



Conference News and Notes for Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, September 5, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 7: 31-37) Jesus left the district of Tyre and returned by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Ten Cities. Some people brought him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. Jesus took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and emitted a groan. He said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" that is, "*Be Opened.*" At once the man's ears were opened; he was freed from the impediment, and began to speak plainly. Then he enjoined them strictly not to tell anyone; but the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. Their amazement went beyond all bounds: "He has done everything well! He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Reflection: In living the gospel, rather than simply bringing others to Jesus *we ourselves* are the presence of the risen Christ who bring healing and salvation. If we are to be the embodiment of God's saving power then we must open our ears to hear and recognize all the everyday opportunities for making God's presence and reign known. This might be something so simple as turning off the TV and spending some time in the family listening to each other. Or it might be something so demanding as choosing to work fewer hours, and have less money available, in order to be more present to others. However we respond to others' needs, it is helpful to remember that we do embody God's offer of salvation through the good we do. (*Living Liturgy*, p.206)

Vincentian Meditation: St. Vincent tells us that humility is a grace of our Lord Jesus. Humility only comes when the light of Jesus penetrates deeply into our being and into all our thinking and reflection. When that light does penetrate into us, it transfigures everything, not only our opinion about ourselves but our attitude towards others. With humility God will be glorified, the poor will be served and made happy, and we ourselves will enjoy the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, who is gentle and humble of heart. (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p.586)

**How have you brought healing to others?
How have you been the "presence of Christ" to others?**

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

Fall Fellowship Mass & Brunch

FOR VINCENTIANS & SPECIAL GUESTS

Sunday • September 26, 2021 • 9 AM - Noon
St. Ursula Academy Chapel
and Keller Student Center

PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINKS BELOW FOR
MORE DETAILS, TO RSVP,
AND TO NOMINATE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

[RSVP BY CLICKING HERE](#)

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

We look forward to recognizing our Fires of Faith, Top Hat, and Ozanam Award recipients.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE AWARD RECIPIENTS](#)

Nominations close Friday, September 10.

Upcoming Formation Opportunities

FIRST FRIDAY/SECOND WEDNESDAY FORMATION:
"Radiating Christ: the Words of Vincent and Frederic"
This Friday, September 3rd, Noon - 1:00 PM
OR next Wednesday, September 8th, 5:00 - 6:00 PM

To join the Zoom on **SEPT. 3** - [CLICK HERE](#)
To join the Zoom on **SEPT. 8** - [CLICK HERE](#)

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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)

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VINCENTIAN RETREAT
This one-hour retreat is ready to be experienced within your own Conference at your convenience this Fall! How better to nurture community - faith & friendship - with your fellow Conference members?

Retreat materials are available for each Conference to pick-up @ our Neyer Outreach Center reception desk, or you may request to have them mailed to you by contacting Kelly Albany-Crosby.

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Beacons of Light Initiative

Is your Conference talking with your Pastor about *Beacons of Light*?
Is your Conference connecting with your Parish Council about *Beacons of Light*?
Is your Conference embracing *Beacons of Light*?

We anticipate the draft of the "families of parishes" configuration will be released in the final week of this month (September). 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.

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

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

In our Archdiocese's own words...

BEACONS UPDATE: BE HEARD, STAY INFORMED, SIGN UP – Beacons of Light, the archdiocese-wide pastoral planning process currently underway, 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 .

COMMENT ON DRAFT "FAMILIES OF PARISHES" – Make sure your voice is heard! Beacons of Light will result in all parishes being grouped into "Families"; each Family under the leadership of a single pastor. A draft of this plan will be shared for public comment October 1-20 at www.CatholicAOC.org/Beacons . Do not miss this opportunity to provide your input to this important initiative which will shape the future of our archdiocese.

Our Next Resource Spotlight

Our Resource Spotlight #6 is this coming Wednesday, 9/8, 1:30pm , and will feature our **Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)**, facilitated by our own Conferences Manager, Margaret Rahn. Our neighbors come to us with needs; your CAF request volume is substantial; we must continue to respond together! Whether you are an experienced CAF veteran or an aspiring CAF newbie, you will find value in your investment of 1 hour of your time & attention.

To join this Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82355115319?pwd=T1NvcWljbis5eG9zWU9Wa3YrNIJkdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 5511 5319

Passcode: 022781

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.

John Wessel, your Resource Analyst, Shares...

The new browser version of **CMS**, known as version 4.0, is available for use. Your current feedback to us on the version 4.0 user experience is quite positive. 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.

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.

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.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

Our current read on August CAF activity: 128 fresh applications received; 130 applications (received in July & August) approved. Thanks to our volunteers who have teamed 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 as a complement to your vital Conference activities among your fellow Conference members. You can learn more by contacting Margaret at mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org, or Alec Jewell, Volunteer Manager, at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org.

Rahe Beds Fund & Program

This week we welcomed Gabby Garcia, our new Outreach Center Program VVC, to SVDP! She will be coordinating the Rahe Beds Program for the next year and can be reached at rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.8841 ext. 235. We are pleased to share that we will be able to extend our full budgeted number of beds for September. This means that each Conference is welcome to submit up to five requests to rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org. Our voucher is also getting a bit of an update 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.

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.

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 upcoming September dates are 9/2 (tomorrow) & 9/9 (next Thursday), 9am - 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.

Update to SNAP Benefits

In August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released an update to the Thrifty Food Plan, which is the model used to calculate benefit levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Following these changes, beginning on October 1, 2021, SNAP benefits will increase for the first time since 1975. Under the revised Thrifty Food Plan, SNAP households will receive an average of \$36 more per person per month, or about \$1.20 more per day.

Under COVID-19 Emergency Allotments, all SNAP recipients are receiving the maximum benefit amount for their household size, as long as states continue to apply for the additional funding. These Emergency Allotments will continue through the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE), currently scheduled to end on December 31, 2021.

Click [HERE](#) for changes in benefits by state.

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.

Labor Day Weekend is Here!

Our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) will be open and welcoming our neighbors on Saturday, September 4, 8am - noon. We will be closed on Sunday, as always. Our NOC and Liz Carter Center (LCC) will be closed on Monday, September 6, to observe the Labor Day holiday. We will reopen both our NOC & LCC on Tuesday, September 7, @ 8am. For the convenience of our customers and our neighbors, our Thrift Stores will be open during their normal operating hours throughout this Labor Day weekend.

Call to Prayer

**Jesus, as you opened the ears of the deaf man,
open our ears to hear the cries of the poor.**

**Jesus, as you removed the speech impediment of the deaf man,
give us the grace to speak of your love to others.**

**Jesus, let your light penetrate into us,
transfiguring our opinion about ourselves and our attitude towards others.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

