



## Conference News and Notes for Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Sent to all Vincentians & Staff to invite, inspire, inform, & unite

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### **Vincentian Reflection for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 9, 2023**

**Gospel: (Matthew 11:25-30)** Jesus exclaimed: *“I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”*

**Reflection:** The love Jesus speaks of is a self-sacrificing love that knows no bounds when the good of the other is at stake. No bounds, not even one's life. Jesus' command of love requires of us no less than dying to ourselves. We must let go of all our own pretensions, become meek and humble like Jesus and serve others. In everyday terms this means that we always seek God's will in our lives. This isn't always easy, because our natural human tendency is to seek our own good. Just as Jesus came to do God's will and brought salvation and peace, so when we do God's will we extend salvation and know peace. This is knowing God! (*Living Liturgy*, p.192)

**Vincentian Meditation:** Not only will we find rest and refreshment in Christ as we move along the road of life, but He would have us learn from Him meekness and humility of heart. Gentleness and humility of heart contribute much to our peace and rest on our journey to heaven. St. Vincent would wish us to be sacraments of the gentleness of Christ. Not only must we bring strength and help to the poor, but we must put them in contact with the meekness of Jesus. That is why it is important that we should not be angry people. If there is anger in our hearts, it will be difficult for us to help the poor effectively because we will not bring to them the gentleness of Jesus. (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p.573)

**Who are the Vincentians that have shown you how to be “sacraments of the gentleness of Christ”?**

**Who are the people you know who are just your invitation away from becoming such a Vincentian?**

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

**First ever Vincentian Vocation Staycation!** Have you found yourself recently feeling tired or stretched thin and need a bit of time to just get away for some refreshment? Not sure where to go or what to do? Then we have a great opportunity for you! We are happy to announce our **first ever overnight weekend retreat**, the **Vincentian Vocation Staycation, which will be held starting on the evening of Fri, 8/11, and continuing until midday on Sun, 8/13, at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford. (Flyer appears below.)** The retreat will include all meals and accommodations as well as offering inspiring talks to revitalize the soul, dedicated free time to reflectively wander in nature, get to know other Vincentians, or simply sit and relax to refresh your body, mind, and spirit as you journey the Vincentian life each day. Give yourself a treat before diving into the busy Fall and holiday season by spending a few days with us to nourish your spirit, strengthen your

bonds of fellowship with other Vincentians, and deepen your vocation. **To register & buy a ticket (\$300, includes meals and lodging) for the retreat please follow this link:** [http://weblink.donorperfect.com/VVS\\_Retreat\\_Registration](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/VVS_Retreat_Registration)  
**Spots are limited for this overnight, weekend long retreat and advance registration is required by Wed, 7/26. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Kelley at [Formation@SVDPCincinnati.org](mailto:Formation@SVDPCincinnati.org).**

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**Exploring Poverty Workshop:** Back by popular demand and request, we will be hosting our **Exploring Poverty Workshop on Wed, 7/19, 6 - 8pm, at our Ozanam Center (Liz Carter Center, 1125 Bank Street)**. This workshop enables us to explore the dynamics around poverty more deeply as well as many of the experiences our neighbors in need have gone through, challenging some of our own assumptions about poverty, and better equipping us for more impactful conversations with neighbors and even fellow Vincentians. To register for this workshop, please signup using the [link here](#) , <https://form.jotform.com/231505600755147> , or contact Chris Kelley directly.

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**And Please Save this Date!** We look forward to seeing many of you in a few short months for our **Annual Fall Fellowship Mass, Awards, and Brunch on Sunday, September 24, 9am, at St. Ursula Academy** – look for registration information later this summer!

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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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# VINCENTIAN VOCATION



## Staycation

GET AWAY FOR A WEEKEND WITH FELLOW  
VINCENTIANS AS YOU REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT AND  
REKINDLE THE LOVE OF YOUR VOCATION THROUGH  
INSPIRING TALKS AND FELLOWSHIP.

Retreat starts at 5:00pm on **Friday, August 11th**  
and ends at noon on **Sunday, August 13th**  
(following Mass and Brunch).

**Price: \$300.00**

Includes: All meals and lodging.

TO SIGNUP, VISIT THE MEMBERS AREA OF OUR WEBSITE, OR FOLLOW THE  
LINK IN CONFERENCE NEWS AND NOTES. FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE  
CONTACT CHRIS KELLEY AT [FORMATION@SVDPCINCNATI.ORG](mailto:FORMATION@SVDPCINCNATI.ORG).

***Please Join us for our next Resource Spotlight:  
Tools to Engage & Serve our Spanish-Speaking Neighbors  
Thurs, 7/20, 1 pm, via Zoom (Just 2 Weeks Away)***

We are seeing an increasing number of Spanish-speaking residents across our community, and as a result, we are serving more Hispanic neighbors than ever. In this session, members of our San Oscar Romero Conference, as well as staff from partner Su Casa, a ministry of Catholic Charities of Southwest Ohio, will help us learn more about the culture and needs of our Spanish-speaking sisters and brothers, as well as educate us about resources and tools available to serve them well. Please join us for this session, which will be held via Zoom on Thurs, 7/20, 1 - 2pm. No RSVP's are necessary; simply go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84644873859?pwd=REJhTTIXSkd6OTdpbnZUd3BsdXdDUT09> by clicking on this link when the meeting is scheduled to begin.

Meeting ID: 846 4487 3859

Passcode: 204398

## Announcing Upcoming Succession in Our Archdiocesan Council Presidency



Debi Schwartz, member of our Cincinnati District Council's Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference (St Gregory the Great S-3 Family), is scheduled to complete her second and final term as our Archdiocesan Council President on Sept 30, 2023 (the end of our 2023 fiscal year). Debi has served our Council, our members, and our neighbors with compassionate and inspiring leadership. Please note that this tenure has included numerous pivots as we have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic - from early adjustments to an evolving sense of normalcy - doing so with an unwavering commitment to our mission and values. Thank you, Debi!

As recently announced at our Summer Social Vincentian Fiesta (where the above picture was taken), John Ceddia, current President of our Cincinnati District Council's St Bartholomew Conference (Our Lady of Divine Providence S-7 Family), accepted the call and was elected as Debi's successor. He is scheduled to assume this leadership role on Oct 1, 2023. Those of us who have served alongside John - whether in his Conference and Family, among his Conference Presidents peers, or on our District Council's Formation and Conference Life Committees - recognize his wonderful "fit" to lead-by-example as our Archdiocese's *Beacons of Light* initiative transforms our Archdiocese and our Parish Families, while keeping us true to our Vincentian vocation. God bless both these Vincentians as they model Simplicity, Humility, Gentleness, Selflessness, and Zeal.

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*"Where It All Began"*

***2023 SVDP National Assembly in St. Louis  
Back to the Midwest - And Just a Scenic Drive Away!***

Registration is now open for the 2023 National Assembly in St. Louis, MO, Wednesday to Saturday, September 6 - 9, at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch. Both pre- and post- meeting activities are available; you can plan to arrive early or stay late. 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](#).

Early Registration Fee is \$450 per person, and includes participation fees and all group meals. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Schurk at [mschurk@svdpusa.org](mailto:mschurk@svdpusa.org).

You can now register online at: <https://meetingsvdpusa.regfox.com/2023-st-louis-national-assembly>.

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The Society of  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Cincinnati



## Charitable Golf Outing

Please join us on Monday, July 31, at our annual [Prescription Fore Fun Golf Outing and Wine & Bourbon Tasting](#)!

All proceeds benefit our [Deaconess Health Check / Charitable Pharmacy](#), the only pharmacy in Southwest Ohio dedicated to providing free medication and professional pharmaceutical care to people in need.

Our Charitable Pharmacy filled more than 70,000 free prescriptions last year and continues to serve significantly more patients than prior to the pandemic. Your critical support helps sustain and deepen our Charitable Pharmacy's life-saving services. For every \$1 invested, the Charitable Pharmacy is able to dispense more than \$11 worth of medication to its patients.

For more information and to register, please visit [CincyGolfOuting.com](#) and [CincyWineTasting.com](#).



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### *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](#). **Upcoming sessions are this Sat morning, 7/8, 10-noon; or 5-7pm on Tues, 8/15, & Thurs, 9/14.** Each of these sessions will be held via Zoom. If you plan to watch the sessions with other Vincentians, one person can complete the form and indicate others who will attend the session with them. **We've also added an in-person session at our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC, 1146 Bank St) on Tues, August 29, 5 - 7pm.** You may use the same sign-up link above to reserve your spot among fellow Vincentians. Please contact Dayna Patrick at 513.345.4982 or [dpatrick@SVDPCincinnati.org](mailto:dpatrick@SVDPCincinnati.org) with any questions regarding safeguarding.

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**We are continuing to accept requests for air conditioners; neighbors are now being added to our wait list. We will continue to process requests and extend assistance as it is available, but neighbors should expect a longer wait time.** The online request form can be found here: <http://www.svdpcincinnati.org/AC> or neighbors can apply at our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC, 1146 Bank St, 45214).

We are continuing to distribute fans on a walk-up basis at our NOC, through our Welcome Rooms/Food Pantry.

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.**

**Our External Relations / Development team is hosting an active donations drive to fund this summer heat relief program.**

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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### ***Hope to Dream Event***

We are currently seeking your help in finding children to participate in *Hope to Dream*, our annual partnership with Morris Home Furniture and WCPO. Children who participate in the program will receive a twin bed (mattress, box spring, and frame) as well as bedding, a pillow, and an assortment of other goodies. After a short program on Sat, 8/19, the beds will be delivered to the family's home. We do require that the families attend this Sat, 8/19, event, which is hosted at the Reds Youth Academy (2026 E Seymour Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45237).

Here's the criteria for potential participation:

- Children should be between 2 and 17 years old and able to sleep in a bed (Morris provides **twin** beds for this event – we won't have any cribs or larger beds)
- The *child* can't have received a bed from SVDP before (including through the Bob & Sylvia Rahe Bed Program); it's okay if another member of the family has received beds through the Rahe Bed Program
- There is a limit of two beds per family for this program
- Again, the family must attend the event on Sat, August 19 (9:15am-11:00am, with bed deliveries to follow)

Please follow this link <https://form.jotform.com/231633671415150> to complete an online registration form for each family. Conferences may request up to three beds to start (more spots may become available depending on demand). Please contact Erin at [enowak@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:enowak@svdpcincinnati.org) with any questions.

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### ***Our Council is in Active Search for a Social Services Advocate***

Do you know someone who has strong interpersonal skills; ability to communicate well orally and in writing; has 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? If so, they/you may be a perfect fit to join our Social Services team as a Social Services Advocate.

To view our full job description, 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 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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### ***More News from & for Our Conferences, including Beacons of Light Progress***

#### ***Beacons of Light news:***

- Each of the 24 Families of Parishes in our District Council's Hamilton County

footprint is progressing on the **Beacons of Light** pathway at its own pace. **Phase 1, Leadership, is projected to take 12-18 months from this initiative's 7/1/2022 implementation, so some Families are now, or will soon be, transitioning to Phase 2, Vision.** Some of our Vincentian members have already become engaged in *Beacons* leadership within their Family; in most Families, there is still time to engage, as the vision is formed for your Family's transformation to unite in mission over maintenance.

- We have completed initial Pastor Meetings in 12 of our 24 Families. We currently have one scheduled in July (**St Gertrude S-13 Family**) and we are actively pursuing more.

**A simple invitation for the Conferences & Vincentians within your *Beacons of Light* Family:**

- We are greatly encouraged by your successful efforts to nurture unity in friendship
- Some Families have ventured further to gather in faith (joint retreats, Mass together, shared reflections) and in service (joint drives, twinning within Family, sharing best practices, etc)
- What about in your Family? If you are in a single-parish Family, have you reached out to a fellow single-parish Family - nearby or anywhere within our Council - to expand your circle of faith, friendship, & service? Do you have progress to share here in Conference News and Notes?

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**Upcoming visits and events:**

- Alec & Tom will join our **St Boniface Conference (S-12 Family)** this Sat, 7/8, for their food pantry operation
- Alec & Tom also plan to join our **St James the Greater Conference (Mary, Queen of Heaven SW-5 Family)** for their meeting this Tues, 7/11
- Our **Conference Life Committee** will assemble for their quarterly meeting next Thurs, 7/13

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Do your Conference members hunger for more opportunities to directly engage our neighbors experiencing need? Does your Conference hesitate to invite prospective Vincentians to join you because you really don't know how you would offer them fulfilling service opportunities to complement your deeper development of spiritual connection and friendship? We have multiple customizable opportunities for your members to team with fellow Vincentians & Conferences eager for more "Vincentian power"...and we have opportunities in our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC). Please consider this another standing invitation - contact a member of our Vincentian Services team and watch for more info coming soon!

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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.**

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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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**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.



- Our fiscal year 2023's third quarter ended this past Fri, 6/30; Conferences are finalizing their Q3 records to generate quarterly reports...and we have just a couple Conferences finalizing and sharing their Q2 quarterly reports
- As we are in the first week of our Q4, this is a great time to refresh ourselves on what constitutes Members' hours of service (essentially all activity related to being a Vincentian, from prep for and engaging & serving our neighbors, to prep for and participating in Conference meetings, to formation & training events, to reading Conference News and Notes and other support materials, to engaging community partners, to collecting in-kind goods and stocking pantries,...) and how your Conference and you record & report these hours; you can find multiple CMS training resources on our Council's website, Members pages; candidly, many of our Conferences under-report their Members' service hours...which is a shame because some stakeholders (and funders) view this as a gauge of how active we are in our community and the impact we contribute

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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.

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

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

**Our final June activity (processing was suspended mid-month as June funding was exhausted):**

- We received **165** applications
- We approved **154** applications; **7** were withdrawn & **4** were declined

**Our first couple days of July activity (reinstated on Sat, 7/1, with our Council's \$70,000 monthly funding provision, augmented by Conferences' twinning to CAF):**

- We've already received **46** applications
- We've approved **4** applications; **0** have been withdrawn; & **1** has been declined
- We have **42** applications currently in process

**Twinning to our CAF will help fuel our ability to approve and extend CAF assistance and reduce any future interruptions. Special thanks to Our Lady of the Visitation Conference for twinning \$3,500 to our CAF in late June!**

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=eyJrIjoibjQyZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2QtNDEzNS05ZTE2LTUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9> .

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 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 - This round known (internally) as ERA2.1**

We received a funding allocation from the City of Cincinnati to once again partner to assist City of Cincinnati neighbors with their rent and utility arrearages through the ERA2 program, similar to the previous round.

**Please Note! We stopped accepting ERA2.1 applications for this round on Tues, 6/13, per previous guidance, as this City of Cincinnati funding allotment was slated to expire this past Fri, June 30.**

**Our Conferences' ERA2.1 progress to-date:**

- **110** applications submitted
- **98** approved; **1** withdrawn

- 11 are in various stages of processing (9 awaiting final review & approval; 2 awaiting landlord documentation; we are still diligently working to get this assistance extended)

**We do not currently have ERA funding available to Conferences for this July-Sept quarter. We will advise of any new developments.**

**For your knowledge to be shared with neighbors for referrals, we believe JFS is still accepting ERA applications. (See more info under Hamilton County COVID Assistance below.)**

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.

### **Rahe Beds Fund Program Reminders**

**We are accepting your Conference's initial applications for July beds (up to 4 per Conference) through today (Wed, 7/5). We will advise if we find we have more beds to extend in July beyond your initial requests. We do have cribs and pack & plays available by request.**

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.

### **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 today (Wed, 7/5), 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 - Please Read This!**

**Christ Church Cathedral stopped accepting referrals for Plumb Line on Friday, June 2. As we have seen/heard no indications that this resource will be available to our neighbors in the near future, this will be the last time this resource appears in our Conference News and Notes until we have new developments to share.**

Please do not reach out to Christ Church directly. Please contact Olivia Scheper, our Conferences Support Coordinator, [oscheper@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:oscheper@svdpcincinnati.org) or 513.345.4986, with any questions. **We again thank Christ Church for the Plumb Line generosity they shared with our community.**

### **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 offers 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 will be open tomorrow morning (Thurs, 7/6); and all day (8:30am-3pm) on Thurs, 7/20, & Thurs, 7/27**. 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, make us gentle servants,  
with eyes to see the poor.  
Lord, make us humble servants,  
with ears to hear the cries of the poor.  
Lord, we come to You with our labors and burdens,  
may we know Your rest.  
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED



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

[Unsubscribe kgallagher@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:kgallagher@svdpcincinnati.org)

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