



Conference News and Notes for Friday, May 28, 2021

Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Sunday, May 30, 2021

Gospel: (Matthew 28: 16-20) The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “*All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.*”

Reflection: St. Vincent de Paul urged his followers to worship and to imitate the Trinity, and to live a life in which all are one, as Jesus is one with the Father and the Spirit. He wanted his followers to have in themselves the image of the Trinity, to share a sacred relation to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. St. Vincent wanted us to be together as having but one heart and soul so that through this union of spirit we would be a true image of the unity of God. He prayed to the Holy Spirit, who is the union of the Father and Son, that he would likewise be ours, giving profound peace in the midst of contradictions and difficulties. (Maloney, *The Way of Vincent de Paul*, p.34)

Vincentian Meditation: In the Manual of the Society we read: Conferences meet regularly and frequently, as a celebration of mutual friendship and out of a passion to serve the Lord. Unlike other organizations within and without the Church, the Conference meets less to conduct business than *to celebrate and deepen its unity* for essentially spiritual reasons. It is in the Conference meetings that members can experience Christ's presence in each other and the workings of the Holy Spirit. In a sense, these gatherings become a living, vivid witness of God's healing presence among us. These *unity-building* occasions constitute opportunities for personal renewal and for rededication to service of the needy and suffering. (*US Manual*, P.95-96)

**Do we model the unity of the Trinity, “being of one mind and one heart”,
in our Conferences?**

Ozanam Orientations Return in June

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. Wherever you are in your Vincentian journey, please consider joining us for one of the upcoming sessions in June!

Ozanam Orientation will be offered twice in the month of June – once in person, and once virtually (via Zoom). Please feel free to attend in the manner that is most comfortable for you. Here are the dates and times:

IN-PERSON ORIENTATION:

Saturday, June 12th

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

Lunch will be provided

TO REGISTER FOR THIS IN-PERSON ORIENTATION:

Please e-mail or call Kelly Albainy-Crosby, Formation Coordinator

kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org; 513.345.1767, or

[SIGN UP BY CLICKING HERE](#)

(this registration closes Monday, June 7th)

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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)

TO REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL ORIENTATION:

Please e-mail or call Kelly Albainy-Crosby, Formation Coordinator

kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org; 513.345.1767, or

[SIGN UP BY CLICKING HERE](#)

(this registration closes Thursday, June 10th)

PLEASE NOTE: Additional Ozanam Orientations are scheduled for **September and October**, so if the month of June does not work with your schedule, there will be more opportunities for you to join us later in the year!

Opportunity "NOCs" as We Prepare to Reopen

As we begin to plan for the resumption of in-person services inside our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) on Bank Street, we are looking forward to welcoming back both our neighbors and volunteers. God always sends workers to the harvest just when they're needed, and so we know as our services open up volunteer support will not be far behind. Trusting in providence we therefore extend to you, our faithful Vincentians, an invitation to join us and further your vocation in volunteering with us at the NOC. Your gifts are needed! If you have the time and desire to serve here, we would be exceptionally grateful for your help with the services neighbors receive at the NOC. We have a variety of opportunities available, including assisting in our food pantry, meeting with neighbors in a Welcome Room, taking calls on our Help Line, and more. If you would like to learn more, please contact Volunteer Manager Alec Jewell at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.8841, ext 211.

We will be sharing more news about our plans for reopening and about specific volunteer opportunities very soon, so please look for a message about that in the coming days. Thank you!



Please Welcome John Wessel, our Resource Analyst

John has extensive experience in the corporate IT environment - developing & deploying software, supporting organizations, and empowering those organizations with data. As our search progressed, John demonstrated a tangible passion for sharing his expertise in our faith-based setting.

On the personal side, John is:

- Married for 37 years to wife Cheryl (also involved in charitable community service)
- Blessed with 2 daughters, both married and living in the greater Cincinnati area
- A graduate of Elder High School & Thomas More College
- Well-travelled from his corporate employment days...and proud of his lifetime Cincinnati area roots

John started Wednesday, is eagerly digging into his orientation, and is looking forward to **helping us - this includes you - leverage data to better serve our neighbors & community**. His office is on the NOC 2nd floor with fellow Conferences Support & Special Projects team members. He can be reached at jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org , or 513.562.1823.

Our Resource Spotlight Sessions

We hosted our second Resource Spotlight via Zoom this past Monday, 5/24, featuring our SVDP Social Services Team. Thanks to Sunnie, Mary, Adriana, LaMonica, & Patrick. You can access a recording of the presentation with questions and answers at your convenience at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcVudTFqpuY> .

We will host our third Resource Spotlight on Monday, 6/7/2021, 11-noon, featuring Brandy Scott-Herrmann of Hamilton County Job & Family Services (JFS). The deeply-funded Prevention, Retention & Contingency (PRC) Program is one of the resources JFS administers which can assist eligible Hamilton County residents.

To join this Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/97645208161?pwd=ck5NNTd6M0x6SUh4NUplbVpPNE04dz09>

Meeting ID: 976 4520 8161

Passcode: 464016

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

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

SVDP Mideast Region Virtual Meeting - You're Invited

The Mideast Region of our National Council is comprised of 4 states: KY, IN, OH, & MI (clearly not listed in order of magnitude). Each year our region hosts a meeting for its members; this year's will be Friday & Saturday, 6/4&5/2021. Participation is free; you can pick & choose which offerings you access (you do not have to participate fully either or both days); and this virtual format offers the opportunity to engage in the comfort of your own home. You can find more information about the agenda and register to participate at <https://meetingsvdpusa.regfox.com/2021-virtual-mideast-regional-meeting> .

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores Hiring Fair

Our Thrift Stores team hosted a fruitful Hiring Fair this past Wednesday, May 26, at our Western Hills Thrift Store, located at 3015 Glenhills Way. We attracted and engaged over 40 candidates! This Hiring Fair advances *Working Better Together*, our workforce development initiative.

Employment applications are always accepted online at

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/> .

Emergency Broadband Benefit Available

Effective 5/12/2021, eligible Hamilton County residents can now enroll to receive a monthly discount off the cost of broadband service from an approved provider. The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a **discount of up to \$50 per month** towards broadband service for eligible households. Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting <https://getemergencybroadband.org>.

Per the FCC's website, <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>, the following are eligibility requirements (if a member of household meets one of the criteria):

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or [Lifeline](#);
- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019/2020 or 2020/2021 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

Annual Conference Presidents Meeting

Conference Presidents, please reserve on your calendar:

Saturday, 6/19/2021, 9am - noon.

Our plan, after listening to your input during our latest round of Conferences Networks meetings, is to assemble **in-person in the undercroft of St Mary Hyde Park**.

We will continue to monitor the (currently encouraging) COVID progression.

More info, including invitations, agenda, and supporting materials, to come.

Thanks!

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 including: 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

Rahe Beds Fund & Program

We have recently learned that our beds vendor/distributor is again facing significant supply chain issues that are affecting their ability to deliver beds to us. For this reason,

we will have to limit the number of June bed requests to two beds per Conference.

These requests should be submitted for review by Monday, June 7. 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. Because we can't control when bed deliveries arrive to Stores, it's also possible that we may not be able to fulfill a previously issued bed voucher. This has not yet been an issue, but the possibility exists that it will happen. If a neighbor is unable to redeem their voucher due to lack of inventory, we will extend the expiration date on the voucher. One other note – we have many more twin than full beds

available, 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.

Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation Vision Clinic in our Neyer Outreach Center

Great news! This extremely popular resource for our neighbors has successfully returned after a COVID-responsive hiatus. The Vision Clinic re-opened in March and will operate **by appointment only** 9am - 2pm on alternate Thursdays; our June operating dates are **this Thursday, 6/3, & 6/17**. To schedule an appointment, or to inquire for additional info, please call 513.207.6140.

Conference Assistance Fund ("CAF")

We received 100 CAF applications and extended \$44,999 in CAF assistance in April. Through yesterday morning (Thurs, 5/27), we had received 123 CAF applications in May...with 95 of these already approved. The pace of your submissions is accelerating since the early April lull.

Hannah & Margaret greatly appreciate the efforts invested by our Vincentians to submit complete, descriptive, and accurate CAF applications. And many thanks to our Finance team for expediting the disbursement of approved assistance.

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

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 midday Thursday, 5/27/2021, we have distributed 202 ACs and 343 fans.

We are keeping our Mount St Joseph University student Christine Deckard quite busy...and hopefully our neighbors more cool & comfortable. Christine can be reached at 513.562.8841, ext 766, or via email at summerrelief@svdpcincinnati.org.

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.

Among prominent providers, Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS or JFS) is administering funds for Hamilton County and Community Action Agency (CAA) is administering for the City of Cincinnati.

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.



Enjoy a Blessed Memorial Day!

We remember and give thanks for those heroes who sacrificed so much for our liberty, including the freedom to practice our chosen faith.

Call to Prayer

**O Holy Trinity, truly you are a God of Unity,
give us one heart and one soul.
Truly you are a God of mystery,
give us hearts filled with reverence for You.
Truly you are a God of majesty,
give us hearts filled with humility and love.
Truly you are a God of creative power,
give us hearts filled with gratitude.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

