



Conference News and Notes for Wednesday, June 28, 2023

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

Vincentian Reflection for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 2, 2023

Gospel: (Matthew 10:37-42) Jesus said to his apostles: “*Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me....And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple - amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.*”

Reflection: The heart of the paschal mystery is dying and rising. Our own daily living can sometimes seem to have much more dying than rising. Even setting aside the issue of consciously choosing self-sacrifice, just the simple demands of our lives pull it out of us: feeding the infant in the middle of the night, ferrying the kids to soccer, helping with the homework when we are dog tired, cleaning the house and preparing meals, taking time to share some good thing with a spouse, calling and visiting an aging parent, helping the suffering and the poor. One of the great encouragements of this Sunday's Gospel is that all this behavior - like giving “a cup of cold water” - may seem small to us, but to God they are actions that correspond to those of Christ. The message is that our generosity is far surpassed by God's generosity. (*Living Liturgy*, p.188)

Vincentian Meditation: To Vincent, a life of virtue was no accident. God gives the grace, but human effort is required to cultivate the virtue. Habits of charity, hopefulness, and justice are *built*, not just wished into being. Vincent knew that good intentions were insufficient responses to God's grace. Virtue - a good habit, an inner readiness to accomplish moral good - had to become part of the fabric of life. For instance, by acting patiently over and over in trying situations, a person may learn patience. Virtues such as patience are important in the full living of the Christian life. Vincent constantly made concrete suggestions about how to develop virtue. From hard experience, he knew that definite dispositions had to be cultivated into the heart of the servant if the Gospels were to come alive through his or her hands. (McKenna, *Praying with Vincent*, p.70)

**Our Vincentian virtues are simplicity, humility, gentleness, selflessness, and zeal.
How are we living these virtues in our Conference?
What opportunities do we see to more fully live these virtues?**

Your Formation and Training Opportunities & Tips - Plus Events!

Save the Dates!! First ever Vincentian Vocation Staycation! Have you found yourself recently feeling tired or burnt out 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 Friday, August 11 and continuing until midday on Sunday, August 13** at the **Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford**. All meals and overnight accommodations will be **included in the cost of the retreat which is \$300**, as well as plenty of free time to wander in nature, get to know other Vincentians, or simply sit and relax to refresh your body, mind, and spirit as you walk the Vincentian life each day. Take a few days to nourish your spirit, strengthen

your bonds of fellowship with other Vincentians, and deepen your vocation grounded in serving our neighbors by joining us for inspiring talks, discussions, and reflective activities. A special email containing the link to register & submit payment for the retreat will be provided on Friday and in future Conference News and Notes; spots are limited for this retreat and **advance registration is required by Wednesday, July 26.**

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Exploring Poverty Workshop: Back by popular demand and request, we will be hosting our **Exploring Poverty Workshop on Wednesday, July 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 .

***Learn More About Our Cincinnati District Council's Next Strategic Plan
Last Call - This Zoom is Today, 3pm***

On October 1, our Cincinnati District Council will implement our **Better Together** Strategic Plan, which will serve as the roadmap for our next three years. **Please join your fellow Vincentians today (Wednesday, 6/28), 3pm, for an online one-hour session** sharing the objectives, goals, and strategies that will shape the next three years of our journey together as a Vincentian community. Ample time will be given for Q&A and discussion. To join this Zoom Meeting, simply click on this link @ 3pm today:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81115236454?pwd=SkNUTmlvMmhPeXN3K3BDdGFUQj9HUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 1523 6454

Passcode: 054264



"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.

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



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.

WINE & BOURBON TASTING

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 next 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 with any questions regarding safeguarding.

*Celebrating Our Nation's Birthday
July 4 is This Coming Tuesday
God Bless America!*



We wish you a safe and relaxing remembrance of what a blessing it is to enjoy the American freedom - and the unity - that our founders envisioned for us in 1776...And all the commitment and sacrifices made by so many who have led us into this, our third century.

Please note that our Liz Carter Center (LCC) & Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) will be closed in observance of the holiday on Tues, 7/4, and will be open on normal operating schedule on Mon, 7/3, & Wed, 7/5. Our thrift stores will be open on their normal retail hours each of these days, including Tues, 7/4; our thrift stores' call center & trucking operations will be closed on Tues, 7/4.

Our Fans & Air Conditioners Distribution Program ***Please Note this Fresh Messaging***

We are continuing to accept requests for air conditioners, but 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.

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

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 Saturday, August 19, the beds will be delivered to the family's home. We do require that the families attend the August 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 with any questions.



Our Charitable Pharmacy Is Now Accepting Specific In-Kind Donations

Thanks to compelling advocacy by our Pharmacy leadership and robust, progressive support from our Ohio legislators,

- Our Charitable Pharmacy can accept - and is now accepting - donations of **unused, non-expired insulin, inhalers, and blood thinners (e.g. Eliquis, Xarelto)** from our community.
- **All medication donations must be given directly to our Pharmacy staff, in person, by the owner of the medication or the owner's caregiver.** Please do not accept a medication donation and bring it in for them. For compliance with state and federal laws, the donor must sign a form to transfer the medication directly to our Pharmacy.
- Here are some quotes from recent donors who contributed life-saving medications to our Charitable Pharmacy:
 - "My doctor changed my meds. You helped me 10 years ago, and I finally have a chance to give back."
 - "I just placed my dad in a nursing home, and they wouldn't accept the medications he has left at home."
 - "My husband passed away recently. He would love to know that he is still helping others."

***Voice of the Poor Nugget
Your Opportunity to Vote on Issue 1 @ Ohio Special Election***

on Tues, August 8

The following is provided as an informational resource (drawn from the Cincinnati Enquirer) to introduce this complicated issue and to encourage you to research over the coming 40 days and then exercise your right to vote as you discern appropriate.

You are being asked to vote on only one issue in this special August election: how our Ohio Constitution can be changed. It can be amended in two ways: by the Ohio General Assembly or by voters themselves.

Issue 1 would:

- Require that in order to get a proposal on the ballot, signatures must be obtained from 5% of the voters **in each county** who voted for the last governor's race. (Presently, signatures must come from half of the 88 counties.)
- Raise the percentage of votes necessary to get a constitutional amendment passed in a public election from a simple majority (50% plus 1) to 60%. (60% is currently required for votes within both of Ohio's legislative bodies to pass a resolution.)

Previous amendments that passed but would have failed because they didn't get 60% approval include the following:

- Bonds for environmental conservation and low-income housing
- Elimination of straight ticket voting
- Term limits for governor
- A limit of 10 mills on property taxes
- Increase in the minimum wage (November 2006)

Four former Ohio governors from both parties (Taft, Strickland, Kasich, and Celeste) and five former attorneys general, oppose Issue 1. Those in favor of Issue 1 contend it will keep outside special interest groups from coming into Ohio and getting things put into our constitution.

The vast majority of all 227 amendments put on the ballot in the past 110 years were put on by our state legislature. Only 19 were initiated by citizens beyond our legislators. Only 3 of the citizen-initiated statutes passed.

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.

Bringing You More Vincentian Smiles!



Vincentians, spouses, and friends of our **Divine Mercy (SW-1) Family** came together for a picnic at the beautiful shelter of St Joseph (North Bend) this past Monday evening, June 26. **All 3 Conferences in this Family - Our Lady of the Visitation** (Peggy James, President), **St Jude** (Jim Meade, President) and host **St Joseph** (Mary Ann Weber, President) - were well represented. The food was great; the friendship was warm; and all were engaged by a brief presentation on select local community resources. Unity is most definitely being nurtured, much to the benefit of this Family, our members, our neighbors, and our community.

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

Beacons of Light news:

- We have now participated in 12 Pastor Meetings
- 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 anticipated to transition to Phase 2, Vision, as soon as 7/1/2023 (this week!).** 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.

And 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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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.

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

- Please review your Conference members listing in CMS for accuracy:
 - Review and correct roles
 - For any members that have retired from your Conference, remove ALL of their roles
 - Ensure that officers are correctly identified
 - Ensure member email addresses are available, where applicable, and correct
 - Review and correct SVDP Anniversary dates for all members
- Please review cases to ensure that they are closed as quickly as possible.
- Please review the Abandoned Cases reports in CMS and close/complete as necessary.
- If your check register is behind on closing, please close prior months in preparation for the closing of June; June 30 is this Fri; we will move from our fiscal year 2023 Q3 to Q4.

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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)

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

- We received **123** applications
- We approved **159** applications; **5** were withdrawn & **6** were declined
- We had **1** application still in process

Our June activity (reinstated on Thursday, 6/1, with our Council's \$70,000 monthly funding provision, and currently suspended as June funding is fully exhausted):

- We've received **165** applications
- We've approved **152** applications; **5** were withdrawn; & **4** were declined
- We have **5** applications currently in process

We will begin accepting new applications again this Saturday, July 1. 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 this past week!

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 , or Alec Jewell, 513.345.4983 or 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 now known (internally) as ERA2.1

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

- **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 is currently slated to expire this Fri, June 30.**
- We have maximum total available funds of \$300,000 (increased from \$200,000) to be extended through your/our Conferences
- We are only able to assist neighbors who rent within the City of Cincinnati
- Eligible neighbors are able to receive up to 15 months of rent and utility arrearages
- Our neighbor must have been impacted in some capacity by COVID
- We have recommended that neighbors with a minimum of \$1,000 in arrearages should apply for this funding; any lesser amounts would likely be good candidates for CAF, assuming the neighbor is eligible
- Assistance can only apply to balances accrued after March 13, 2020

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

Our ERA2.1 progress to-date:

- **110** applications submitted
- **98** approved; **1** withdrawn
- **11** are in various stages of processing - which must be completed by this Fri, 6/30

We will advise of any new developments.

Rahe Beds Fund Program Reminders

We have extended our full availability of beds for this month of June. We do have cribs and pack & plays available by request.

We will be accepting initial applications for July beds (up to 4 per Conference) through this coming Wed, 7/5. Once you have submitted a 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.

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, 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. The processing flow has simply been too heavy for their cohort of volunteers. As of this time, it is unknown whether this resource will be available for our neighbors again in the future.

Olivia Scheper, our Conferences Support Coordinator, oscheper@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.345.4986, continues to be your/our central contact point-person for Plumb Line. Olivia will let us know if/when there are new developments.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)

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

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

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

Duke Energy

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

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

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

State of Ohio Program for Struggling Homeowners

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

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

Hamilton County COVID Assistance

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

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

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

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

The Vision Clinic operates **by appointment** on CEIF's communicated schedule, based upon their team's availability; Thursdays are the most consistent. **This Vision Clinic will be open all day (8:30am-3pm) tomorrow (Thurs, 6/29); the morning of Thurs, 7/6; and all day 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.

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, You inspire us as followers of Vincent to be virtuous,
help us to serve always with respect and gentleness.
O God, You inspire us as followers of Vincent to be servants of the poor,
send us out in humility, simplicity and charity.
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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