



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff


Vincentian Reflection for the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul
Monday, September 27, 2021

Gospel: (Matthew 5:1-9) When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside... his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them: *“How blest are the poor in spirit; the reign of God is theirs. Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled. Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land. Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are the single-hearted, for they shall see God. Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God...”*

Reflection: For Vincent, love is always very concrete, very practical. It is love in practice. “Let us love God, my brothers and sisters,” he urges, “let us love God, but let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brows.” We are called to follow Christ as servants of the poor. Servants get their hands dirty. They labor long and hard. They engage in difficult tasks, visiting the sick and elderly in their homes, feeding street-people, serving the hungry, helping the widow and orphan. They are on the front lines ministering to the poor. As St. Vincent says, we must first do and then teach.

Vincentian Meditation: St. Vincent tells us that “Love is inventive to the point of infinity.” I encourage you today to be very inventive. Because you are on the front line in laboring for the poor, you will be among the first to know their real needs. It will not be psychologists or economists, who study the needs of the poor by examining the data they receive. You will know ahead of them because the poor will tell you directly. Be inventive in meeting those needs. (Maloney, *Go! On the Missionary Spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul*, p.133-134)

How have you been inventive in your Vincentian vocation?
In what ways can you become “inventive to infinity” in serving the needs of those who come to you?



You are warmly invited to the annual
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

*Fall Fellowship
Mass & Awards Ceremony*

FOR VINCENTIANS & SPECIAL GUESTS

Sunday • September 26, 2021 • 9:00 - 10:30 AM
St. Ursula Academy Chapel

PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINKS BELOW FOR
MORE DETAILS AND TO RSVP!

Please note changes to our Fall Fellowship Gathering this Sunday

We will share in the celebration of Mass and our awards ceremony in the SUA Chapel, beginning at 9am, as planned. Out of an abundance of caution as we navigate a rise in COVID cases within our community, we have cancelled the brunch/reception which traditionally follows. What this pivot means:

- We still very much invite you to join us for the Mass & ceremony.
- We will have masks available at the entrance to the Chapel.
- We still request your RSVP so we can anticipate and prepare for your presence.
- There is no longer a \$10 per attendee charge as this was to offset a portion of our reception expenses.
- If you have previously RSVP'd and paid the \$10 charge, we are still counting your RSVP and we look forward to being with you. We will make arrangements to refund your payment.

***Please RSVP today to share Faith & Friendship this Sunday.
Our RSVP window concludes noon this Friday, September 24th!***

[RSVP BY CLICKING HERE](#)

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS!](#)

We remain committed to the health of all those with whom we interact. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kelly Albainy-Crosby (513.345.1767; kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org) or Tom Roberts (513.345.4910; troberts@svdpcincinnati.org). Thanks and God bless!

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 which works best for you!

First Friday, October 1st, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84228391827?pwd=T1RXdWxyOXUvUmhxcGNHem84OGZHZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 2839 1827

Passcode: 261697

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89237621188?pwd=TE1HR2RvbDNNSG5mT3pvWDhmcFVUdz09>

Meeting ID: 892 3762 1188

Passcode: 477175

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PRAYER DURING HOME VISITS WORKSHOP

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)

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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 (see above)

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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 this coming 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.

We are called to radiate Christ. We are called to recognize Christ in all around us. This is our Vincentian vocation.

Amplifying our ongoing exhortation: You/we should be an active influencer of how *Beacons of Light* proceeds in your/our community.

Beacons of Light will impact every parish in the 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 www.CatholicAOC.org/Beacons. Seize this opportunity to provide your input to this important initiative which will shape the future of our Archdiocese.

***Beacons of Light* is our opportunity to determine how we, and those who follow us, will live the Vincentian vocation for the benefit of all we engage.**

Our Resource Spotlights Shine!

Our Resource Spotlight #6 featuring our Conference Assistance Fund (CAF) attracted an enthusiastic Zoom gathering on Wednesday, 9/8. Enhancements and best practices were highlighted. We also discussed CAF provisions for our FY2022 which begins 10/1.

Our previous Resource Spotlights are available to you 24/7. You can find the link to the respective recordings on the Members page of our website. Click on the Learn More tab under Member Support and Forms, then click on Resource Spotlight Recordings to make your selection. Look for this latest Resource Spotlight #6 to be added soon.

Watch for announcements and an invitation to Resource Spotlight #7. If you have suggestions of subject matter, please contact Margaret Rahn (513.345.4983; mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org).

John Wessel, your Resource Analyst, Shares...

The new browser version of **CMS**, known as version 4.0, is available for use. Your peers' feedback on the version 4.0 user experience is thumbs up! The URL is <https://cincinnati.cmssvdp.org>. You should now be using this instead of the installed desktop version; 4.0 is better and faster.

CMS Cincinnati Vincentian user testimonial: "If you can shop for wine on the internet, you can use **CMS**."

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 his email link below to schedule a **CMS** help session.

We are energized by a current surge in Conferences embracing **CMS** as a tool to do good better. If your Conference has not yet begun your preparations to train & implement **CMS**, now is the time. You can reach John Wessel at [Jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org).

Our Charitable Pharmacy - COVID Vaccine Still Available

Please spread the word among your/our neighbors: Our Charitable Pharmacy has single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for **any** community residents who are at least 18 years old. Vaccine is provided immediately upon request without an appointment or prior certification into the Charitable Pharmacy program. Please forward anyone who is interested to either location of the Charitable Pharmacy - our Neyer Outreach Center (Mon - Fri, 8am - 4pm) or our Western Hills Thrift Store (Tues & Fri, 10am - 4pm). For any questions related to the vaccine, you may email Rusty Curington, Pharmacy Director, at rcurington@svdpcincinnati.org.

Our Charitable Pharmacy's leadership has been immersed in the creation of a new strategic plan. Watch for several Charitable Pharmacy initiatives to be unveiled in October.

Upcoming Service interruptions at the NOC

Today - Wednesday, September 22, 2021: The NOC and all NOC-based services will close at noon for the remainder of the day for an all-staff event.

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. *Please share this information with any neighbors you're referring to the NOC this month.*

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)

August: We extended \$59,100 in CAF assistance. We made progress on our requests backlog as 109 applications were submitted and 130 were approved.

September: Through this morning, you have submitted 69 fresh CAF applications and we have approved 91 applications.

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.

We are inviting you to volunteer 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. Please promote this opportunity among your fellow Conference members as a complement to your vital Conference activities. You can learn more by contacting Margaret at mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org , or Alec Jewell, Volunteer Manager, at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org .

Rahe Beds Fund & Program

All bed vouchers requested by 9/5 have been mailed out. **We do have some additional vouchers available for September – please email rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org with any additional requests.** As a reminder, our bed vouchers will look a little different beginning this month. We've made a few small changes that will speed up our process and enable us to get vouchers out to neighbors more quickly. Thanks for all you do to connect our neighbors in need with this important resource! Check out next week's *Conference News and Notes* for information about the number of bed vouchers available for October.

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 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 - making it more convenient, flexible, and personalized with a variety of payment methods. Customers can access the PromisePay portal to enroll via their mobile phone or computer. Both property owners and tenants are eligible to use the PromisePay portal.

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>. There is an array of resources available through this website.

Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS or JFS) and Community Action Agency (CAA) are among the prominent providers.

Both the providers and our neighbors have noted an extended waiting period before follow-up contact occurs; this is all the more reason to get in the queue now.

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 next September dates are 9/23 (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

[IRS announces two new online tools to help families manage Child Tax Credit payments:](#)

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.

We are hearing from neighbors who report receiving monthly Child Tax Credit payments.



Call to Prayer

O God, your son Jesus preached the Good News to the poor,
may we continue to be effective instruments of Christ to those most in need.
O God, give us the strength and creativity we need to stand in solidarity with those
who suffer,
may our hearts be filled with compassion and love.
O God, you call us to be followers of St. Vincent de Paul,
grant us the grace to be “inventive to infinity” in serving the poor and suffering!
Amen.

STAY CONNECTED

