



## Conference News and Notes for Friday, May 21, 2021

Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

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### *Vincentian Reflection for Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021*

**Gospel: (John 15: 26-27; 16:12-15)** Jesus said to his disciples: *“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify because you have been with me from the beginning. I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.”*

**Reflection:** Jesus tells us that he is sending the Spirit to us. The Spirit is the Word speaking to us in a most profound way because he dwells with us and guides us to all truth. This Spirit is all we need, provided we allow the Spirit to speak through us and not turn God’s word into *our* word. Openness to the Spirit within is our guarantee that what we speak as disciples is spoken in Jesus’ name. This Pentecost commemoration isn’t simply recalling a past event but celebrating what God is doing with us now. In baptism each of us received the Spirit; that was our Pentecost. The Spirit dwells within us so we can be faithful and true disciples. The indwelling of the Spirit is a continual Pentecost! (*Living Liturgy*, p.144)

**Vincentian Meditation:** While at times one can hear the Spirit speak even in a noisy crowd, it is often only in silence that one hears the deepest voice, that one plumbs the depth of meaning. It is only when what is heard is pondered, that its full meaning is revealed. The quest for truth, therefore, involves prayerfulness and reflectiveness. Jesus turned to his Father again and again in prayer to listen to him and to seek his will. Prayer is then surely one of the privileged ways of listening. But it must always be validated by life. One who listens to “what the Spirit is telling me” in prayer, but who pays little heed to what others are saying in daily life is surely suspect. Prayer must be in contact with people and events, since God speaks not only in the silence of our hearts, but also (and often first of all) in the people around us. (Maloney, *The Way of Vincent de Paul*, p.24)

**How have you listened to the Holy Spirit through people and events?**

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### *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 12<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Lunch will be provided**

**TO REGISTER FOR IN-PERSON ORIENTATION:**

Please e-mail or call Kelly Albainy-Crosby, Formation Coordinator  
[kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org); 513.345.1767, or  
[SIGN UP BY CLICKING HERE](#)

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**VIRTUAL (Zoom) ORIENTATION:**

Part 1: Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30-8:00 PM

Part 2: Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 PM

Part 3: Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:kalbainy-crosby@svdpcincinnati.org); 513.345.1767), or  
[SIGN UP BY CLICKING HERE](#)

**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!

***Our Resource Spotlight Sessions***

We hosted our first Resource Spotlight via Zoom on Tuesday, 4/27, featuring New Life Furniture Bank (NLFB). You can access a recording of the presentation at your convenience at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui7EemEN6v4>.

**This kicked off a series of monthly Resource Spotlights** in which we expect to deepen our awareness of available tools to better engage and serve our neighbors.

**Our next Resource Spotlight via Zoom is this Monday, 5/24/2021, 1-2pm, and will feature our Council's Social Services team** addressing the range of engagement, assistance, and resources they extend. Link to this Zoom meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98797991809?pwd=NnBMaW5iRWFvdENLYUtRaWpVM09kdz09>

Meeting ID: 987 9799 1809

Passcode: 179221

And just a little further down the road, we will host another Resource Spotlight on Monday, 6/7/2021, 11-noon, featuring Hamilton County Job & Family Services (JFS). More info to come.

**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.

***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>.



### ***Hannah Broermann, our fantastic Conferences Support VVC***

We've appreciated Hannah's handiwork in enhancing Conference Assistance Fund (CAF) processing efficiency and communications; now, finally, a chance to get to know Hannah a little better...and to connect her smile with her good works.

- Hailing from Okeana, OH (about 1 hour west of Cincinnati), Hannah has 2 siblings: sister Emma, a student and basketball player @ the University of North Florida; and brother Alex, a rising senior student @ Badin High School.
- 2020 graduate of Mount St. Joseph University, Educational Studies major.
- Played varsity tennis for "The Mount" - first on the women's team, then for both the women's & men's teams!
- Enjoyed her 2019 MSJU summer internship with us @ SVDP (Ozanam Center/Food Pantry/Social Services) so much that she was irresistibly drawn to this VVC year of service experience.
- A favorite quote: "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile." Mother Teresa

Such a natural fit in our Society - a kind smile, a passion for positive impact, and a Vincentian heart!

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### ***St. Vincent de Paul Hiring Fair***

Our Thrift Stores team will be hosting a Hiring Fair from 10am to 4pm on Wednesday, May 26 at our Western Hills Thrift Store, located at 3015 Glenhills Way. The Hiring Fair is an initiative of our *Working Better Together* workforce development program. Please help spread the word with anyone who may be looking for full-time or part-time employment. Applications are always accepted online at <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>.

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### ***Opportunity - Ozanam Center Program Coordinator***

Our Ozanam Center for Service Learning is hiring for a Program Coordinator, a full-time Tuesday through Saturday position. The Ozanam Center Program Coordinator is responsible for supporting the development and implementation of programming for the Ozanam Center for Service Learning and overseeing the works and development of Youth Conferences. Work weeks will vary seasonally and will include night/weekend work. Resumes and cover letters can be sent to Mo Kelly at [MKelly@SVDPCincinnati.org](mailto:MKelly@SVDPCincinnati.org). Visit <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/> to view the job posting.

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## ***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.

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## ***Annual Conference Presidents Meeting***

Conference Presidents, please reserve on your calendar:

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

Our intent, after listening to your input during our just-completed 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 in the weeks ahead.

Thanks!

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## ***Cincinnati Archdiocese Celebrating Bicentennial Anniversary with Marian Pilgrimage***

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has kicked off a 33-day pilgrimage ahead of its 200<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mary2021.com).

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## ***More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors***

### **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 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, 5/20), we had received 84 CAF applications in May...with 66 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, and 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. Please do not give false hope as there is no guarantee of assistance.

We have put a new process in place so that Vincentians can 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.

**We do encourage you to continue to first ask neighbors to call our staff themselves, as it is important for them to have ownership of this process;** however, if this has not been effective and if you have a question, please follow the process below:

- Email Mary Reid at [mreid@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto: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](http://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 on 4/20/2021.

Through early Thursday, 5/20/2021, we have distributed 211 fans; we have received over 200 eligible AC applications; and we have distributed 137 ACs.

Mount St Joseph University student Christine Deckard arrived Monday, 5/17. Christine is with us to help administer our Fans & ACs Distributions. She can be reached at 513.562.8841, ext 766 (revised since last week), or via email at [summerrelief@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:summerrelief@svdpcincinnati.org).

### **Rahe Beds Fund & Program**

We extended vouchers for **168 beds in March & 155 in April**. We aspire to extend our **full monthly target of 180 beds in May**. Each Conference may initially submit up to 5 bed requests each month. Initial May requests were reviewed on Wednesday, 5/5/2021. When the initial requests do not fully extend out target (as has been the case in March, April, and now in May), we reach back out to those Conferences who submitted their full 5 requests to complete the target of 180 beds. These follow-up contacts began this past week. As a result, 134 of the 180 bed vouchers have been committed.

**The message here: we want to distribute 180 Rahe beds each month.**

Our vendor is again reporting COVID-related supply chain and production challenges. We are actively monitoring our Rahe beds supply to make sure we have coverage (through redemption or expiration) for any/all Rahe beds vouchers we extend. Please stay tuned to these weekly updates.

As a reminder, please be sure you are submitting accurate, complete mailing addresses for each neighbor (including apartment numbers and zip codes), as vouchers are sent via traditional mail.

Please contact [rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org) if you have any questions about our program and process.

### **Hamilton County CARES Act Assistance**

As you are undoubtedly aware, the latest wave of federally-funded COVID assistance extends well beyond stimulus checks. If you encounter a neighbor who has experienced financial hardship due to COVID, please refer them to <https://513relief.org/housing-utility-relief/>. There is an array of resources available through this website.

Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS or JFS) is administering stimulus 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.

### **CDC COVID-19 Eviction Moratorium**

While the CDC did extend the eviction moratorium to 6/30/2021, the Hamilton County Municipal Court, following a 6th District Court ruling, decided that the CDC moratorium on evictions for failure to pay rent no longer applies in our county. The net result is that, at least for now, the CDC eviction moratorium does not protect Hamilton County tenants who are delinquent on rent obligations. You can share the following resources with impacted neighbors facing issues with their landlord and possible eviction:

- The Hamilton County website [513Relief.org](https://513Relief.org) [Delivers COVID-19 Relief Options - Hamilton County \(hamiltoncountyohio.gov\)](https://513Relief.org)
- the Municipal Court Legal Help Center [Help Center for Hamilton County Municipal Court \(cincyhelpcenter.org\)](https://www.cincyhelpcenter.org)
- Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) 513.721.4663

You may also find more info at this State of Ohio site link:

<https://www.ohiolegalhelp.org/topic/covid-19-renter-protections>

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### *Call to Prayer*

**Seeking the grace of the Holy Spirit, we pray,**

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

**That the winds of Pentecost may move us to deeds of peace and justice,**

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

**That the fire of Pentecost may breathe new hope into the hopeless,**

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

**That we may listen in the silence of our heart to people and events,**

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED

