



Conference News and Notes for Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Shared with all Vincentians & Staff to invite, inspire, inform, & unite

Vincentian Reflection for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 20, 2023

Gospel: (Matthew 15: 21-28) A Canaanite woman called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon."...Jesus said, "*I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*" But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said, "*It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.*" She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "*O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.*" And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

Reflection: What is the deeper significance of these apparently harsh words of Jesus? The answer lies in Jesus' clear understanding of his mission, to the house of Israel. This woman was not a Jew, and she is thus challenging Jesus to extend his mission beyond Israel to include all people. This foreign woman gives us a model response to Jesus in her confident prayer and great faith. Thus the Gospel announces that the kingdom and salvation are for all people. It is our persistent calling out to Jesus and our faith that count for Jesus always responds. (*Living Liturgy*, p.220)

Vincentian Meditation: Vincent reminded the women in one of his charitable organizations, that it is Divine Providence that calls Christians to be creative in forming communities of service. He told them, "It has been 800 years now since women have had any public role in the Church. In early times there were deaconesses...but this custom stopped and your sex was deprived of providing all these kinds of services. In our day, however, this same Providence prompted you to take up the crucial work of caring for the poor...God has given you as mothers to the abandoned children...and calls upon you to dispense many alms. By the grace of God, these good women have responded to these needs with great warmth and steadiness." (McKenna, *Praying with Vincent*, p.103-4)

**Diversity offers broader gifts, perspective, and approach.
How have women been a grace to our Society?
What gifts and contributions have women brought to your Conference?**

Your Formation and Training Opportunities & Tips - Plus Events!

New Workshop this Saturday! Signup today: Are you looking for ways to better invite and engage with possible future members? Do you want to help new Vincentians find their place within your Conference? Come to our newest workshop this Saturday, August 19, 9-11am, at St Clare (College Hill). Walk-ins are welcome, signing up before is greatly appreciated. At this workshop we will outline helpful **Pathways for Effective Invitation and Dedicated Membership** that will enable you to walk away with a strong foundation for a concrete plan for inviting others into the Vincentian experience and be primed for a life of transformative membership in a Conference. A handful of spots remain as this workshop is open to anyone, and we especially recommend those who are currently, or are looking to, invite more of their community into our work as Vincentians. To register, please signup using this link: <https://www.jotform.com/build/231504131019138> or contact Chris Kelley directly.

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Open Poverty Simulation for Vincentians and our community! Are you interested in

learning about the barriers that face our neighbors experiencing poverty? Join us on **Wednesday, 8/30/23, 6:30-8:30pm, at our Ozanam Center (in our Liz Carter Center, 1125 Bank St)** for an experiential learning opportunity where you will receive the persona of a person experiencing poverty in Cincinnati. This Poverty Simulation, created by our Ozanam Center for Service Learning, is open to the general public free of charge, with a suggested donation of \$10; no prior experience is needed. We will accept donations of cash or check in-person, or virtually through <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E8070&id=36>. Please register here: <https://form.jotform.com/232215258350146> or reach out to our team directly at Formation@SVDPCincinnati.org.

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Chris Kelley, our Formation and Service Learning Director, can be reached at 513.345.1767 or ckelley@svdpcincinnati.org.



Our Annual Fall Fellowship is a little over 1 month away! We will gather again on **Sunday, September 24, 9am-noon, @ St. Ursula Academy Chapel** to nurture our Vincentian spirit and fellowship! We will congregate to celebrate Mass together as a community and recognize the profound gift of service and spiritual fellowship so many have given over the years; afterwards we will enjoy a brunch and quality fellowship, registration is \$10 per person to help offset costs for the day. **To register for our Fall Fellowship Mass and Brunch, please use the following link:** http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Fall_Fellowship_2023; **registrations must be received by end of day on Monday, September 18.** Prefer to pay by check instead? Please contact Chris Kelley directly.

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Inviting your honoree nominations now: Each year at our Fall Fellowship gathering, we recognize the deep dedication of many Vincentians and those within our community who go to great lengths to help our neighbors and build up our Conference life. We invite your Conference to submit nominations to recognize people in our communities in three distinct areas: **Fires of Faith, Top Hat, and Ozanam Awards.** For more information and the nomination materials, please go to [our Conferences section of the redesigned members page](#) of our website; **all nominations from a Conference must be received by 4pm on Thursday, August 31.** Any questions on the nomination process, please contact Chris Kelley.

**SVDP National Voice of the Poor Presents Third Thursday Webinar:
IRS Tax Tips & Resources for Parents**

To participate virtually **tomorrow (Thursday, 8/17) @ 3pm**, you should [Register here](#) in advance to receive details to connect.

IRS Education specialists will delve into various resources and programs that can help our neighbors both within and out of tax season. Topics span new parent initiatives, identity protection, multilingual resources, free file, and the IRS' interactive tax assistant.



***Food Assistance in Our Conferences and Council
Resource Spotlight this Coming Wednesday, 8/23, 3pm, via Zoom***

We have seen the need for food assistance in our community skyrocket in recent months. Join us on **Wednesday, August 23, 3-4pm**, to learn what we collectively are doing to help with this need, hear about best practices related to food assistance, and know how our Cincinnati District Council is and will be supporting your/our food assistance efforts. Facilitators are Sunnie Johnson-Lain & Erin Nowak.

No RSVP's are needed; just go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83846844246?pwd=dmdkR3FBVmNVb0tZbGY0T0ttU0V0dz09> at meeting time to join us. Zoom meeting ID:

838 4684 4246

Passcode: 935221

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Did you miss a Resource Spotlight?

Are you currently encountering a situation in which a past Resource Spotlight would be an invaluable source of info?

We archive the contents of previously-presented Resource Spotlights...and we post this content to our website for your easy reference. Most recent additions: recording and PowerPoint presentation of our 7/20 ***Tools to Serve Our Spanish-Speaking Neighbors***. You can find them by using this link:

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/members/conference-life-resources/> .

Or get there by going to our SVDP-Cincinnati website, clicking on the Members tab, clicking on the Conference Life Resources tab, entering the password member (please keep confidential), then clicking on Resource Spotlights, and then selecting the relevant link.

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At this same location on our website, you can also find the PowerPoint presentation of our Cincinnati District Council's new 3-year ***Better Together*** strategic plan, now approved for implementation on October 1, 2023.

Speaking of Food Assistance Resources Available To Our Neighbors...

Findlay Market received a generous grant allowing them to be able to provide free delivery to shoppers using SNAP benefits or an EBT card for payment. Their delivery radius spans 20 miles from Findlay Market.

Please help spread the news about this opportunity to anyone who may benefit from this program. See the [attached sample document](#) that explains these benefits.

2023 SVDP National Assembly in St. Louis

Registration remains open for the 2023 National Assembly in St. Louis, MO, **Wednesday to Saturday, September 6 - 9**, at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch. This year's assembly will include a keynote address from John Foppe, Executive Director of the St. Louis Council; a Spiritual Retreat with SVDP National Episcopal Advisor Bishop Donald Hying; the installation of our new National Council President, John Berry; and a presentation by Fr. John Rybolt of DePaul University; along with workshops, regional meetings, and an amazing Host City Event, "**Meet Me in St. Louis**". Take a step back in history to "**Where it All Began**" - St. Louis was the first SVDP Conference presence in the United States, founded in 1845, and is our SVDP National headquarters. For more information, [click here](#). **Please consider joining our Cincinnati contingent!** If you have any questions, please contact Michele Schurk at mschurk@svdpusa.org.

Now Hiring!

Charitable Pharmacy Patient Advocate

Our Charitable Pharmacy is expanding its current staff with the hire of a full-time Patient Advocate - no prior healthcare experience required. We are accepting applications from internal and external candidates to assist the Pharmacy staff with functions related to patient certification and care coordination. If you are interested in learning more...for yourself or someone within your network of contacts, please feel free to reach out to Dr Rusty Curington, Vice President of Pharmacy, at rcurington@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.762.2088. Thank you for all you do to serve our neighbors in need!

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Food Pantry Manager

Our Outreach Center Services team is currently hiring for our next Food Pantry Manager. This individual will oversee all functions and operations of our Catino Choice Food Pantry, as well as provide leadership, vision, and guidance to our Council's food assistance programs. This full-time role also oversees logistics support to a variety of Outreach Center programs and events and manages relationships with our pantry's community partners. We are looking for an organized, adaptable individual, capable of leading a team of staff and volunteers, with a heart for serving our neighbors. Interested candidates should email their resume, cover letter, and compensation expectations to Erin Nowak, Outreach Center Program Director, at enowak@svdpcincinnati.org.

Social Services Advocates

Our Outreach Center Services team is currently hiring for several **Social Services Advocates**. We are looking for someone with strong interpersonal skills; the ability to communicate well orally and in writing; a commitment to detail and documentation; good project management skills; an ability to work under pressure; and a comfort in engaging with people of different cultural and economic backgrounds in a faith-based setting. Is this you or someone you know? If so, they/you may be a perfect fit to join our team as a Social Services Advocate. For consideration, motivated candidates should forward a cover letter and resume to Mary Reid, Social Services Director, at mreid@svdpcincinnati.org.

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To view our full job descriptions for these and other current opportunities, please go to our SVDP-Cincinnati website, click on the "About Us" tab, scroll down to "Employment Opportunities" and click on the "Learn More" tab, then scroll down to the specific role.

Hope to Dream Is This Week!

All available beds in our **Hope to Dream** program this Saturday have been filled. Vincentians who requested beds on behalf of neighbors should have received an email confirmation. Please make sure to remind families who were selected to attend this event. If you requested **Hope to Dream** beds and haven't heard anything, please reach out to Erin, enowak@svdpcincinnati.org.

This coming Wednesday, 8/23, WCPO 9 is hosting St. Vincent de Paul at its studio for the

Hope to Dream telethon. Funds raised through this initiative will support the *Bob & Sylvia Rahe Beds Program*, providing new bed frames and mattresses to families in our community. WCPO 9 will be running messaging throughout the early evening news from 4-7:30pm, prompting viewers to call in to donate. Huge thanks to our volunteers who will be receiving those donation calls at the station.

Outside of the telethon, donations for *Hope to Dream* may also be made online at: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Hope_To_Dream .

1,668 neighbors, including 702 children, received a new bed in the past year, thanks to people like you. Thank you for helping us to spread the word about this *Hope to Dream* campaign and ensuring more neighbors can sleep in a bed of their own. Imagine the potentially life-changing impact of a bed and a good night's sleep for a child now preparing for this new school year!

Convenient Safeguarding Training for our Vincentians

For those who have chosen to complete safeguarding training with SVDP, please sign up for **one** of our upcoming sessions using [this link](#) . We hosted a session yesterday (Tues, 8/15) evening. **We offer an in-person session at our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC, 1146 Bank St) on Tues, 8/29, 5-7pm (less than 2 weeks off). Our next Zoom session is offered Thurs, 9/14, 5-7pm.** If you plan to watch a session with other Vincentians, one person can complete the form and indicate others who will attend the session with them. Please contact Dayna Patrick at 513.345.4982 or dpatrick@SVDPCincinnati.org with any questions regarding safeguarding.

Our Summer Heat Relief Drive

Our Cincinnati District Council is helping our neighbors experiencing need stay cool this summer through our **Fan and Air Conditioners Distribution** (see below), **presented by Braun Heating & Air Conditioning**. Extreme summer temperatures can be dangerous for all, but for Cincinnati's most vulnerable residents, the risks of heat-related health complications from weaker immune systems are significant. Because these neighbors are likely to be spending more time at home during summer for economic and health reasons, their need for accessible heat relief in their homes is critical. Last year, our Council distributed 1,522 box fans and 980 air conditioning units to our neighbors. As one of the region's only sources of free fans and air conditioners, this program is unique. Please help us avoid turning our neighbors away because their need is greater than our available resources. Just \$20 can provide a fan to a neighbor, and \$150 provides an air conditioning unit when you donate at <https://KeepCoolCincy.com> .

Our Fans & Air Conditioners Distribution Program Flash: Additional ACs are Now Available!

Due to neighbors not picking up their ACs, **we have a small number of ACs still available this summer.** **If you're working with a neighbor who could benefit from an AC, please reach out to Erin, enowak@svdpcincinnati.org , with the neighbor's name, DOB, address, and phone number.** Please make sure the neighbor knows that there's still no guarantee that we will be able to assist them; remaining ACs will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis according to availability. Neighbors should expect to receive a text message from SVDP if we're able to assist them.

We are continuing to distribute fans on a walk-up basis at our NOC, through our Welcome Rooms/Food Pantry. As we wind down our Summer Heat Relief Programs, we still have a substantial supply of fans available. **If your Conference would like to request fans to have on hand to distribute to neighbors, please contact Erin.**

Details can be found within the [Members Portal of the SVDP website](#) . **Please note (and make sure your/our neighbors know) that households may receive either an AC or a fan, but not both.**

To-date, we together have distributed 726 ACs and 1,729 fans - welcome respite from these hot August days and nights.

Any questions and communication about fans & ACs should be directed to

Family Friendship, Fun, & Food



This past Saturday, our Bellarmine and Cathedral/St. Xavier Conferences, comprising our S-5 & S-15 Families, met for lunch at Rookwood following their Conferences' Home Visits in Avondale, Evanston and OTR. We're hearing it was a great gathering (and seeing that it made for a great picture). They're looking forward to getting together again before the end of the year!

More News from & for Our Conferences, including Beacons of Light Progress

Beacons of Light news:

- We have now completed initial Pastor Meetings in 14 of our 24 Families
- This past Friday, our **Westside Catholic SW-4 Family** Conference Presidents Including Mary Beth Gramann of St William and Deacon Dave Steinwert of St Teresa of Avila, Vincentian Tom McManus also of St Teresa of Avila, and Alec Jewell & Tom Roberts gathered with Pastor Fr Zach Cecil, to nurture collaboration and explore opportunities; this Family also includes Resurrection of Our Lord & St Lawrence parishes; the concentration of neighbors experiencing need is challenging our dedicated Vincentians to optimize our presence & impact in their Family's neighborhoods...we will radiate Christ, see Christ, and make a difference
- Still waiting for a Pastor Meeting in your Family? Please reach out to Tom at troberts@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.345.4910 - together we'll figure out how best to approach your pastor

Other Conference meetings, collaborations, and good news this past week included:

- Alec & Tom visited the active food pantry of **Church of the Resurrection**

- Conference (Crescent Parishes S-6 Family) mid-day last Wednesday, 8/9; Vincentian Henry Bailey leads a devoted team of volunteers serving our Bond Hill neighbors - just over 100 families/households were assisted that afternoon
- Our **St Dominic Conference of Mary, Queen of All Saints SW-3 Family**, welcomed new Vincentians Peggy & John Klopp as this long-established Conference continues to bolster their membership and engage their Delhi neighbors

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More of our District Council's Conferences are welcoming new members as they actively communicate, engage, and invite fellow parishioners eager to make a difference within their Families/parishes/communities.

Is your Conference expanding your circle of friendship?

Want help?

Try this link for National's tools:

<https://members.ssvpusa.org/governance-updates/governance-recruiting-new-members/>

Want more help? **Reach out to your Vincentian Services team members...and explore participating in our workshop this Saturday, as featured earlier in this edition!**

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SVDP National's Frederic's e-Gazette. If you are not receiving this weekly email publication, this means you need to be added or updated in National's members database. If you'd like to subscribe to the e-Gazette, email mboyer@svdpusa.org. If you previously removed your email address from National's system or designated "Do Not Mail," your email address cannot be re-added by the National Council office. Sign up to resume receiving the e-Gazette at <http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6>.

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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. 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.

CMS Insight

Merge Requests: Please be aware that if you are making changes to a neighbor's information from within a CMS case, a merge request is NOT required since CMS will update the neighbor profile based on the data you supplied on the case. The ONLY time a merge request should be initiated is if you find that there are more than one client record for the same neighbor in CMS. You can determine this by doing a Search>Clients for that particular neighbor and the search results come up with more than one entry. Please also note that the conference CMS admin should be "executing" any merge request that you submit.

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End of Fiscal Year: Just a reminder that we are approaching 9/30/2023, the end of our fiscal year. Please ensure that most, if not all, of your CMS cases get closed out prior to that date. There may be a few stragglers, but most of your cases should be able to be closed. Additionally, please ensure that all of your monthly check registers are closed out and that you start the CMS Annual Report process as soon as possible after 10/1/2023. Thank you!

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As always, feel free to call or email John Wessel - 513.562.1823 or jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org - at any time if you have any questions, suggestions, or desire a walkthrough training session.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

We extended \$79,400 in the month of July. This marked the third consecutive month our available CAF funding had been exhausted well before month-end. Well, now make it four.

Our August activity to-date:

- We've already received **157** applications
- We've approved **92** applications; **1** was withdrawn and **1** declined

- We have 64 applications currently in progress

Alec notified our Conference Presidents yesterday that your applications currently in-house will fully extend our August CAF funding of \$70,000 from our District Council. We will continue to process these in-house applications until we reach this \$70,000 cap. Please suspend submitting new applications until Friday, 9/1, when we will have a fresh \$70,000 of September funding from our District Council. Twinning to our CAF will help fuel our ability to approve and extend CAF assistance and reduce any future interruptions.

If you would like to keep track of where we stand, please feel free to refer here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12SsYxi9jhSIHVekSeTleDphTnlGLJgqdC_nbEDQROIQ/edit?usp=sharing

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

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibWVudC9yZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2Q0tNDEzNS05ZTE2LWUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9> .

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

Please contact Alec Jewell, 513.345.4983 or ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org , or Tom Roberts, 513.345.4910 or troberts@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?

Rahe Beds Fund Program Reminders

Your Conference's August requests (up to 4 per Conference) have been reviewed and processed. We have heard from several Conferences that they have not been receiving emails letting them know that their requests for Rahe Beds have been approved. If this happens, please check your email's spam folder. Rahe Beds notifications will come from the noreply@jotform.com email address. Thank you!

Once you have submitted a beds request and had it approved by the Rahe Fund Coordinator, the neighbor (or their proxy) will be able to go directly to our Clothing and Home Resource Center (CHRC, 1st floor of our Liz Carter Center, 1125 Bank St, 45214) and show their photo ID to pick up their bed(s). Please remind neighbors picking up beds that they should go to the CHRC (from Bank St, enter through our gated garden to the side door of the Liz Carter Center) to pick up their bed and sign their bed waiver; they should not go to the rear dock until they have completed this step.

Our CHRC is open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday and 9am-1pm on Saturday.

Dana Walker, our CHRC Manager, can be reached through the Rahe Fund email address rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org or by phone at 513.706.5822 (this is the CHRC phone number).

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 pages of our website.

If your Conference wants to learn more about this program or request passes, please contact Alec Jewell, Vincentian Support Manager, at 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.

***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.** Neighbors are accepted on a walk-in basis, and should sign in at our NOC reception desk upon arrival.

***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 Wednesday, 9/6, 11am-1pm.** No pre-registration is required.

Feel free to share this information with your neighbors.

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.language.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. (We're hearing from Conferences engaging neighbors whose primary language is other than English or Spanish.)** 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.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)

GCWW offers a flexible payment plan to eligible neighbors through their PromisePay Portal. GCWW customers can visit 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.

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> . This site also includes info on the bus offering mobile 513relief assistance and support at <https://513relief.org/bus/> . **Hamilton County has COVID funding still available at Hamilton County Job & Family Services (JFS)**. 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 CEIF's communicated schedule, based upon their team's availability; Thursdays are the most consistent. **This Vision Clinic is open mornings only (8:30am-noon) each of the remaining Thursdays in August: 8/17 (tomorrow), 24, & 31. Looking ahead to September, this clinic will be open all day (8:30am-3pm) on Thursdays, 9/7 & 28, and Monday, 9/18 (closed on Thursdays, 9/14 & 21).**

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.

Our Weekly Conference News and Notes

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

If a Cincinnati District Council Vincentian you know - or you - are not directly receiving our Conference News and Notes via email each Wednesday morning, please email Tom (at the email address above) with your name, Conference, and preferred email address to be added to our Constant Contact distribution list.

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.

Our Call to Prayer

**O God, as You call us to serve the poor,
may we also be evangelized by those we serve.**

**Grant us the grace to be open to the gifts of women in the Church,
may our words and actions bear witness to Jesus.
Give us the faith and courage of the Canaanite woman,
so that we may be true servants of the Gospel.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED



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

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