. (*Living Liturgy*, p.220)

Vincentian Meditation: Simplicity “is the virtue I love most.” In St. Vincent’s eyes, Jesus is utterly simple—like a child. He speaks the truth. He says things as they are. His intentions are pure, referring all things in life to God. To St. Vincent, simplicity meant genuineness and transparency. Vincent always knew that all good comes from God and he acknowledge his own limitedness and sinfulness. Vincent lived with an exuberant confidence in God’s forgiveness and love. (Maloney, *Go! On the Missionary Spirituality of St. Vincent*, p. 131-132)

**Has a “hardness of heart” crept into our lives of service?
How will we draw upon faith & friendship to guide our service?**

Fall Fellowship Mass & Ceremony

We were blessed with a beautiful Sunday morning for our Fall Fellowship gathering in the Chapel of St. Ursula Academy. Many thanks to the Vincentians, team members, and friends of our Council who assembled on the eve of the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul.



Debi Schwartz, our Archdiocesan Council President, commissioned Alison Zlatic as our new Cincinnati District Council President and 11 Conference Presidents who have assumed their servant leadership roles since our November, 2020 Fall Fellowship. We also commissioned 3 new Vincentian Volunteers of Cincinnati (VVCs) who have begun their 2021/2022 year of service while living in community. We recognized 15 Vincentians who have embraced their Vincentian vocation for 20, 25, 30, 35, or 40 years. We honored the following award recipients:

Fires of Faith Award

- Christian James, Our Lady of Lourdes Conference
- Mary McConn, Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference

Ozanam Award

- Adriana Howard, Call Center Manager for our Council

Top Hat Award

- Dennis Cook, St. Catharine of Siena Conference
- Trudy Thomas, St. Bernard Conference, Spring Grove Village

Our special thanks to Fr. Rick Millbourn, SJ, of St. Xavier High School for presiding; our musicians for sharing their gifts; our award nominators & presenters for inspiring testimonials; Kelly Albainy-Crosby for organizing; and St. Ursula Academy for hosting us in their intimate Chapel.

October Formation & Training Opportunities

FIRST FRIDAY/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. Both sessions will be identical...we look forward to seeing you on the date/time that works best for you!

First Friday (this Friday), October 1st, Noon - 1:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84228391827?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84228391827?pwd=T1RXdWxyOXUvUmhxcGNHem84OGZHZz09)

[pwd=T1RXdWxyOXUvUmhxcGNHem84OGZHZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84228391827?pwd=T1RXdWxyOXUvUmhxcGNHem84OGZHZz09)

Meeting ID: 842 2839 1827

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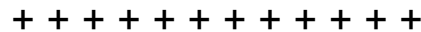
Second Wednesday, October 13th, 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89237621188?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89237621188?pwd=TE1HR2RybDNNSG5mT3pvWDhmcFVUdz09)

[pwd=TE1HR2RybDNNSG5mT3pvWDhmcFVUdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89237621188?pwd=TE1HR2RybDNNSG5mT3pvWDhmcFVUdz09)

Meeting ID: 892 3762 1188



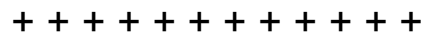
PRAYER DURING HOME VISITS WORKSHOP

This Saturday, October 2nd, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, in our NOC

Bringing spiritual support to our neighbors-in-need is an important part of Vincentian life. This workshop examines how we pray with those we serve and provides some suggested tools for deepening that prayer, including a simple process for extemporaneous prayer.

To register for the Prayer During Home Visits Workshop: [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) or contact Kelly Albainy-Crosby (kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org; 513.345.1767)

REGISTRATION ENDS AT NOON THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

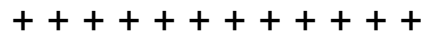


STORYTELLING & COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

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 (see above)



OZANAM ORIENTATION - Last one in 2021!

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)

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Beacons of Light Initiative

We anticipate the draft of the Families of Parishes configuration will be released today - Wednesday, September 29. 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.

Beacons of Light will impact every parish in our archdiocese, including yours. To stay on top of the latest developments on Beacons of Light, sign up for the free monthly Beacons Update newsletter at www.CatholicAOC.org/Beacons. Our Archdiocese will welcome public comment - your comment - October 1-20 at this same website. Seize this opportunity to provide your input to this important initiative which will shape the future of our Archdiocese.

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.



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

- **Moeller at Elder: this Saturday, October 2; 4:00PM**
- **La Salle at St. Xavier: 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 one of these upcoming games in support of SVDP and our neighbors in need.

Voice of the Poor Corner *Housing for Low-Income Renters—The Road Ahead*

“Emergency housing needed for my wife and two children; I have been waiting for Hamilton County for more than one year.”

“The furnace repairman says my furnace won’t last the winter. Plus the roof needs repair--my grandkids put a bucket in the closet when it rains. I’m 73 taking care of three grandchildren.”

“I’m homeless; 3 kids in school and day care; work part-time two days a week and every-other weekend. I cannot find another place to rent because I owe \$1200 from a previous residence.”

Heart-breaking—and these are just 3 calls from our neighbors this week. “Unsustainable means” kept some renters afloat during the pandemic: borrowing from friends and family, drawing down savings, cutting back on health, transportation, and other necessities. In July 2021, nearly 6.5 million households were behind in rent. Of these, 2.5 million have annual incomes less than \$25,000 and another million less than \$35,000. [The-Road-Ahead-for-Low-Income-Renters.pdf \(nlihc.org\)](#) These are among the neighbors we serve. The House Budget Committee voted on September 15 to advance the \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better Act, a comprehensive infrastructure and recovery package to the House Rules Committee. The full vote on the House floor may take place this week. The \$3.5 trillion is long-term—to be spent for American families over 10 years. Presently **housing** is targeted to receive \$327 billion (about 9% of the bill). The top housing priorities are:

- \$90 billion for rental assistance (housing choice vouchers and project-based rental assistance)
 - \$80 billion for repairing, replacing, and building public housing (think CHMA)
 - \$37 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund
 - Monies for rural housing, housing assistance for elderly and disabled, down-payment assistance for first-generation home buyers, grants for clean energy, and more.
- The Housing Choice Voucher program should be fully funded so every eligible low-income or disabled person receives assistance. Rental assistance has a proven track record of reducing homelessness and poverty. When families have stable, decent, affordable homes, they are better able to maintain employment; students perform better in school; and overall families improve their lives.

Please contact your representatives and senators and ask them to ensure that the top **housing** priorities listed above are included in any infrastructure or economic recovery package or sign the petition below.

<https://nlihc.secure.force.com/actions/CapturePetitionNew?actionId=AR00938>

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 10/1, 8, & 15 as our NOC Ed Center will be utilized for holiday program application submissions. Please contact John Wessel at Jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org to schedule a **CMS** help session.

Upcoming Service interruption at the NOC

This Thursday, September 30, 2021: In order to perform our annual inventory, the Catino Choice Food Pantry will be closed all day. The Charitable Pharmacy will be open only for existing prescription pick-up (no clinical services or new prescription filling). The building will be open normal hours (8am-4pm) and all other services will be available as usual.

Accounting Employment Opportunity

Our St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Stores, Inc., which has retail sales exceeding \$13 million and over 300 employees, is seeking a Manager of Stores Accounting to support its operations. This position reports to the Director of Finance and works normal business hours Monday – Friday in the Liz Carter Center at 1125 Bank Street. Learn more about this role at <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/> . Interested applicants are encouraged to forward cover letter, resume & compensation expectations to Denise Jewell at djewell@svdpcincinnati.org .

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

September activity: Through this morning, you have submitted 87 fresh CAF applications; we have approved 116 applications; and we have 68 applications in various stages of processing. Huge thanks to our expanding circle of volunteers who are teaming with Margaret Rahn, Conferences Manager, to achieve this progress.

Sharing welcome news of FY2022 (beginning 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.

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 and Special Projects 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

We will again be able to extend the full 180 bed vouchers for the month of October. Each Conference may submit up to five requests to rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org by Tuesday, October 5. We also 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 the 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 for holiday gift programs through our Outreach Center will be available online October 1 – 15, 2021. Neighbors can visit www.svdpcincinnati.org/holidays to request assistance. 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 the NOC during normal business hours (8am-4pm Monday through Friday and 8am-noon on Saturdays) to use one of our Education Center computers. Please encourage neighbors to complete the application from home wherever possible so we can manage occupancy within our NOC. Due to call volume, the NOC Call Center is unable to accept any holiday applications over the phone this year.

Neighbors are eligible to receive 2021 holiday assistance if they meet the following criteria:

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

Please note that our 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.

We need your help! Volunteers with basic computer skills are needed October 1 – 15 during NOC operating hours to staff the Education Center and assist neighbors in completing their online holiday program applications. Please contact Alec at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org to help us fill this important role.

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.

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 final September date is tomorrow (9/30), 9am - 3pm. Looking ahead to October, dates are 10/7, 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.

Call to Prayer

Those who walk with simplicity proclaim the steadfast love of our God.

In trust, we pray,

Lord, give us genuine and transparent hearts. Make us open and trusting like children.

Lord, heal our "hardness of heart". Teach us to let go of the baggage that has developed in our lives.

Lord, help us to live with confidence in your forgiveness. Give us the joy and openness of a child.

Lord, may we find you in our service to those who are poor.

Amen.

STAY CONNECTED

