



Conference News and Notes for Friday, June 11, 2021

Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, June 13, 2021

Gospel: (Mark 4: 26-34) Jesus said to the crowd: This is how it is with the reign of God. A man scatters seed on the ground. He goes to bed and gets up day after day. Through it all the seed sprouts and grows without his knowing how it happens. The soil produces of itself first the blade, then the ear. When the crop is ready he 'wields the sickle, for the time is ripe for harvest."

Reflection: Have you ever noticed how many parables of Our Lord center on the image of the growth of small seeds? These parables underline for us the need of patience. These parables of growth underline for us the point that we should not look for immediate results and that harvests do not ripen quickly. In this age of instant results, it is difficult for us to be patient with the slow growth of our work. We must live with the conviction that it is one person who sows and another who reaps. Be content to think of yourself as a person who sows. If we, by the grace of God, gladly do some careful sowing now, God will give the increase in his good time. (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 70-71)

Vincentian Meditation: St. Vincent de Paul was a great inspiration to Frederic Ozanam in his life, work and writings. For Vincent, however, and for Frederic, it was the charity of Christ which pressed them on to do what they did for the poor of their time. It is a mystery how God could love mankind, disfigured by sin and infidelity. Likewise, it is a mystery of God that you, as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, are able to love people who are often so unattractive in their poverty. As you work for and visit the poor, take heart from the thought that you are reflecting into this dark world the light and love of God. St. Vincent told us: "I should not consider a poor peasant or a poor woman according to their exterior, nor according to what seems to be the extent of their intelligence; for often they do not seem to have either the face or the mind of reasonable persons, so gross and earthly are they. But turn the medal and you will see by the light of faith that the Son of God, who wished to be poor, is represented to us by these poor..." (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p. 68-69)

**How have you learned to "turn the medal" to find the face of Christ in the poor?
How do you aspire to be with our neighbors as we emerge from the extent of our
COVID precautions?**

June Ozanam Orientations...with more to come!

Ozanam Orientation is the standardized national orientation designed to get new Vincentians started on the right foot, and to help veteran Vincentians reacquaint themselves with the Society.

Ozanam Orientation is offered twice this month – once in person, and once virtually (via Zoom). Here are the dates and times:

IN-PERSON ORIENTATION:
Saturday, June 12th

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Neyer Outreach Center (1146 Bank Street)

Lunch will be provided

Registration for this session is filled to capacity!

VIRTUAL (Zoom) ORIENTATION:

Part 1: Tuesday, June 22nd, 6:30-8:00 PM

Part 2: Thursday, June 24th, 6:30-8:00 PM

Part 3: Tuesday, June 29th, 6:30-7:45

(All three sessions are required to complete the orientation)

Registration has closed; healthy participation anticipated!

Your enthusiastic response to these first 2 offerings has been uplifting!

Additional Ozanam Orientations are scheduled for **September and October**, so there will be more opportunities for you to join us later in the year.

Watch for complementary Formation offerings as we host more 2021 workshops, retreats and events.

You can reach Kelly Albainy-Crosby, our Conferences Formation Coordinator, at kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org, or 513.345.1767.

Our Resource Spotlight Sessions

Our third session was this past Monday, 6/7, and featured Brandy Scott-Herrmann of Hamilton County Job & Family Services (JFS). Brandy shared good info on the ongoing and under-utilized Prevention, Retention & Contingency (PRC) Program; the extensively funded CARES Program to aid neighbors impacted by the COVID pandemic; and other resources administered by JFS. Participants posed questions from a Vincentian perspective and Brandy responded. You can find links to recordings of this and previous Resource Spotlight sessions, as posted to YouTube, on the Members page of our Council's website:

https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/member-support-forms/resource_spotlight/

We greatly appreciate the feedback you have been providing on this new forum to add tools to your Vincentian toolbox. Please keep sharing...and watch for announcement of our next Resource Spotlight session, targeted for July. **We would love to have each of our Conferences participate. Please join us!**

Exciting NOC News

The much-anticipated word is out: Our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) will reopen to our neighbors for a broad range of in-person engagement and services on Thursday, 7/8/2021. We are looking forward to welcoming back both our neighbors and volunteers. **You are invited for good reason - Your gifts are needed in a variety of volunteer roles!** If you have the time and desire to serve here, we are eager to get you involved. Want to learn more? Please contact Volunteer Manager Alec Jewell at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.8841, ext 211.

Welcome to these Summer Interns



We'd like to give some recognition to our summer interns, Mercy and Christine, and help you connect smiling faces with names.

Mercy Torres (left) joins our Ozanam Center team as our Summer Service Intern (SSI). She is helping to support our summer retreat schedule, which kicked off with our first group onsite this week! Mercy is a rising junior at Xavier University studying Social Work and minoring in Gender & Diversity Studies and Peace & Justice Studies.

Christine Deckard (right) is working within our Outreach Services team to support our Fans & Air Conditioners Distributions. You may have already collaborated with her as we are well on our way to distributing a record number of AC units this year! Christine studies English Literature at Mount St. Joseph University and Criminal Justice at Eastern Gateway Community College.

You can reach Mercy at Ozanam@svdpcincinnati.org and Christine at summerrelief@svdpcincinnati.org.

Thank you, Christine and Mercy! We appreciate your work and the time you are sharing with us this summer.

Working Better Together

We've created this workforce development initiative by integrating lessons learned in our *Getting Ahead* and *Upward to Work* systemic change programs. Selected participants engage in empowering workshops while actively employed in our Thrift Stores. Our goal is to attract, hire, develop, and retain new thrift stores employees who are motivated to achieve sustainable lift for themselves and those around them. Cohort #1 began this past Monday, 6/7, in our Western Hills Thrift Store. We look forward to future cohorts throughout our network of thrift stores.

Our thrift stores are actively hiring. Employment applications are always accepted online at <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>.

Annual Conference Presidents Meeting Saturday, 6/19/2021, 9am - noon

We'll gather in the Undercroft of St Mary Church in Hyde Park. Invitations were sent; we're eager for replies if you have not already done so...and can't wait to bring together these leaders from each of our 56 adult Conferences. The agenda and other advance materials will be forwarded shortly.

Free Estate Planning Zoom Sessions

Our SVDP Council is thrilled to be partnering with Niehaus Law, LLC, to offer two *free* virtual sessions (hosted over Zoom) in the coming weeks. Fellow Vincentian Anne Niehaus will lead these conversations that will provide you the opportunity to learn about the basics of estate planning, ask a professional the questions you have, and help you feel better

prepared for your future.

SVDP invites you to join at 5pm on either this Thursday, June 17, or the following Tuesday, June 22, for an engaging one hour discussion. Topics include wills and trusts, gifts to charities like St. Vincent de Paul, taxation, power of attorney, and more. There will also be plenty of time for you to ask your specific questions.

Register today at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3yIDtTL> . We look forward to seeing you there!



Niehaus Law Office, LLC, to be honored at 2021 Voices of Giving Awards

Niehaus Law Office, LLC, has been selected to receive a 2021 Voices of Giving award for its exemplary service to clients seeking to leave gifts to charities such as St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) through their wills and trusts! Voices of Giving is an annual event that recognizes individuals who have remembered local nonprofits in their long-term plans as well as estate planners—such as Niehaus Law Office—who help make these planned gifts possible. The awards ceremony will occur virtually this year on Wednesday, 6/23/2021, at 7pm. [We invite you to attend this virtual event by registering here and hope you will join us to celebrate Niehaus Law Office!](#)

Two of the four attorneys at Niehaus Law Office—father and daughter, Fran and Anne Niehaus—have been Vincentians in our Bellarmine Conference for many years. They continue to support SVDP and neighbors in need in countless ways.

Thank you to Anne, Fran, and everyone at Niehaus Law Office for your integral service to our community and for care for neighbors in need. Please join us in congratulating Niehaus Law Office on this well-deserved 2021 Voices of Giving award!

If you are interested in learning more about gifts through will and trusts or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Senior Development Manager, Daniel Flynn, at 513.345.4994 or dflynn@svdpcincinnati.org .

Pantry Manager Employment Opportunity

We are currently in search of a new Food Pantry Manager to lead food assistance programs at the Neyer Outreach Center (NOC), including supporting our Conference Pantry Network. You can find the full job description [here](#). If you or someone you know would be a good fit for this full-time servant leadership role offering tremendous fulfillment, please send your resume, cover letter, and compensation expectations to Erin Nowak at enowak@svdpcincinnati.org .

Cincinnati Archdiocese Celebrating Bicentennial Anniversary with Marian Pilgrimage

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has kicked off a 33-day pilgrimage ahead of its 200th anniversary on June 19th. Pilgrims are walking 300 miles across the Archdiocese with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and will be making stops at 36 parishes along the way. St. Vincent de Paul is sponsoring several of these stops which are now imminent: St. Gertrude (6/12), St. Cecilia (6/13), St. Ignatius (6/15), Our Lady of Lourdes (6/16), and St. Monica-St. George (6/17). For more information about the procession and events along the way, you can visit www.mary2021.com.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund ("CAF")

We received 129 CAF applications in May and extended \$49,928 in assistance. This is up from April when you submitted 100 applications and we extended \$44,999 in assistance. You are off to a fast start in June as well, submitting 50 applications in the first 7 business days.

Please be patient as Hannah & Margaret are diligently responding to these and other Conference support needs, including preparation for our Annual Conference Presidents Meeting.

Rahe Beds Fund & Program

Thank you all for your understanding as we continue to navigate the supply chain issues with our bed supplier. We are happy to report that we were able to fulfill all Conference bed requests that were made this month. We'll update you on how many beds each Conference will be able to request for July towards the end of this month. As a reminder, we always receive more requests for full beds than twin beds, so please only request full beds for neighbors who **absolutely need them** (i.e. – multiple people will be sleeping in the bed).

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

Publicly Funded Resources Available through SVDP Social Services - Process Update

Our Social Services team continues to administer the City of Cincinnati's Eviction Prevention Initiative (EPI) for qualifying residents of the city as well as Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) for qualifying Hamilton County residents.

Guidance from our Social Services team:

To access an SVDP Social Services program, please coach neighbors to call the SVDP Help Line, **513.421.0602**. After they leave a message, a staff member or volunteer will return their call. This call back begins the process of assessing eligibility. Assistance will be extended if eligibility criteria are met and if funds are available.

To check on EPI or TANF cases when a neighbor has not been able to connect with our staff or when a case seems to have been delayed, and if you have a question, please follow the process below:

- Email Mary Reid at mreid@svdpcincinnati.org. Please be as thorough as you can in your email, including the neighbor's name, address including ZIP, their need, and which program they have applied for
- Please cc Margaret Rahn on your email
- Mary will check the status of the case and will email you within 48 hours, cc'ing Margaret Rahn

Watch for more details about these assistance programs and how we administer these resources most productively and impactfully.

Fans & Air Conditioners Distributions

Heat and humidity, Cincinnati style, has arrived in front of the Summer Solstice - Sunday evening, 6/20/2021.

We were ready. Our Fan & AC distributions began Monday, 5/3/2021, at the Neyer Outreach Center. Neighbors interested in receiving a fan can simply call 513-562-8850 *on*

the day that they plan to pick up their fan. 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. Complete details on the program were sent out to Conference Presidents in April.

Through Wednesday, 6/9/2021, we have distributed 332 ACs and 498 fans.

Christine Deckard, our Mount St Joseph University student immersed in 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 will operate **by appointment only** 9am - 2pm on alternate Thursdays; our next operating date is this Thursday, 6/17. 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.

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, be with us as we help the poor,
teach us how to be patient.**

**Jesus, be with us as we sow seeds of our works,
teach us how to trust in you.**

**Jesus, be with us in our service to our suffering brothers and sisters,
teach us to "turn the medal" to find you in the poor.**

Amen.

STAY CONNECTED

