



Conference News and Notes  
for Wednesday, April 26, 2023  
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

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*Vincentian Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
*April 30, 2023*

**Gospel: (John 10: 1-10)** Jesus said: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice.”...”Amen, amen I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep... whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come and go out and find pasture. I came so that they may have life and have it more abundantly.”

**Reflection:** Jesus is the gate, the only entrance to the fold. The image of the gate directs our attention to Jesus the Risen One who always recognizes us and cares for us, to Jesus our Shepherd. This is where resurrection faith leads us so “that we might have life and have it more abundantly.” Christ is truly here for us, calls us by name and leads us to life. (*Living Liturgy*, p.130)

**Vincentian Meditation:** “Surely, the great secret of the spiritual life is to abandon all we love to Him by abandoning ourselves to all God wishes in perfect confidence that all will be for the best...He will take the place of father and mother for you. He will be your consolation, your virtue, and in the end the recompense of your love.” St. Vincent de Paul (*McKenna, Praying with Vincent*, p.30)

**When have we “abandoned ourselves to God in perfect confidence”, and found that Jesus is truly our Shepherd?  
In what matters could we do so today?**

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*The Feast of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla is this Friday, April 28*

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla was born in Italy on October 4, 1922, the tenth of thirteen children. In March 1950 she obtained her degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Pavia, the same school where Blessed Frederic Ozanam’s father had obtained his degree in medicine. It was during medical school that Gianna became an active member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Gianna made a pilgrimage to

Loures seeking discernment in her vocation. Upon her return, she fell in love with Pietro Molla, and taking this as an answer to her prayers they were married on September 24, 1955. Gianna opened a clinic along with her brother Ferdinando, also a physician. The clinic was located in a small town of two thousand people, and she was especially generous to the poor sick, providing medicine and money for those in need. Gianna and Pietro had three children. Each pregnancy was a risk because of her fragile health. After a number of miscarriages, Gianna became pregnant with her fourth child. Toward the end of the second month she began to experience pain, and a fibrous tumor in the ovary was diagnosed. As a doctor, she knew the risk she was running. She kept her suffering to herself. On the way to the hospital on April 20, 1962, Gianna told her husband Pietro: "If they should ask which of the two lives they should save, do not hesitate...first, the life of the child." On April 21 she delivered a baby girl, but septic peritonitis set in, and she died on April 29, 1962. Gianna was canonized by Pope John Paul II on May 16, 2004, in the presence of her husband and four children. Saint Gianna has been called a "mother-martyr for the love of God and in obedience to his commandment..." Gianna was a true Vincentian! (*Manual*, p.87-88)

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### ***Your Formation and Training Opportunities & Tips - Plus Events!***

**Best Practices for Home Visits** – The Home Visit is at the core of our Society and can often feel uncomfortable at first. We invite you to join with fellow Vincentians to discover more of the best practices for taking part in a fruitful and safe Home Visit with our neighbors and accompanying them on their journey with us whether that is how to better understand a neighbor's need, ways to safe during a visit, praying for/with them, following up, and much more. This workshop will take place at **St. Vivian Parish** in Ursuline Hall (828 Finney Trail, Cincinnati, 45224) **on Monday, May 22, 6 - 8pm**. **To register, please sign up using this [link](#) or reach out to Chris Kelley directly.**

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**Signup Today! Patronal Feast Day Mass – Tuesday, May 9, at noon, in our Neyer Outreach Center Chapel** will be one of our Patronal Feast Day Masses honoring the life and legacy of **St. Louise de Marillac**, a woman of such deep faith and organization that she is known to be one of the patronesses of the Society and founder of the Daughters of Charity with St. Vincent de Paul! We invite you to signup and **join with us in prayer and thanksgiving here in our NOC** whether you are a Vincentian, staff, or a volunteer! To register in advance and ensure we have enough space in our chapel with the limited seating, we ask you to **[please use this form \(linked here\)](#)** and look forward to seeing you!

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**Our Summer Social - Save the Date! - Thursday, June 15, 5:30-8pm, @ IHM** - Yes, our **Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference** (Beechmont Ave, eastside) will host...with an emphasis on friendship, food, & fun! Watch for more info in the weeks to come.

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**Reminder, Conference Presidents – Our Annual Conference Presidents Meeting is this Saturday, April 29, at St. Cecilia (Oakley), 9:30am - 1pm, following 9am Mass.** We are eager to have each of our Conferences represented.

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Chris Kelley, our Formation and Service Learning Director, can be reached at 513.345.1767 or [ckelley@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:ckelley@svdpcincinnati.org) .

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### ***Volunteer Appreciation Lunch - Good Time Shared by All***



Our staff team hosted a luncheon this past Saturday, 4/22, for our Neyer Outreach Center volunteers as part of National Volunteer Appreciation Month. It was a great opportunity to celebrate our (Social Services Welcome Rooms, Call Center, Welcome Desk, Charitable Pharmacy, Pantry & Processing Center, Home Visits, Conference Assistance Fund, and more) volunteers, many of whom are also Vincentians. Over 40 volunteers enjoyed chatting with fellow volunteers and staff, eating some Chipotle (muy bueno), and watching an appreciation video featuring thankful team members. Muchas gracias!

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### ***Our Fans & Air Conditioners Distribution Program***

**Our 2023 Fans & Air Conditioners Program will start this coming Monday, May 1.**

Full details can be found within the [Members Portal of the SVDP website](#) .

Fans will be distributed on a walk-up basis starting May 1 at our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC, 1146 Bank St, 45214), through our Welcome Rooms/Food Pantry. ACs will be distributed through a request/scheduled pick up process – the same as last year. The online request form will open on May 1. If you receive an AC inquiry before May 1, please have the neighbor visit the website <http://www.svdpcincinnati.org/AC> or come to our NOC once we've started accepting requests.

**Please note (and make sure your/our neighbors know) that households may receive either an AC or a fan, but not both.**

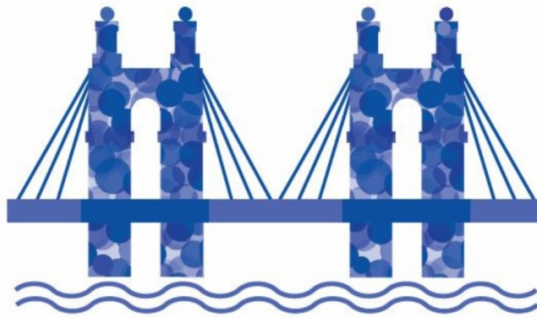
Neighbors selected to receive an AC will be informed they can pick up the AC unit @ our NOC.

Any questions and communication about fans & ACs should be directed to [summerrelief@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:summerrelief@svdpcincinnati.org) .

**Our NOC hours are Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm, & Saturday 8am - noon.**

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*a celebration*  
OF SERVICE  
Honoring Rob and Julia Heidt  
May 18, 2023



***A Celebration of Service is Less Than a Month Away!***

Secure your tickets now to join us at Anderson Pavilion on Thursday, May 18, to honor Rob and Julia Heidt for their dedication and service to St. Vincent de Paul. All proceeds from the night will support our Charitable Pharmacy.

The first 20 people to use the code COS2023Vincentian at checkout will receive \$20 off your ticket purchase. Tickets are available @ our website until Friday, May 5, or until capacity is reached.

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***Voice of the Poor Nugget***

The Speaker of the House of Representatives may bring a bill to the floor **this week** that will severely cut domestic programs in order to balance the budget. Many of these programs help the lowest-income households survive. The intent of the legislation is to cap funding at Fiscal Year 2022 levels, limit increases to 1% annually for 10 years, and rescind unspent COVID dollars. Marcia Fudge, Secretary of HUD, projects such cuts would eliminate Housing Choice Vouchers for 350,000 families and funding for 87,000 families who rely on project-based rental assistance, and provide many fewer services for homeless.

Fiscal responsibility is a duty we owe the generations who follow us...so are respect and compassion for those so deeply challenged in today's economic environment.

Homelessness - and the threat/fear of homelessness - are among the root causes of so many of the issues our society faces.

[Click here](#) to learn more about these cuts and/or to urge your Congressional representative to increase not cut resources for affordable housing and homelessness programs. Respond now because this bill may be brought to a vote this week.

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# NOW HIRING!

Are you passionate about caring for people in need?  
St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy is looking for a full-time  
Certified Pharmacy Technician.

- Competitive Pay, Benefits
- Weekday business hours
- Rx Filling, Project Management
- No controlled substances
- No insurance billing
- Great work environment



Do you have these credentials? Could this be you?  
Do you know someone who would be a great fit in our Charitable Pharmacy team?  
Qualified candidates are encouraged to contact Dr Rusty Curington, Director of our  
Charitable Pharmacy, at [rcurington@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:rcurington@svdpcincinnati.org) .

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## *New Printable Resource Guides*

If you haven't already explored the updated Members Area of our website, we can assure you, we've made it worth your while. Six new lists of community resources for differing needs are included at the bottom on the new "Resources for Serving Neighbors" page, which can be found [here](#) (password: member). We encourage you to take a peak and explore the website further for yourself.

If you have any ideas for things you'd like to see or change on the website, please do send any suggestions in to Alec at [ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org) .

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## More News from Our Conferences, including Beacons of Light Progress

Our **Cathedral / St Xavier joint Conference** (downtown), has elected Don Lipps to succeed Sue Meyer as Conference President. We thank Sue for her servant leadership...and we thank Don for stepping up (again) to lead.

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### Beacons of Light news:

- Fr Pat Sloneker, Pastor of the **Crescent Parishes Family (S-6)**, met with Conference Presidents Kimberly Ware (**Church of the Resurrection**), Mike Benedetti (**St Saviour**), John Piening (**St John the Evangelist**), Kathy Michel (**Nativity of Our Lord**), & Barb Schwallie (**Holy Trinity**), along with Cincinnati District Council President Alison Zlatic and Crescent Parishes SVDP *Beacons of Light* Program Manager Bill Lennard (both Nativity members) & Tom Roberts this past Wednesday afternoon, 4/19, @ Nativity. Fr Pat was generous with his time and attention - asking questions and voicing support for SVDP's community presence and impact - just a couple hours before Confirmation in the Nativity worship space!
- Our Archdiocese hosted another monthly **Beacons Roundtable** via Zoom yesterday, this one on **Leadership and the role of Pastoral Councils in Planning and Synodality**. These *Roundtables* bring together pastors, parochial vicars, lay parish staff, and interested Catholics from throughout our Archdiocese for presentations and discussions on matters relevant to this *Beacons of Light* transformative initiative. **The next Beacons Roundtable will be Tuesday, 5/16, 1:30-3pm**, on **Leading Change, Proposing Vision, Bringing the family Along for Phase 2, and Difficult Conversations**. You can learn more about *Beacons of Light* and these *Beacons Roundtables* (including recordings & info from previous *Roundtables*) at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati website.

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Members of the **Crescent Parishes Family (S-6)** will share in a joint Spiritual Retreat facilitated by Chris Kelley this Friday evening, 4/28, in the old Archbishop's home, adjacent to Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, in Norwood.

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**Tom Roberts, your Director of Conference Engagement, would love to join you for a Conference meeting - or a joint meeting of the Conferences within your Family.** You can reach out and invite him at 513.345.4910 or [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:troberts@svdpcincinnati.org). He'll be glad to relay opportunities to support you to fellow members of our Vincentian Services team...or bring them along...to best walk with you.

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## CMS Tips, Tricks, & Transformations

Please be advised that CMS has the capability to refer a case, during intake, to another Conference. Currently, this functionality is used little or not at all across our Conferences likely due to lack of awareness that it exists. A training video, "CMS Training – Referring Case to another Conference" should be available by 5/1/2023 in the Case Manager section of the CMS training videos. Please review the video closely if you find that you need to utilize this functionality.

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Friendly Reminder: Each neighbor (head of household) should have only 1 client record in CMS. If you find a neighbor with more than one client record, a merge request should be performed. Note that changing neighbor (head of household) information from within a specific case does NOT require a merge request stating that something changed on the client information. We still see a number of merge requests come through where there is only 1 client record in CMS and a merge is not needed. To dive a bit deeper on this topic, please be aware of the Client Identification functionality in CMS which is there to assist you in selecting the correct neighbor record for a case. It may be beneficial to review the training videos on case intake, merges, etc. as well as the webinar videos. These are all available on the CMS Support Page of the SVDP Website.

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As always, feel free to call or email John Wessel - 513.562.1823 or [jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org) - at any time if you have any questions on these topics or require a walkthrough training session.

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## *An Ongoing Appeal for In-Kind Donations for our Thrift Stores*

Sales and voucher redemptions are brisk - which is, of course, great news. Our customers and neighbors are eager to find full racks. We need in-kind donations - clothing (particularly hot), household goods, & furniture - to make their shopping trips successful. Please know that the items you are ready to part with could quickly become essential & spirit-lifting "finds" for those shopping our thrift stores - including neighbors using vouchers your Conference writes.

Please drop off in-kind donations at any of our Thrift Stores...or at our collection boxes spread all over Hamilton County...or call for a pick-up if your load is more than you can transport.

How about a Bundle Sunday or drive at your parish or school? This is another wonderful way for you to invite your fellow parishioners to join in your Conference's good works.

Questions or requests? Please connect with our eager Thrift Stores team at **513.421.CARE (2273)**.

**Huge thanks for your support of our Thrift Stores.** Your generous donations empower their operations - serving value-seeking customers and providing much-appreciated employment opportunities.

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

#### **Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)**

##### **Our March activity:**

- We received **169** fresh applications
- We approved **160** applications, effectively fully extended our March CAF funding provisions of **\$70,000** (as augmented); **4** were withdrawn and **0** were declined

##### **Our April activity (3 weekdays to go):**

- We've received **136** fresh applications
- We've approved **132** applications; **3** have been withdrawn and **1** declined
- We have **43** applications currently in process

You can check on the status of CAF applications you have submitted by going to the Members pages of our SVDP-Cincinnati website and clicking on CAF Application Status, or use this link:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibjQyZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2QtNDEzNS05ZTE2LTUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9> .

This resource is reserved for Vincentian members only; access to this resource can not be shared with neighbors, landlords, etc, under any circumstances.

**Thanks to augmented funding from our District Council, our CAF provisions are \$70,000/month for the remainder of this fiscal year (through September), plus any twinning to CAF by Conferences sharing a resource surplus. Please note that our current "run rate" of CAF applications submitted slightly exceeds our monthly Council funding, so twinning to our CAF will help fuel our ability to approve and extend CAF assistance without interruption.**

Please contact Tom Roberts, 513.345.4910 or [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:troberts@svdpcincinnati.org) , or Alec Jewell, 513.345.4983 or [ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org) , for more info about twinning to our CAF.

**We continue to encourage you to guide our neighbors to other publicly- & privately-funded resources available within our community...and to nurture relationships that extend well beyond immediate basic needs (material) assistance to provide lasting impact. Budgeting can be an eye-opening exercise that leads to changes to create a sustainable, livable new monthly model. How will our neighbor pay their rent, utilities, and other bills in the months to come?**

#### **Emergency Rental Assistance 2 - A Fresh Round, now known as ERA2.1**

We've received a funding allocation from the City of Cincinnati to once again partner to assist neighbors with their rent and utility arrearages through the ERA2 program. This funding is similar to the previous round; please note these parameters:

- We are accepting applications and will continue to do so until 6/13/23, or when our allocation is completely extended
- We have maximum available funds of \$200,000 to be extended through your/our Conferences

- We will only be able to assist neighbors who rent within the City of Cincinnati
- Eligible neighbors will be able to receive up to 15 months of rent and utility arrearages
- Our neighbor must have been impacted in some capacity by COVID
- We are recommending that neighbors with a minimum of \$1,000 in arrearages should apply for this funding; any lesser amounts would likely be good candidates for CAF, assuming the neighbor is eligible
- Assistance can only apply to balances accrued after March 13, 2020

More details can be found in the email sent to Conference Presidents on Friday, March 17. Applications and supporting documentation can be found within the members' area of our SVDP website. Please feel free to reach out to Alec (513.345.4983 or [ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org)) or Olivia (513.345.4986 or [oscheper@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:oscheper@svdpcincinnati.org)) of your Vincentian Services Team with questions.

#### **Our ERA2.1 progress to-date:**

- **43** applications submitted
- **21** approved
- **22** in various stages of processing

We're enjoying assisting your neighbors & you, once again, through this funding source. We hope that every minute you are investing with our neighbors is fruitful and every dime uplifting.

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

May requests will be accepted May 1-5 (this coming week), via our [online request form](#). We will accept **four requests per Conference** during this initial request period. This is fewer requests than we've accepted in previous months because of the increase in our redemption rates. Even though we are accepting fewer requests, more neighbors are receiving beds. After the initial request period, we will assess whether we can accept additional requests and let you know around May 15.

**Reminder:** We are only able to rewrite vouchers that were written within the last six months. If a voucher expired more than six months ago, the neighbor will need to request the voucher again.

**New Contact Information for Bed Purchases!** If your Conference is considering purchasing beds to extend as assistance, you can get info, including current pricing, or purchase by contacting Dana Walker, Clothing & Home Resource Center Manager, at [chrc@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:chrc@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.706.5822. Your purchased beds will be picked up at our Clothing & Home Resource Center (CHRC) within our Liz Carter Center (LCC), 1125 Bank St. - the same place our Rahe bed vouchers are redeemed. Conference Bed Coordinators received an email with updated bed prices last week.

#### **Housing Choice Voucher Program**

As presented in our 2/15/2023 Resource Spotlight, Annina Ruggley of our Council's Social Services team is accepting neighbor recommendations for the Housing Choice Voucher program. This program works to assist neighbors in obtaining a Section 8 voucher, which would allow neighbors to rent from private landlords at a reduced rate, based upon a proportion of their income, with CMHA covering the remaining balance. The rental property must be located in Hamilton County. Ideal candidates for this program are neighbors whose income is not currently enough to address their expenses, are housed or are moving into housing that is likely to pass inspection, and have enough income/assistance each month to enable them to pay at least \$50 a month for rent. To make a recommendation, please complete a Housing Choice Voucher screening tool, which can be found along with supporting materials on the Member Support and Forms page of our SVDP-Cincinnati website. Please add thorough notes about the neighbor's situation and income, and email the completed form to Nina Ruggley at [aruggley@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:aruggley@svdpcincinnati.org). Nina will also be happy to answer any questions you have about this program, 513.345.4965.

#### **Metro Bus Passes (Everybody Rides Metro)**

Your Conference has access to Metro single-day bus passes to be extended to neighbors for use for any of 3 defined purposes:

1. Commute to/from new employment
2. Commute to/from our Bank St services hub or other community social services
3. Commute to/from medical appointments

Please understand that these passes are sourced through the Everybody Rides Metro program and our Council is required to comply with the above-referenced usages and



submit reports of passes distributed. Please also understand that your Conference will need to record bus passes extended in CMS for the neighbors receiving this assistance. Our Bus Pass Guidelines sheet for Conferences is available to you on the Members Support page of our website <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/conferences-members/member-support/>

or use this link to go directly to this document:

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Bus-Tickets-Policy.pdf>

If your Conference wants to learn more about this program or request passes, please contact Alec Jewell, Vincentian Support Manager, at [ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.345.4983.

### **Birth Certificates**

Our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) team is assisting neighbors who are in need of a birth certificate. We have enhanced our process so that neighbors may request and receive a birth certificate on the same day. Neighbors should come to our NOC (1146 Bank St) and request the birth certificate. They will then be given documentation to take to Elm Street Clinic (1525 Elm St) where they may retrieve their birth certificate on the same day, or at their convenience. A limited number of birth certificates are available each week, and all birth certificate requests must be made in person.

### **Cooking Improv with La Soupe**

Our partner La Soupe teams with our Catino Choice Pantry to present monthly Cooking Improv demonstrations in the Teaching Kitchen at our NOC. Instructors from La Soupe and volunteers engage participants on basic cooking principles and how to use what you have to create delicious, nutritious meals. **All recipes are based off ingredients found daily in our Catino Choice Pantry. Neighbors are encouraged to sample the delicious dishes and discuss preparation and ingredients with our staff, volunteers, and resident La Soupe instructor, Chef Mona!**

These sessions are held on the first Wednesday of each month - which means **our next event is this coming Wednesday, 5/3, 11am-1pm**. No pre-registration is required. Feel free to share this information with your neighbors.

### **Haircuts from the Heart in our NOC**

This is a free haircut program, courtesy of our partner Franciscan Ministries. **Stylist Margarita is in our NOC every Monday, 9am-noon**, cutting hair in a room on the 2nd floor. Neighbors are accepted on a walk-in basis, and should sign in at our NOC reception desk upon arrival.

### **Education Center Within Our Neyer Outreach Center**

Our NOC Education Center is available for our neighbors and Vincentians to use during our operating hours: Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm, and Saturday, 8am - noon.

### **Language Service Available to our Conferences**

A growing number of our Conferences are experiencing increased interactions with Latino members of our community...and are struggling to effectively communicate with neighbors who are most fluent or exclusively fluent in Spanish. We have contracted a dedicated language service to help you engage these neighbors in a welcoming, affirming manner. Any Conference member can download the "LanguageLine InSight" app on your smartphone, tablet, or computer at <https://insight.languageline.com/>. You simply need to use the Authentication Code **6NN692GLS2** the first time you login **and provide your Conference name to the operator**. Through this app you will have access to over 40 different languages, including Spanish, via an interpreter. You will have the option of either audio or visual (for those needing sign language); we strongly encourage using visual only when you must. **Please be efficient in your utilization as our Council pays by the minute for this service; and visual is nearly twice as expensive as audio. When you access the service, you will be asked for your name and department, you simply need to state your name, then "St Vincent de Paul Cincinnati Conferences", then your Conference name.** Be sure to only call through the app; you cannot use this service through a regular phone call.

Our Charitable Pharmacy, Social Services, and some Conferences are leveraging this tool to better engage our Latino neighbors.

If you have any questions or are having trouble accessing the service, please reach out to Alec or Olivia of your Vincentian Services team.

**If your Conference is among those engaging more neighbors preferring or needing to communicate in Spanish, please consider this an opportunity to seek the addition**

of Spanish-speaking members. This could enhance your responsive communication and expand your Conference's perspective.

### **Christ Church Plumb Line**

This greatly appreciated community resource extends rental assistance for qualified neighbors who have an income. Volunteers at Christ Church prefer to do an in-person interview with neighbors referred to them whenever possible, so please be sure to tell the neighbor to expect Christ Church to reach out to schedule an in-person interview.

Generally, Christ Church volunteers have been seeing neighbors about a week after they get the referrals. **Please be advised that there is a new referral form for Plumb Line. It can now be found in our website's Members resources here:**

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/conferences-members/member-support/> Please try to use this new form for all new referrals.

Olivia Scheper, our Conferences Support Coordinator, [oscheper@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:oscheper@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.345.4986, will continue to be your/our central contact point-person. Plumb Line will only accept SVDP referrals from Olivia.

### **Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)**

GCWW's **Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program** provides funds for assistance for eligible tenants residing in the City of Cincinnati. There are eligibility stipulations.

Tenants must qualify by completing an online application at [assistance.mygcww.org](https://assistance.mygcww.org) . Renters can also call 513.591.7700 to receive assistance from the call center to complete an application. There is also a flexible payment plan through the PromisePay Portal.

GCWW customers can visit [GCWW.promise-pay.com](https://gcww.promise-pay.com) for details about the program and how to enroll. Renters not residing in Cincinnati city limits but living in Hamilton County can visit <https://erap.hcjfs.org/> for utility assistance. If you need additional materials or information, please contact GCWW at [GCWWCares@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:GCWWCares@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov) .

### **Duke Energy**

You can find current info by going to the Duke Energy website, clicking on the Financial Help tab, and then clicking on Ohio.

Duke encourages us to follow our standard steps for processing pledges on customer accounts. For questions on accounts or pledges for neighbors requesting utility assistance, please contact Duke Energy's Centralized Agency Team at 800.241.3194. Advocates are available Monday through Friday, 7:30am - 5:30pm.

Should our neighbor / their customer not meet Duke's qualifications for assistance, please refer them to Duke's customer care organization at 800.544.6900 (Monday - Friday, 7am - 7pm) where they may find assistance through a flexible installment plan.

### **State of Ohio Program for Struggling Homeowners**

**Save the Dream Ohio** helps eligible Ohio homeowners facing foreclosure and/or who cannot afford to pay their mortgage payments, utility payments or other related housing costs as a result of economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The state of Ohio was awarded \$280 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the program. Click here for more information:

[Save the Dream Ohio - Managed by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency \(ohiohome.org\)](https://ohiohome.org)

### **Hamilton County COVID Assistance**

Our neighbors & you can still find info and resources at <https://513relief.org> . **Hamilton County has funding available at Hamilton County Job & Family Services (JFS).**

Neighbors can apply at 513Relief.org on their mobile device or desktop. [The Hamilton County Rent and Utility Program's application](#) can be submitted on a smart phone.

Please note: this funding comes from the same federal pool as ERA and other COVID relief programs, so a neighbor who has previously exhausted their access to this pool will be ineligible. Please refer Hamilton County neighbors who you believe to be eligible.

### **Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation (CEIF) Vision Clinic in our Neyer Outreach Center**

The Vision Clinic operates **by appointment** on their communicated schedule, based upon their team's availability; Thursdays are the most consistent. **This Vision Clinic will be open all day tomorrow (Thurs, 4/27), 8:30am - 3pm.** 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.

## *You are Both Thanked & Invited*

We thank you for your readership and we welcome your feedback to Tom Roberts at 513.345.4910 or [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:troberts@svdpcincinnati.org). We are eager for your content, including pictures, to make this weekly connection all the more relevant and empowering for you!

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### *Our Mission*

A network of neighbors, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

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### *Our Call to Prayer*

**Jesus, our Good Shepherd, You laid down Your life so that we might live,  
give us the grace to know that You call us by name.  
Jesus, You search out those who are lost,  
give us the grace to know that You bind our wounds.  
Jesus, You carry those who cannot walk alone,  
give us the grace to know that You are always with us.  
Jesus, You lead those in Your flock who hear Your voice,  
give us the grace to abandon ourselves to You.  
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED



St. Vincent de Paul - Cincinnati | 1125 Bank Street, Cincinnati, OH 45214

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