



Conference News and Notes for Friday, July 9, 2021

Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, July 11, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 6: 7-13) Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two...He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—no food, no sack, no money in their belts. He said to them, “*Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you, leave there and shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them.*” So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Reflection: Jesus sends the apostles out on mission, two by two. His instructions indicate that they are to stay focused on what they are to do. Everything they would do originates in Jesus and the power to stay focused on the mission and be successful comes only from Jesus who sent them. When disciples are sent on mission it is to take up the mission of Jesus, and there is only one mission, to establish God’s reign. Like Jesus, disciples will meet resistance, but they will also meet success when they encounter those with faith. It is an awesome thought that Jesus entrusts his mission to us. With our own power and talent, we can do little; with the authority with which Jesus invests his disciples we can do much. (*Living Liturgy*, p.170)

Vincentian Meditation: The Manual of the Society states: From the beginning of the Society, the central and most basic activity of Conferences has been the visitation of the needy in the home. This action is the clearest symbol of the Vincentian charism which dictates the highest respect for the dignity of the poor...It symbolizes the fact that Vincentians are to reach out to the needy... and it is in the home environment that needy persons feel most free to entrust their stories of struggle to the helper. It is there, in the family setting, that Vincentians are asked to listen, offer humble advice, and render assistance. A related tradition is that Vincentians always visit in pairs: “two by two”. This requirement is based on the fact that the Conference is a community, not a collection of individuals who “do their own thing.” (*US Manual*, P.98)

**Are you engaging in home visits?
Do you feel like the apostles going “two by two”?
How do you/we carry the mission of Jesus to the poor?**

Upcoming Formation Opportunities

Home Visit Workshop: Saturday, July 17, 2021 9:00 am – noon

The home visit has been the foundation of our work since the Society was founded. Despite years of practice, there are still ways we can make our visits more rewarding for our neighbors and for us. Whether you are making your first home visit or you have made many, this is your chance to hone your skills, share insights and ask lingering questions.

TO REGISTER FOR THIS HOME VISIT WORKSHOP, [PLEASE SIGN UP HERE](#)

Deadline for registration: Thursday, July 15

Call-Taking Workshop: “Seeing the Face of Christ via the Phone”: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Being a call-taker may be the most challenging job that a Vincentian can have. It can be difficult to make decisions about our neighbors’ needs via phone. In this workshop, we will discuss best practices in call-taking, record-keeping, and dealing with crisis situations. Extensive Q&A time is included.

TO REGISTER FOR THIS CALL-TAKING WORKSHOP, [PLEASE SIGN UP HERE](#)

Deadline for registration: Monday, August 2

Our full current 2021 Conference Workshops, Retreats, and Events Schedule is here! Please see the attached documents for descriptions of all that is being offered, along with the dates and times for each:

- [CLICK HERE FOR DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS](#)
- [CLICK HERE FOR SCHEDULE](#)

Our Resource Spotlight #4 to Feature Our Charitable Pharmacy is here!

Rusty Curington, Director of our Charitable Pharmacy, will lead a lively Zoom session this Monday, 7/12, 1-2pm, to better inform us of how this arm of our organization so positively impacts our community's health, neighbor by neighbor, while drawing upon volunteers and developing healthcare providers of the future. You'll hear how easy it is to refer a neighbor to our Charitable Pharmacy...how responsively your/our neighbor's needs are holistically addressed...most often with donated resources...in a manner most consistent with our mission & values.

Link to join this Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84106887456?pwd=aEhYanVxTCs5bmJCN21CemdTQi94dz09>

Meeting ID: 841 0688 7456

Passcode: 812261

We would love to have each of our Conferences participate. Please join us!

If you do miss this or any other Resource Spotlight session, we will continue to post links to recordings on our SVDP website, Members page. Click on the Learn More tab under Member Support and Forms, then click on Resource Spotlight Recordings to make a selection.

Alleluia!

Neyer Outreach Center Once Again Welcoming Neighbors and Volunteers



Our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) re-opened to our neighbors and many more volunteers this past Thursday, 7/8/2021. With much advanced prep and planning, the morning started with prayer...and the sharing and reconnecting continued throughout the day. Great to see a mix of familiar faces and new friends. And so exciting to see smiles returning as neighbors shop our Becky & Ted Catino Choice Food Pantry. Our flow of neighbors seeking engagement and assistance will likely grow daily as word spreads throughout our

Hamilton County community.

Our doors are open to our neighbors 8am - 4pm, Monday - Friday, & 8am - noon on Saturday.

To learn more about the variety of flexible and fulfilling volunteer engagement available...and to secure your presence, please contact Volunteer Manager Alec Jewell at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.8841, ext 211.

Planting a seed: We can gladly accommodate a contingent of members from your respective Conference or Conference Network if you would like to share this experience together.

***Our Conferences Summer Meeting - Wednesday, 8/11/2021, 5:30-8pm,
@ our Neyer Outreach Center
Please Mark your Calendar***

Did we say meeting? We mean gathering.

Nurturing friendship and reconnecting Vincentians from throughout our Council's Hamilton County footprint will be our emphasis. Celebrating summertime and each other - friends, food, beverages, smiles.

Watch for more info as our summer advances.

COVID Vaccine Available

Our Charitable Pharmacy has access to 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 at 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.

You are Invited to the Ozanam Center this Summer!

We are excited to offer two opportunities to learn more about Social Justice issues this summer. Please consider joining us for one or both of the following in-person events at the Ozanam Center:

Implicit Bias Workshop:

The Implicit Bias workshop explores our hidden, unconscious beliefs that have been formed in us by our environment and the media. We will unpack statistics that show the devastating effects of implicit bias and provide you with tools to avoid biased decision-making.

Tuesday, 7/20/21: 5pm - 7pm

Register at: <https://forms.gle/LDpzJpQLuBGrLhbr8>

Poverty Simulations:

The Cincinnati Poverty Simulation challenges participants to walk in the shoes of our neighbors in need—to explore poverty experientially. The objectives are to better understand the complexities of poverty and to become more compassionate, more understanding, and less judgmental of those experiencing poverty.

Saturday, 7/24/21: 10am - noon

Register at: <https://forms.gle/DCNJGzEGD6kb3qy26>

***Join St. Vincent de Paul – Cincinnati on Monday, July 26th at our annual
Prescription For Fun Golf Outing and Wine & Bourbon Tasting!***

All proceeds benefit our [Deaconess Health Check/ Charitable Pharmacy](#), the only pharmacy in Southwest Ohio dedicated to providing free medication and professional pharmaceutical care to people in need from Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Clermont

counties.

As a result of the pandemic, many neighbors experienced difficulty accessing their life-saving medications and thus, turned to our Charitable Pharmacy for help. After a 68% increase of new patients last year, your support is more critical now than ever. For every \$1 invested, the Charitable Pharmacy is able to dispense \$13 worth of medication to its patients.

This popular annual event returns to Clovernook Country Club after a COVID hiatus. If an afternoon of golf won't work (or play) for you, please consider joining for the social fun of the Wine & Bourbon Tasting that follows.

For more information and/or to register, visit CincyGolfOuting.com and CincyWineTasting.com.

Thank you, Hannah!



We've grown to appreciate Hannah's presence and commitment to you / our neighbors / us over this VVC year of service. Hannah will complete her Conferences Support service year this coming Friday, 7/16. She'll join her VVC cohort for their retreat...and then she will begin a new phase of her journey as a tutor/mentor/resource for young people in the Cincinnati area, leveraging her MSJU academics with the growth she realized while with us. We're confident she will be impactful in this new employment opportunity for many of the same reasons she contributed so fruitfully here. Godspeed, Hannah...we hope to see more of you...you are blessed with a Vincentian heart. And you will always be a VVC. (This message appropriately appears as a lead-in to our CAF update; job well done.)

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

Our June CAF activity did, in fact, surpass May, which surpassed April. You submitted 134 June applications: 118 have been approved thus far; 7 were determined to be ineligible; 1 was withdrawn; 8 are pending additional information. Total June CAF assistance = \$51,100. This growth in applications submitted is consistent with shared observations that some of our neighbors have exhausted their federal direct distributions and tax refunds, and have not yet achieved a sustainable income-to-expenses reality. Please be encouraged to engage our neighbors to identify actions with lasting impact.

Rahe Beds Fund & Program

Our supplier is still experiencing significant **supply chain issues** that affect their ability to deliver beds to us. **For this reason, we limited the number of July bed requests to two beds per Conference. It appears that the 2 bed requests submitted per Conference by Monday, July 5, will be accommodated with bed vouchers this month.** Timely reminder – we receive many more requests for full beds than we do twin beds, so please consider encouraging/asking neighbors if a twin bed would work for them, as they have a much better chance of receiving a twin bed. It is too early to project the

number of beds we will have available for August assistance. Please know that we share your frustration with the bed supply issues and are looking into solutions that will enable us to continue providing beds for our neighbors in need.

Please contact rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org if you have any questions about our program and process.

An Important Note about EPI & TANF Funding & Assistance

We have exhausted our current City of Cincinnati's Eviction Prevention Initiative (EPI) and Hamilton County's Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) funding. Because of this, our Social Services team has (temporarily?) suspended accepting requests for rent assistance from neighbors living in Conferences' footprints. If a neighbor reaches out to you with a need for rental assistance that exceeds your Conference's & CAF's ability to extend it, please refer the neighbor to 513relief.org. We are in dialogue with the respective funders of EPI & TANF. We will share any news of additional funding as we learn more. If you have questions about the status of a previously submitted neighbor request, please email Mary Reid at mreid@svdpcincinnati.org, including the neighbor's name, address including ZIP, their need, and which program they have applied for, and cc Margaret Rahn.

Fans & Air Conditioners Distributions

Through Thurs, 7/8/2021, **we have distributed 554 ACs and 759 fans**. Our record year for total heat relief assistance extended continues to grow. **Our distributions will conclude on Friday, 7/30/2021.**

Neighbors interested in receiving a fan can simply come to our NOC during our normal operating hours. Neighbors are eligible if they live in Hamilton County and did not receive a fan from SVDP last year.

Neighbors interested in receiving an air conditioner must fill out an advance request at www.svdpcincinnati.org/AC. Neighbors are eligible to receive an AC if they live in Hamilton County; are 65 years old or older or have a medical need for an AC; and haven't received an AC from us in the last four years (2017-2020). Please note that neighbors may receive one fan or one AC per household, but not both.

At this point in time, every AC unit currently in our possession has been reserved for a previously approved application. Please be aware that all new AC requests are now being added to a waiting list. We are not certain we will be able to provide an AC unit to every neighbor currently on our waitlist. Please manage the expectations of our neighbors accordingly.

Christine Deckard, our Mount St Joseph University student administering this seasonal program, can be reached at 513.562.8841, ext 766, or via email at summerrelief@svdpcincinnati.org.

Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation Vision Clinic in our Neyer Outreach Center

The Vision Clinic re-opened in March and operates **by appointment** 9am - 2pm on alternate Thursdays; our remaining July dates are 7/15 (this Thursday) & 7/29. 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.

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.

A prime example: CAA's Home Relief Fund, in partnership with the City of Cincinnati, is now available to assist families with bills ranging from rent, **mortgage**, and utilities including water, sewage, stormwater, and trash removal. This Home Relief Program is being funded, in part, through federal treasury allocations made available to the City of Cincinnati due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The total sum amounts to \$9 million. While this Home Relief Program is intended to support City of Cincinnati residents, there is also funding available to Hamilton County residents. For eligibility, income guidelines, and qualifications, residents are encouraged to visit cincy-caa.org/CAA-home-relief, call 513.569.1840 (then select option #4), or email epa@cincy-caa.org.

Summer Crisis Program Available to Eligible Hamilton County Residents

This program administered by Community Action Agency (CAA) assists with electric

utilities and/or the purchase of an air conditioning unit or fan from July 1 to Sept 30, 2021. Please use this link to learn more about eligibility and process:

[The CAA Summer Crisis Page](#) .

Metro Bus Tickets - Everybody Rides Metro Program

The Human Services Chamber of Hamilton County (we are an active member) championed the revival of this Everybody Rides Metro program which had been inactive since 2017. This program enables us to be reimbursed for half of the face value of Metro bus passes which are extended to neighbors for specific transportation use. We are happy to share this resource with the neighbors you serve. **If you are serving a neighbor who needs bus tickets for employment, medical services, and social services including food assistance, please encourage them to call our general help line, 513.421.0602.**

As a reminder, all Hamilton County residents are eligible for short-term assistance with this need through our Neyer Outreach Center, subject to our qualification policies. Our team members will handle the documentation requirements for assistance we extend.

Call to Prayer

**Jesus, as we go together on home visits,
walk with us.
Teach us to do what is right and just,
and to speak the truth with courage.
Teach us to embrace the stranger,
and to recognize the face of Christ.
Teach us to serve the poor with love,
and to treasure each other in our Conference.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

