



## Conference News and Notes for Wednesday, August 30, 2023

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

### ***Vincentian Reflection for the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time September 3, 2023***

**Gospel: (Matthew 16:21-27)** Jesus said to his disciples: “*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.*”

**Reflection:** Lose life and find life. Cross and glory. This is the paschal mystery in a nutshell. Sometimes our response to living the paschal mystery is enthusiastic because things are going well and we don’t realize the demands. Then, when the going gets rough, we bog down. The challenge is to let go so *God* can lead us. We need to surrender ourselves. The paschal mystery isn’t just a concept; it is a turning of the heart toward God’s love working in us, but not without its demands. Even sharing in Jesus’ divine glory means that we must share in his sufferings and death. (*Living Liturgy*, p.228)

**Vincentian Meditation:** “Service to God’s people demands a price. Christians must put aside their own prejudices, comfortable circumstances, and favorite ideas in order to do the will of God. This sort of discipline calls Christians to die to themselves in order to follow Christ. St. Vincent called this discipline *mortification*. Mortification, or dying to self, has sometimes become confused with self-hate, repression...or co-dependency. However, dying to self is a core value in the Christian Testament. St. Vincent believed that mortification had to be a conscious choice. With the grace of God, people could be willing to make the hard sacrifices that love demands. With God’s help, they could detach themselves from - or die - to all that was not Christ so that they could put on Jesus Christ. (McKenna, *Praying with Vincent*, p.83, 85)

**In what ways have you been called “to deny yourself, and take up your cross”?  
Have you, too, found that “in giving, we receive”?**

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

**Postponed! The Open Poverty Simulation scheduled for this evening for Vincentians and our community has been postponed until Wednesday, 10/18/23, 6:30-8:30pm, at your Ozanam Center (in the Liz Carter Center, 1125 Bank St).** The poverty simulation is an experiential learning opportunity where you will receive the persona of a someone experiencing poverty in Cincinnati and strive to meet your needs within a given month (all within the span of an hour); discussion of the experience will follow as we seek to better understand our community needs. This Poverty Simulation, created by the **Ozanam Center for Service Learning**, is open to the general public and no prior experience is needed. An updated link for registering will be available in future Conference News and Notes as we approach the event.

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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) .

You are warmly invited to our annual  
*Fall Fellowship  
Mass and Brunch*

Sunday, September 24, 2023  
9 AM - Noon  
St. Ursula Academy Chapel and Keller Student Center

**Our Annual Fall Fellowship is just a few days over 3 weeks away!** Looking to have a bit of fun fellowship in the weeks ahead? Join us with your family and fellow Vincentians on **Sunday, September 24, 9am-noon, @ St. Ursula Academy Chapel** as we celebrate Mass and appreciate the gift of the Vincentian spirit as well as our bonds of fellowship! Afterwards, we will enjoy a brunch and some quality fellowship time together.

**Registration is \$10 per person to help offset costs for the meal . To register for our Fall Fellowship Mass and Brunch, please use the following link:** [http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Fall\\_Fellowship\\_2023](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Fall_Fellowship_2023) ; **registrations needed by end of day on Monday, September 18.** Prefer to pay by check instead? Please contact Chris Kelley directly.

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**Last Call! Nominations close tomorrow, Thursday, 8/31** – We invite your Conference to submit nominations to recognize people in our communities for three distinct honors: **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 tomorrow, Thursday, August 31.** Any questions on the nomination process, please contact Chris Kelley. All nominations will be acknowledged by a confirmation of their receipt to the person nominating.



***Your Next Resource Spotlight Opportunity  
Thursday, 9/21, 11am***

**Pathways to Homeownership**, facilitated by our **Voice of the Poor Committee**, who will welcome **Hope Wilson from Working in Neighborhoods (WIN)**. Please mark your

calendars and watch for more information to come, including how to easily connect for this virtual workshop.

### ***Our Resource Spotlight Last Week: Food Assistance in Our Conferences and Council***

Sunnie Johnson-Lain and Erin Nowak facilitated this timely Zoom workshop as we have seen the need for food assistance in our community skyrocket in recent months. Fourteen participants learned what we collectively are doing to help with this need, heard about best practices related to food assistance, and took a glimpse forward at how our Cincinnati District Council will be supporting your/our food assistance efforts. An info-packed PowerPoint presentation was shared. Thanks to those who were able to join. Did you miss it? Please read on...

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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...often including PowerPoint presentations and recordings of the workshops...and we post this content to our website for your easy reference.

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.

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, approved for implementation for the start of our new 2024 fiscal year on October 1, 2023.

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### ***2023 SVDP National Assembly in St. Louis***

Our Cincinnati District Council will be well represented at **the 2023 SVDP National Assembly in St. Louis, MO, next 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**" - where the first SVDP Conference in the United States was founded in 1845. St. Louis is our SVDP National headquarters.

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### ***Convenient Safeguarding Training for our Vincentians***

We hosted a room full of Vincentians in our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) yesterday evening - so many, in fact, that the pic below could not capture them all - for an in-person training session.



With last night's session, we now have over 350 Vincentians who have completed *Safeguarding* training.

For those who have chosen to complete *Safeguarding* training with SVDP but are yet to do so, **we have one more virtual session (facilitated via Zoom) before our October 1 goal: Thurs, 9/14, 5-7pm. You are invited to sign up using [this link](#)** . 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 our *Safeguarding* team at 513.345.4989 or [safeguarding@SVDPCincinnati.org](mailto:safeguarding@SVDPCincinnati.org) with any questions regarding *Safeguarding*.

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### **Now Hiring!**

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

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### **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> .

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***Our Fans & Air Conditioners Distribution Program***  
***Flash: Additional ACs are Still 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](mailto: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 729 ACs and 1,885 fans - welcome respite from these hot August days and nights...and we expect more heat in these final weeks of summer following Labor Day.**

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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***Labor Day Weekend Is Almost Here***

Wishing you a relaxing, safe, well-earned Labor Day weekend. Fireworks will light up the sky & river this Sunday evening, 9/3.

Please be aware - and spread the word - that our Cincinnati District Council's operating schedule will be adjusted as follows:

- **Our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) & Liz Carter Center (LCC), including our Clothing and Home Resource Center (CHRC) will be closed on Labor Day** - this Monday, September 4; normal operating hours will be maintained this Saturday, 9/2
- **Our thrift stores will be open for their normal retail hours this Monday, 9/4**, while their Call Center & Trucking support will be closed; normal operating hours will be maintained this Saturday, 9/2, & Sunday, 9/3

We will resume normal operating hours throughout this coming Tuesday, September 5.

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### ***An Appeal for Action from SVDP National's Voice of the Poor***

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides healthy food and nutritional support for vulnerable moms, infants, and young children.

This year, the WIC program – funded by the annual agriculture appropriations bill – is facing a funding shortfall due to rising food costs and increased program participation. Like the SNAP program, funding for WIC is a critical need.

Please be heard. [Tell Congress](#) to continue its long history of bipartisan support for WIC by providing adequate resources to serve all eligible participants with food that meets their nutritional needs, including the current benefit for fruits and vegetables.

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

#### **New Call Referral Process**

On Thursday, 8/17, many Vincentians gathered virtually via Teams to discuss and learn about incoming improvements to how our Call Center refers neighbors to Conferences. As of Monday, 8/21, our Call Center has started to transition to this new process. By Monday, 9/11, all Conferences on CMS will be receiving all referrals from our Call Center through CMS. You may already be seeing these come through as our Call Center retrains volunteers and staff. If you were unable to attend this training, we thoroughly recommend spending a little bit of time watching John Wessel's tutorial [here](#), and making sure your fellow members are informed. We very much hope that this new process will reduce the amount of time you spend inputting cases into CMS and give you more time with your neighbor.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do reach out to Alec at 513.345.4983, [ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org). We are keen to make this process as easy for you as possible.

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#### **Recruitment & Retention Resources**

Is your Conference expanding your circle of friendship? A growing number of our Conferences are!

Following a delightful workshop on Saturday morning, 8/19, we are sharing two resources. First, an 8-page Guide to Understanding Recruitment & Retention, aimed at providing a thorough overview of best practices and practical tips on how to successfully bring new members in and keep them. Secondly, we have a planning document with questions, practical points, and a fillable timeline to allow you to sit down with your Conference and plan out how you are going to bring in more members and raise your profile within your community. Both are available on the members area of our website [here](#):

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

[Guide to Understanding Recruitment & Retention](#)  
[Planning Your Approach to Recruitment & Retention](#)

Huge thanks to our workshop facilitators - Sunnie Johnson-Lain, Penny O'Brien, Alec Jewell, & Chris Kelley.

You can also find tools on our SVDP National website using this link:

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### **Beacons of Light**

- What's new among Vincentians and Conferences in your Family? This fall is a wonderful opportunity to collaborate on a Family-wide winter coats drive...or food drive...or personal care products drive...or a Bundle Sunday to keep the racks of our thrift stores stocked...or how about a bonfire or a football tailgate?
- Have you reached out to Vincentians in your Family to encourage a gathering at our Fall Fellowship on Sunday morning, 9/24? A beautiful morning of faith and friendship awaits.
- Many of you are in Families of Parishes now embarking upon Phase 2 - creating your vision for your Family. this is a fantastic opportunity to be co-pilots rather than passengers in your Family's *Beacons of Light* transformation!
- Still waiting for a Pastor Meeting in your Family? Please reach out to Tom at [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:troberts@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.345.4910 - together we'll figure out how best to approach your pastor.

### **And another Family gathering is anticipated this evening**

- St Joseph (West End) Conference will host their fellow **S-12 Family** Vincentians this evening for a Spiritual Rainbow Gathering. Their pastor, Fr Rudy, is expected to join them. In addition to **St Joseph (West End)**, this Family includes **St Boniface & Holy Family** (each with a Conference); **St Therese Little Flower** (with active Special Works); and **St Leo** (without SVDP presence...yet).

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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](mailto: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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## **CMS Insight**

**End of Fiscal Year:** Just a reminder that we just a month away from 9/30/2023, the end of our fiscal year.

All Conferences should review, asap, pages 6 and 7 of the CMS Statistics: Conferences report and address the following:

1. Open cases should be closed out as quickly as possible and should not remain open for long periods of time. These are seen on page 6 and individual members can see same on their My Assigned Cases list.
2. Page 7 of the report shows cases where assistance was provided but no value for the assistance was entered. These should be corrected ASAP.
  - Yes, there are some types of assistance, like referrals, with \$0 value. However, most other assistance has a monetary value, if even an estimate.
  - Not supplying the value of assistance can impact the financial reports coming out of CMS.
  - All CMS users are advised to enter a dollar value, even if it is zero.

Note that this guidance is applicable throughout the year.

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](mailto:jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org) - at any time if you have any questions, suggestions, or desire a walkthrough training session.

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

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

We extended **\$79,400** in the month of July.

August marks the fourth consecutive month our available CAF funding has been

exhausted well before month-end.

**Our August activity to-date (with just today and tomorrow remaining):**

- We've received **162** applications
- We've approved **159** applications; **2** were withdrawn and **1** declined
- We have **0** applications currently in progress

**Alec notified our Conference Presidents on 8/15 that your applications already submitted would fully extend our August CAF funding of \$70,000 from our District Council. Our team processed these in-house applications which did exhaust our \$70,000 cap. Please continue to suspend submitting new applications until this 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](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=eyJrljoiNjQyZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2QtNDEzNS05ZTE2LTUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9> .

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](mailto:ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org) , or Tom Roberts, 513.345.4910 or [troberts@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto: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 Update - Please Read This For Great September News! Due to additional resources available this month, we are able to accept SIX bed requests per Conference this month. Please note that, as always, we will honor requests from the first of this month (Friday, 9/1) through the fifth (Tues, 9/5); if we have additional beds available after all initial requests are received, we will notify Conferences via upcoming editions of Conference News and Notes.**

And reminder:

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](mailto: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](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.

### ***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 this coming 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](http://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> . 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 tomorrow (Thursday, 8/31) morning, 8:30am-noon. 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.

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## ***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](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!

**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.

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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***

**Lord Jesus, give us the grace to deny ourselves,  
so that we can lose our life in order to find it.  
Lord Jesus, give us the grace to carry our cross,  
so that we can learn *mortification* in the spirit of St. Vincent.  
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED



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

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