



Conference News and Notes for Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, August 29, 2021 (the 5th Sunday of August)

Gospel: (Mark 7: 1-8) Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile. From within people, from their hearts come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.”

Reflection: It's easier to clean the pots and pans than to clean one's heart! It's also easy to dismiss this gospel because our tradition has never emphasized this kind of ritual impurity. Yet, the gospel hits home closer than we may think. What traditions do we blindly cling to? Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Mass on Sunday; after all, this is what most of us grew up doing. Or perhaps we cling to rote prayers that we learned as a child rather than stretch our relationship with God to find new prayer expressions. Perhaps we relegate God in our lives to an hour on Sunday. Do we keep the letter of the law and miss entirely the spirit of the law? Interior righteousness means a heart turned to God. We need to look at the way we live, and this will tell us whether we have hearts truly turned toward God, all of the time. Purity of heart is expressed in righteous living: self-giving for the sake of others. This is how we have life. (*Living Liturgy*, p.200)

Vincentian Meditation: For St. Vincent, simplicity consisted in referring things to God alone, or purity of intention. In this sense simplicity is doing everything for love of God and for no other end. It entails avoiding “human respect” or doing things merely to look good in the eyes of others. Simplicity is speaking the truth. It is saying things as they are, without concealing or hiding anything. The heart must not think one thing while the mouth says another. Vincentians must avoid all duplicity, dissimulation, cunning, and double meaning. (Maloney, *He Hears the Cry of the Poor*, p.144-145)

**How do we live our core value of Simplicity in the spirit of St. Vincent?
How could we better live Simplicity?**

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!](#)

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

Upcoming Formation Opportunities

**EXPLORING POVERTY WORKSHOP -- THIS Saturday, August 28th, 9:00 AM - Noon,
@ our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC)**

There is still room for more participants in this workshop! If you are interested in deepening your sense of solidarity with the poor, please join us!

Registration will be accepted through noon this Friday, August 27th:

Contact Kelly Albainy-Crosby at kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org,
513-345-1767, or [SIGN UP BY CLICKING HERE](#)

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**FIRST FRIDAY/SECOND WEDNESDAY FORMATION:
"Radiating Christ: the Words of Vincent and Frederic"**

Friday, September 3rd, Noon - 1:00 PM

OR Wednesday, September 8th, 5:00 - 6:00 PM

To join the Zoom on **SEPT. 1** - [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)

And, as if all of the above isn't enough, Kelly has composed and made available a **1 hour retreat experience to be hosted within your own Conference**. How better to nurture community - faith & friendship - with your fellow Conference members? These retreat materials are available for each Conference to pick-up @ our Neyer Outreach Center.

Last Chance to Share Your Communications & Fundraising Input

We want to support your Conference's communications and fundraising efforts within your parish! Your feedback through this [survey](#) will help us create a Conferences Communications & Development Workshop for you, focused on the topics that you've identified. Please complete [this survey](#) now and plan to join us for Conferences Communications & Development Workshop on Wednesday, October 20 at 6pm.

Our Next Resource Spotlight

Please mark your calendars for our **Resource Spotlight #6 - Wednesday, 9/8, 1:30pm** - to 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. The URL is <https://cincinnati.cmssvdp.org> You should now be using this instead of the installed desktop version.

This means that you should now access **CMS** only through your web browser (Google Chrome, MS Edge, Safari, etc.), making it very similar to typing in an address in your browser to do online shopping, searching, etc.

It would be wise to "bookmark" / add to your favorites as well so that you do not need to remember it by heart. You can also uninstall your old desktop versions.

CMS help sessions are available on Fridays in the NOC Education Center, 9-10am and 3-4pm. We are energized by the growing number of our Conferences & Vincentians who are stepping up to learn, implement, and leverage **CMS** to better serve our neighbors and fellow Vincentians.

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

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*?

We've heard the draft of the "families of parishes" will be released in the final week of September - just a month away.

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.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

Progress report: You've submitted 79 August CAF applications through Monday, 8/23. We've approved 93 CAF applications thus far in August: 52 are July applications for \$24,927 in assistance; 41 are August applications for \$18,490 in assistance.

We are inviting you to volunteer on site at our Neyer Outreach Center to help us process CAF applications, and 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 Rahn, Conferences Manager, at mrahn@svdpcincinnati.org.

Rahe Beds Fund & Program

Vouchers for August Rahe Beds Fund beds have been fully distributed. We're happy to announce that we will be able to extend our full budgeted amount of beds again in September. Each Conference may submit up to five requests to rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org starting September 1.

Day to Dream 2021

Thanks to Conferences who submitted requests for *Day to Dream 2021*. Our beds are fully committed. These beds will be delivered this Saturday, 8/28/2021. Sweet dreams to our young neighbors who will welcome the beds this weekend. Thanks again to our partners Morris Home Furniture and WCPO...and to Mighty Men for their delivery services.

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. Effective this past Monday, 8/23, hours were revised to 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 & 9/9, 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

This past week, 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.

Call to Prayer

**Through Christ, the merciful Servant,
give us interior righteousness and a heart turned to God.
Through Christ, the Healer,
give us the strength to always speak the truth.
Through Christ, the Holy One,
give us the grace to avoid all duplicity, cunning and double meaning.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED



