



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, September 15, 2021
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff


Vincentian Reflection for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, September 19, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 9:30-37) Jesus and his disciples came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, Jesus began to ask them, “*What were you arguing about on the way?*” They remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “*If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.*” Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, “*Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.*”

Reflection: Jesus uses the model of a little child to illustrate his point. Children are innocent and without pretensions. They embody what “least of all” means. This also illustrates to what extent the disciple is to become the “servant of all” by receiving even the “least of all.” The total self-emptying that enables one to receive the “least of all” describes the disciple. This is how we receive Jesus - by receiving the least. No one is insignificant. (*Living Liturgy*, p.212)

Vincentian Meditation: Are we really able to hear the cries of the poor, of the most oppressed: the women and children, who are often the poorest members of society; those discriminated against because of race, color, nationality, religion; the AIDS victims, who are often shunned by their families and by the physically healthy; those on the “edges of life,” the helpless infants and the helpless aged, who are unable to speak up themselves? Are we alert, “listening,” to the “signs of the times”: the increasing gap between the rich and the poor and the repeated call for justice made by the Church? (Maloney, *He Hears the Cry of the Poor*, p. 25-26)

In what ways are you challenged to be a “servant of all” by receiving the “least of all”...whose cries are the hardest to hear?



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 this Fall Fellowship Gathering

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 now 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.

RSVP deadline extended to Wednesday, September 22nd!

[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!

Upcoming Formation Opportunities

OZANAM ORIENTATION

Tuesdays, September 21st & 28th, 5:00 - 8:00 PM

This 2-part orientation will take place in the Neyer Outreach Center (NOC).

To register, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) or contact Kelly Albainy-Crosby (513.345.1767; kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org)

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: THIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

PRAYER DURING HOME VISITS WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 2nd, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

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, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) or contact Kelly Albainy-Crosby (see above)

Storytelling and Communications Workshop - Coming on Wednesday, October 20, facilitated by our External Relations Team

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 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.

Look for registration later this month to reserve this opportunity!

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Beacons of Light Initiative

We anticipate the draft of the Families of Parishes configuration will be released on Wednesday, September 29. We intend to 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;

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 buy wine on the internet, you can use **CMS**."

CMS help sessions are available on Fridays in the NOC Education Center, 9-10am and 3-4pm.

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 .

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

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 .

SVDP USA Voice of the Poor Offers Webinar Tomorrow - Thursday, 9/16, 1-2pm

Fighting Poverty and Building Financial Security with the Child Tax Credit

The Child Tax Credit promotes work and family formation, and is also one of the most effective tools for reducing child poverty. The American Jobs Plan included a substantial

increase to the CTC's poverty-fighting power that has contributed to drastic reductions in child poverty and hunger. Officials from the IRS will share tips, tools, and resources with Vincentians to help families with children access this powerful tool for building financial security.

You can [Register Here!](#)

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 40 fresh CAF applications and we have approved 55 applications.

Huge thanks to our expanding circle of volunteers who are teaming with Margaret Rahn, Conferences Manager, to achieve this progress.

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 – 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!

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 .

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 9/16, 9/23, & 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.

Job Fair @ Freestore Foodbank (FSFB) is today - Wednesday, 9/15/2021

When: 10am - 2pm

Where: FSFB Customer Connection Center, 112 E. Liberty St, Cincinnati, 45202, 513.357.4600

Multiple sponsoring employers include Cincinnati Metro, FedEx Ground, Unbound Express, Talbert House, Hillman Group, & Hardrock Casino.

Aspiring applicants should bring photo ID and be prepared to submit an online application.

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

**Lord, set our hearts on fire with compassion for the “least of all,”
so that we may suffer with those who suffer.**

**Lord, give us the grace to hear the cries of the poor,
so that we may be a servant of the most oppressed.**

**Lord, help us to listen to the “signs of the times,”
so that we may respond to the call for justice in our world.**

Amen.

STAY CONNECTED

