



Conference News and Notes for Friday, July 2, 2021

Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, July 4, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 6: 1-6) Jesus went to his own part of the country followed by his disciples. When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue in a way that kept his audience amazed. They said: "Where did he get all this? What kind of wisdom is he endowed with? How is it that such miraculous deeds are accomplished by his hands? Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary, a brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon. Aren't his sisters our neighbors here?" They found him too much for them. Jesus' response to all this was: "*No prophet is without honor except in his native place, among his own kindred, and in his own house.*" He could work no miracle there, apart from curing a few who were sick by laying hands on them, so much did their lack of faith distress him. He made the rounds of the neighboring villages instead, and spent his time teaching.

Reflection: "Where did this man get all this?" They saw but they didn't believe. The challenge of this gospel is to look beyond our own knowledge of others preconditioned by what we think we know about them and listen to them, allow them to teach us about God and how to be faith-filled disciples. God does not very often visit us in the unusual and spectacular, hitting us over the head so that we don't miss God's message of salvation. Most often God visits us in the ordinary circumstances of our own lives through ordinary people we meet who are faithful as Jesus was to their own mission to make known the gospel. It is too easy to dismiss the events of this gospel reading as past history. After all, we like to think, if we had been there and seen those mighty deeds, we would have believed. Really? (*Living Liturgy*, p.168)

Vincentian Meditation: Had we but eyes of faith, we would see that each day we are being surprised by joy. We have come to take so much that is good in life for granted. Is not your call to serve the poor a surprise, seeing that so many others are so imprisoned in themselves that their hearts remain untouched by the sufferings of the poor whom you are serving? Your unselfish service of the poor is for the poor themselves a surprise. (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 378)

How has God visited you in the ordinary circumstances of your life?

Please Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Join Us for an Upcoming Vincentian Gathering or Workshop!!

The 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](#)

PLEASE NOTE that the locations are still pending for some events. If you would like to host a group of Vincentians for a workshop or large gathering -- and your parish is

welcoming outside groups to your facility -- please contact us! We would love to work with you!

Home Visit Workshop Sign Up Now Open!

This workshop will take place on **Saturday, July 17th, from 9:00 am until noon**. Whether you are new to making Home Visits, or would like a refresher as you resume visiting neighbors in their homes, this workshop provides an opportunity to refine the art of prayer, connection, and person-to-person service.

To register for the Home Visit Workshop, please contact Kelly Albainy-Crosby directly at 513.345.1767 or kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org or [SIGN UP BY CLICKING HERE](#)

Volunteer Opportunities NOC-ing as Re-open Arrives this Week!



Our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) re-opens to our neighbors and many more volunteers this Thursday, 7/8/2021. We welcomed many interested Vincentians and other volunteers to our Volunteer Fair on Wednesday evening, 6/30/2021, as anticipation builds. 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 Please Mark your Calendar

Nurturing friendship and reconnecting Vincentians from throughout our Council's Hamilton County footprint will be our emphasis. Summertime - 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 four 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:

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.

Register at:

Monday, 7/12/21: 5pm - 7pm <https://forms.gle/dJdGrRtjLZg5iBFr9>

Saturday, 7/24/21: 10am - noon <https://forms.gle/DCNJGzEGD6kb3qy26>

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.

Register at:

Friday, 7/16/21: noon - 2pm <https://forms.gle/GJbipux8R8goK5qJ7>

Tuesday, 7/20/21: 5pm - 7pm <https://forms.gle/LDpzJpQLuBGrLhbr8>

Our Resource Spotlight #4 to Feature Our Charitable Pharmacy

Rusty Curington, Director of our Charitable Pharmacy, will lead a lively Zoom session Mon, 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.

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.

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: 110 have been approved thus far; 7 were determined to be ineligible; 1 was withdrawn; 16 are still in process as of mid-afternoon, Thurs, 7/1/2021. 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 will have to **limit the number of July bed requests to two beds per Conference. These requests should be submitted by the end of the day this Monday, July 5.** Depending on how many requests we receive, we may not be able to fulfill all requests, so please make sure you reiterate to neighbors that you are submitting a bed *request* and there is no guarantee we will be able to provide them a voucher. 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. 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, 7/1/2021, **we have distributed 508 ACs and 705 fans.** This is already a record year for our total of heat relief assistance extended.

Neighbors interested in receiving a fan can simply call 513.562.8850 *on the day that they plan to pick up their fan at our NOC.* 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. We do anticipate ordering additional AC units, but please be aware that all new AC requests are now being added to a waiting list. 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 & 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.



Happy and Safe 4th to All!

May God continue to bless us with liberty and freedom, unite us in valuing both our commonalities and our uniqueness, and guide us in how we honor His unconditional love as we seek Him with those around us.

Reminder: Our Neyer Outreach Center and Liz Carter Center are closed on Monday, 7/5, in observance of the holiday.

Call to Prayer

**Jesus, give us the grace to find you in the ordinary circumstances of life,
as we learn to trust in you.**

**Teach us to find all the ways that you surprise us by joy,
as we learn to have faith in you.**

**Teach us to be grateful for being called to serve the poor,
as we learn to love unselfishly with you.**

Amen.

STAY CONNECTED

