



Conference News and Notes for Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentine Reflection for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, August 22, 2021

Gospel: (John 6: 60-69) Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"... Jesus said, "*It is the Spirit that gives life...the words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*" Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "*For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father.*" As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "*Do you also want to leave?*" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy one of God."

Reflection: Believing in Jesus and his teaching requires letting go of what we think we know of God and allowing God to act in a whole new way. Israel's expectations of who the Messiah would be blocked the way for some to see God acting in a new way and offering a whole new way of relating to us. Never before had Israel heard of a God who becomes incarnate and dwells among the people. Believe or leave is a pretty clear choice. Many of us make the choice to stay with Jesus but live the new, self-giving life only halfheartedly. Liturgy invites us to constantly assess the depth of our belief-commitment. We judge our belief not on what we say or think but on what we do. Self-giving always leads to new life and this is why we are able to make the choice to stay with the Master, for we have come to know and believe that he has the words of eternal life. (*Living Liturgy*, p.196)

Vincentine Meditation: In prayer, the emphasis must always be on the presence of the personal God, to whose word we must listen attentively, as He speaks to us the good news of His love for us and for others. In an era when there is much noise, where the media, if we so choose, speak to us all day long, we must ask ourselves: Are we able to distinguish the voice of God among the many voices that are speaking? Is God's word able to say "new things" to us? Are we still capable of wonder? The word "wonder" has a kinship with the word wound. Is the word of God able to wound us, to penetrate the membrane that seals us off, that encloses us within ourselves? Can it break into our consciousness and change us? (Maloney, *Go! On the Missionary Spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul*, p.24)

How is the Holy Spirit calling us to change, to become "new"?

Upcoming Formation Opportunity

Exploring Poverty Workshop

Next Saturday, August 28th

9:00 AM - Noon

Neyer Outreach Center

The **Exploring Poverty** workshop is ideal for Vincentians who want to deepen their sense

of solidarity with the poor. The workshop applies a case-study approach to reveal types of poverty, explore mental models across classes, and more deeply penetrate the "hidden rules" that underpin our worldviews. Participants will gain a better understanding of barriers that make it difficult for individuals to become more self-sufficient and how relationships are critical for enabling the learning that makes that transition possible.

Please register in advance by this coming Wednesday, August 25th:
Contact Kelly Albainy-Crosby at kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org ,
513-345-1767, or [SIGN UP BY CLICKING HERE](#)

Our Summer Meeting = Fellowship & Fun





Our Summer Meeting this past Wednesday evening, 8/11/2021, attracted just over 100 festive Vincentians & staff who gathered in our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC). Friendship and food were enjoyed in abundance. Council President-elect Alison Zlatic (Nativity Conference) offered a preview of the Vincentian zeal she generously shares.

We are pleased to announce the winners of our scavenger hunt:

- 2 extra Rahe beds - **St. Ann Conference** (Ray Brenner submission)
- Exclusive Poverty Simulation - **Corpus Christi/St. John Neumann Conference** (Cheryl Luckhapt submission)
- \$50 Kroger gift card - **Assumption Conference** (Kathy Lorenz submission)
- \$50 Kroger gift card - **St. Martin of Tours Conference** (Steve Brunette submission)

Winning Conferences, please reach out to Tom Roberts at troberts@svdpcincinnati.org to claim your prize.

Thanks to all for coming together to celebrate unity in your Vincentian home!

Please Take this Quick Survey!

Survey can be found by clicking [here](#).

Your District Council team wants to do a better job of supporting your Conference's communications and fundraising within your parish. We will host a Conferences Parish Communications & Development Workshop for Vincentians on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6pm. We need your perspective now to inform the content of this session. Please complete this short survey about your Conference's communication and fundraising efforts. The survey should take just 10 minutes to complete. We are grateful for your feedback which will assist us in putting together a more relevant workshop for you!

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.

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.

Our Fall Fellowship Mass and Reception

When: Sunday, 9/26/2021, 9am (the day before the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul)
Where: St. Ursula Academy, East Walnut Hills

Please watch for RSVP info and requests for award nominations in next week's *Conference News and Notes!*

John Wessel, your Resource Analyst, Shares...

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 questions related to the vaccine, you may email Rusty Curington, Pharmacy Director, at rcurington@svdpcincinnati.org.

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Beacons of Light Initiative

Is your Conference talking about *Beacons of Light*?
Is your parish talking about *Beacons of Light*?

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)

You submitted 152 CAF applications and we extended \$46,117 in CAF assistance in July. You have already submitted 102 CAF application in August. The volume is clearly growing.

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. Please stay tuned to next week's *Conference News and Notes* for an update on September requests. You can contact us at rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org .

Thanks for your help in getting beds to our neighbors in need!

Day to Dream 2021

Thanks to Conferences who submitted requests for *Day to Dream 2021*. You should have received a confirmation email from Erin Nowak if the neighbor you submitted was selected for the program. Please reach out to enowak@svdpcincinnati.org if you submitted a request and did not hear anything back. These beds will be delivered on Saturday, 8/28/2021.

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, 7am-7pm. Effective Monday, 8/23, these hours will be 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** 9am - 2pm on certain Thursdays as designated by CEIF. Our remaining August date is this Thursday, 8/19. 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.

Sharing Additional Links to Information

Re 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.

Re Health Insurance Access & Coverage

[https://www.thebalance.com/lost-your-job-free-health-coverage-is-likely-available-5191891?
utm_campaign=moneysl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cn_nl&utm_content=24401503&utm_term=
https://www.thebalance.com/how-to-get-obamacare-in-4-simple-steps-what-to-do-now-3306055](https://www.thebalance.com/lost-your-job-free-health-coverage-is-likely-available-5191891?utm_campaign=moneysl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cn_nl&utm_content=24401503&utm_term=)

Call to Prayer

**Jesus is ever present with God, and ever present with us, and so we pray,
Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
We ask for strength to continue as your faithful disciples,
and may we always let your word break into our consciousness and change us.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

