



Conference News and Notes for Wednesday, January 10, 2024

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

Vincentian Reflection for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 14, 2024

Gospel: (John 1:35-42) John was standing with two of his disciples and as he watched Jesus walk by, John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "*What are you looking for?*"

They said to him, "Rabbi" - which means Teacher - "where are you staying?" He said to them, "*Come, and you will see.*" So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

Reflection: We cannot truly be disciples of Christ unless we, too, wait to hear God's call and respond by transforming our lives, evidenced in the simple willingness to be obedient to God's will. This means more than keeping the commandments, it means that our whole lives are directed to waiting and listening for God's self-revelation. Sometimes this revelation comes through others - perhaps in their cry for help. Sometimes the revelation comes through prayer in which we take some time to listen to God. However, when the revelation or call comes, if we respond, we will be transformed. And Jesus will turn and ask us, "What are you looking for?" (*Living Liturgy*, p.42)

Vincentian Meditation: Our Identity Statement tells us: As a reflection of the whole family of God, Members, who are known as Vincentians, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group, and economic level. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule.

**"What were you looking for" when you joined this Society?
Are you finding it?**

**How can we better invite and welcome others to join us on this journey of
transformative love in action?**

Your Formation and Training Opportunities & Tips - Plus Events!



Join us on Saturday, 1/20, 9am to 11am for

The Spirituality of the Home Visit Workshop

HOSTED AT CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
5935 PANDORA AVE, CINCINNATI, 45213

Have you wondered how to introduce prayer into your meetings with neighbors? Are you seeking the face of Christ and desiring more clarity? Join with fellow Vincentians as we dive deeper into the spiritual side of the Home Visit to give you practical insights and tools on becoming more confident in these personal moments of encounter.

For more info or to signup, goto our JotForm
(<https://form.jotform.com/232224094272147>)
or email to Formation@SVDPCincinnati.org

Spirituality of the Home Visit Workshop – Do you want to feel more comfortable or grow more deeply in your own prayer life? Do you want to become closer as a Vincentian team during visits, or at Conference meetings? Perhaps even have tools and guidance on bringing prayer into the home visit? We invite you to join us for our upcoming **Spirituality of the Home Visit** workshop, our newest workshop being offered on **Saturday, 1/20 (just a little over 1 week away), 9-11am, at the Church of the Nativity** (5935 Pandora Ave, Pleasant Ridge). **We still have a handful of spots remaining.** Doors will open for checking in at 8:40am. We will reflect and explore these topics throughout the morning, so you go home energized and with the tools you need to connect with our neighbors more deeply, and with fellow Vincentians. To sign up for this workshop, please register through this link <https://form.jotform.com/232224094272147> or by contacting Chris Kelley. This workshop was rescheduled from October.

Join us on Wednesday, 2/07 for a Mass celebrating the Feast of

Bl. Rosalie Rendu

NEYER OUTREACH CENTER CHAPEL; 8:00AM
1146 BANK STREET

You are invited to join with fellow Vincentians, volunteers, staff and neighbors for a Mass celebrating the life and legacy of one of our primary spiritual patrons in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Blessed Rosalie Rendu.

Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Alex McCullough, Pastor of the Queen of the Apostles Family of Parishes in Wyoming, OH. To signup, please use the link for JotForm: <https://form.jotform.com/240084159810150>



Our **next monthly Mass** in the chapel within our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) **will take place on Wednesday, 2/7, 8:00am**. You (as well as guests) are invited to share in our giving thanks to the Lord for the many gifts He gives us, especially as we honor the life and legacy of Bl. Rosalie Rendu, a spiritual patron of the Society! To signup, please reach out to Chris Kelley or use our JotForm: <https://form.jotform.com/240084159810150> . We kindly ask that you RSVP so we can ensure proper seating and enough hosts.

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

Employment Opportunities

Ozanam Center Program Manager

Your Vincentian Services team is seeking a passionate, motivated, and talented Catholic individual as the Ozanam Center Program Manager, leading the Center in its next great chapter. The Ozanam Center for Service Learning was founded by our District Council as the dynamic hub for Vincentian formation within the greater Cincinnati area. The Ozanam Center seeks to guide adults and young people, as well as professional and community groups, through the reflective methods of service learning as they explore social concerns/needs within the greater Cincinnati community, with special awareness of the impact of poverty dynamics in communities. The Program Manager engages with a variety of professional and community partners, schools, universities, and other groups as they develop high quality workshops and immersive retreat experiences rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, and which reflect our Vincentian tradition of faith, fellowship, and service. Local travel throughout Hamilton County, and potentially nearby counties, is required. Work weeks vary seasonally and includes some night/weekend work.

Formation and Service Learning Coordinator

Your Vincentian Services team is seeking an organized and creative Catholic individual with a passion for helping others grow in their faith and incorporating Catholic Social Teaching into their daily lives as our new Formation and Service Learning Coordinator. The Coordinator will assist the Formation and Service Learning team in the development and presentation of high quality presentations, workshops, retreats, and major annual events throughout the year. The Coordinator supports our Vincentian members, our network of volunteers, the District Council support staff, as well as community partners in their search to learn more as they grow in our essential elements of faith, fellowship, and service within the wider Cincinnati area. This role is primarily a Tuesday – Saturday role

featuring occasional evening hours and travel as appropriate for retreats or special events.
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You can find the job descriptions for both of the above roles on our website at <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/> .

You may be a great fit! You may know a great fit that just needs your gentle nudge!
To apply for either of these opportunities, please submit a cover letter and resume to Christopher Kelley, Formation and Service Learning Director:
Formation@SVDPCincinnati.org .

Save the Dates - SVDP Mideast Regional Meeting, Co-Hosted Here!

Friday, 6/14, & Saturday, 6/15/2024.

Our Cincinnati District Council will co-facilitate this year's annual event with SVDP-NKY. A great opportunity for you to meet fellow Vincentians from throughout Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, & Michigan...and extend our gracious Cincinnati hospitality. More to come!

Are You Receiving SVDP National's Contemplation Emails?

If you are, and you are finding/making the time to read them, you know that Tim Williams, our National Vincentian Formation Director, is sharing his perspective on Vincentian spirituality to inform our discernment on how we live this vocation.

Here's a link to a recent (Monday, 1/8) message:

<https://ssvpusa.org/vincentians/contemplation-what-good-have-i-done/>

These might represent wonderful dialogue stimulators for your Conference meeting's reflection...or simply invite your personal discernment. If you are not receiving these periodic **Contemplations** or **National's weekly Frederic's e-Gazette**, this means you need to be added or updated in National's members database.

If you'd like to subscribe, 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> .

We pray. We discern. We act. We grow.

Safeguarding Training for our Vincentians

Our next 2024 virtual opportunity:

- **This Tuesday, 1/16, 6 – 7:30pm** , [Click here to join the meeting](#) when you are ready on Tuesday evening

To register, click on [this link](#) . If you plan to watch this session with other Vincentians or as a Conference, one person can complete the form and indicate others who will attend the session with them in the notes section. Please contact our Safeguarding team at 513.853.1014 or Safeguarding@SVDPCincinnati.org with any questions.

Enhancements to Our SVDP-Cincinnati Website: The Evolution Continues

Our sincerest apologies to any of you who were caught in the midst of website changes over the past week. Last Wednesday we announced a new Protected Member Page with a new password and Conferences Forum. Unfortunately, it became evident after we rolled this out that the Protected Member Page wasn't going to provide the simplification we had hoped, so we have now removed that page entirely. **We have implemented a new password, Vincentians@Cincy1869, across our Resources for Serving Neighbors, Conference Life Resources, CMS Support, and Conferences Forum pages.** The Conferences Forum is now on the main menu on the Member page and can be accessed there directly.

We would also like to make a plea to any Conferences who haven't yet registered to use

this new **Conferences Forum**. The forum will only work if the majority of Conferences are using it. We of course are not mandating its use, but we hope you will see this forum as a simplification of inter-Conference communication and worth the effort of registering and using. Please know that the forum was created after Conferences asked us to help simplify twinning and reduce some of the email traffic. We very much hope that it will do just that. If you have any feedback or improvements on the forum or website, please do reach out, we're all ears.

Thank you also to those who attended the short tutorial this past Monday. If you missed it, you can catch the majority of the content in this video [here](#) .

Please kindly email Alec, ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org, with questions and to get registered for the forum.

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Conferences Map, aka Conference Locator Map

There have been some updates made to our Conferences map in an effort to make it more user friendly, which you may have already noticed in part. You can now click anywhere within a Conference's boundary for the Conference's information to pop up on the left-hand side of the screen. In order to make this fact a little more evident, we've colored all boundaries in slightly. With this update, we no longer had a need for the Conference markers, so you will notice that all markers are now gone. When you look up a neighbor's address, you will no longer need to zoom out in order to tell which Conference they are in, just simply click and it will pop up. The Hamilton and St Martin maps will be changing to this in the near future as well.

Please reach out to your Vincentian Services team if you have any questions or concerns.

Our Council's Central Call Center Continues to Invite Your Feedback on Neighbor Referrals

As we, together, move toward collaborating more as a team, your centralized Call Center is looking for more feedback about errors that are taking place when referring neighbors to Conferences. With the intention of making sure that all Conferences are aware of the desire to hear from them about the way in which Referrals are sent, we are inviting your detailed feedback, via email, to empower our dedicated Call Center Team to troubleshoot and resolve errors, processes, and misunderstandings. Please feel welcome to direct your input to Adriana Howard at ahoward@svdpcincinnati.org .

Our Cincinnati District Council's Holiday Programs Recap

Through the generosity of our sponsors and volunteers, our District Council was able to assist over 1,050 families (2,900 children) with holiday gifts assistance. This includes 100 families (nearly 300 children) assisted by the 20 Conferences who came to our NOC to select presents for their neighbors.

We also assisted 1,451 families through our Christmas Food Distribution. A special thanks to all the Vincentians who helped staff the holiday food table and food pantry, and/or made deliveries to our neighbors, during an incredibly busy December.

These counts and our collective impact are even larger when combined with the good works you performed within your respective Conferences - extending hope and joy in abundance!

Upcoming Martin Luther King Holiday

This Monday, 1/15, is Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday and a holiday observed nationally. **Our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) and Liz Carter Center (LCC) will be closed on Monday, 1/15**, and will reopen on normal schedule on Tuesday, 1/16. Our network of thrift stores will maintain their normal operations on Monday, 1/15.

Our Cathedral/St Xavier Conference Shares Pictures

This shot was taken at their December Christmas gathering, where faith and friendship were beautifully harmonized in Christmas carols.



And please accept this invitation to experience St Xavier Church's magnificent renovation project completed in 2023. St Francis Xavier Church (611 Sycamore Street, downtown) was originally dedicated to St Peter in December, 1826 (when its predecessor structure was literally moved to this site), and was the center of early Catholic life in our city. Adjacent parking is free for Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses.



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

Seize this ripe opportunity to deepen your relationship with your Family of Parishes' Pastor!

Your Family's Conference(s) have recently completed your respective Annual Report(s), summarizing incredible quantitative data for your FY2023 operations and good works. This data can be combined with stories that add color to your impact for your neighbors, members, parish Family, and community. The arrival of "Ordinary Time" is a wonderful window to invite your Pastor to join you for a Conference(s) Meeting to include a brief presentation on 2023, the year that was, and your aspirations for 2024. This could lead your Pastor to want to share the fruits of your ministry with your full congregation(s). Your good works deserve to shine brightly - Let your vocation light an inviting pathway for all!

Our Archdiocese's Center for Parish Vitality is hosting *Beacons of Light* Information Sessions during January & February, beginning next week

Parishioners in leadership roles (e.g., parish and school staff, parish and finance council members, **ministry leaders**, school teachers, et al.) are invited to participate in one of the upcoming *Beacons of Light* Information Sessions. Participants will have a chance to hear from Archdiocesan leadership and ask questions about this important planning process underway in our Archdiocese. Sessions will be offered in each of the six deaneries with a few online options as well. (Should winter weather cause trouble, in-person sessions may be converted to online with 24 hours' notice.)

These sessions include:

- **Next Thursday, 1/18**, 7-8:30pm, for Cathedral Deanery-South, @ St Xavier HS
- Wednesday, 1/24, 7-8:30pm, for St Mary Deanery-SE, @ St Elizabeth Ann Seton in Milford
- Wednesday, 2/7, 7-8:30pm, for St James Deanery-SW, @ Elder HS
- And virtual general sessions on Thursday, 1/25, 10-11:30am, and Tuesday, 1/30, 7-8:30pm

Learn more and register on our Archdiocesan's website pages dedicated to this *Beacons of Light* transformative initiative. You can also find information about the Pastoral Planning Pathway and Phase 2 (Visioning) here.

Happy New Year! We welcome 2024 and embrace the opportunities God has placed in front of us.

What are your aspirations for yourself, your family, your Conference, your Family of Parishes, your neighbors and community?

And how can we - your Vincentian Services team - provide you with lift to make these aspirations reality?

We encourage you to invest a Conference and/or Family of Conferences gathering on **what matters most**. Your Vincentian Services team is here to help.

Our **Guardian Angels and Immaculate Heart of Mary Conferences** of **St Gregory the Great S-3 Family of Parishes** has invited **McNicholas High School's Youth Conference** to join them @ IHM this Sat morning, 1/13, for a joint retreat co-facilitated by Brother Edward (IHM) & Deacon Paul Feie (GA). McNick students regularly join GA members for pantry operation and other projects.

Our Lady of Divine Providence S-7 Family Pastor Meeting

Conference Presidents Jim Meyer (**St Vivian**), Ken Radziwon (**St Bartholomew**), Susi Dick (**Assumption**), Marita Hartel (**St Clare**), and Bob Mierenfeld (**St Bernard - Spring Grove Village**) will meet with their pastor, Fr Andrew Umberg, this Tuesday afternoon, 1/16.

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Members of your Cincinnati District Council's Vincentian Services team - Alec, Chris, Olivia, & Tom - eagerly welcome your invitation to join your Conference or the Conferences in your Family for a meeting, event, or retreat.

CMS Insight

- Please note that your Conference CMS administrator is the first point of contact for your CMS questions and/or issues. If your administrator cannot provide a resolution, it can be escalated to John Wessel, your Resource Analyst.
- Clothing/Household/Furniture Vouchers - Reminder: You are likely aware of the need for voucher numbers on "in kind" SVDP Store Voucher assistance. However,

questions have been raised regarding the necessity to populate the "Other" field whenever the assistance is *not* an SVDP Store voucher but coming directly from Conference supplies/stock. The recommendation there would be to use a single word like "stock", "inventory", "Conference" or some other single word to show that this assistance came directly from your Conference and NOT a store voucher. The important part to remember is that when an SVDP Store Voucher is issued the voucher number (number only) must be entered in the "Other" field of the assistance window in CMS.

- Be advised that your friendly Resource Analyst is working on a process to identify issues with data being entered (or not) into cases. This process will likely involve automatic emails and you are requested to address any issues promptly. These emails may, potentially, be sent each day

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You can call or email John Wessel - 513.562.1823 or jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org - if you have questions, suggestions, or desire a walkthrough training session. John asks that when emailing or calling him for CMS Support, that you please be sure to include your contact info (phone #), name of your Conference, specific CMS case that you are asking about or the details of the specific situation, including screen shots where necessary.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

We collectively, extended **\$878,277** in CAF assistance to neighbors throughout our Hamilton County footprint in our 2023 fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. Our updated and enhanced CAF model was implemented on 1/1/2024. For those Conferences which applied for funds for these 3 remaining quarters of fiscal year 2024, you received an email notification of your allocation amount. The initial funding checks were sent to participating Conferences this past week. Documents on our evolved CAF model can still be found in the Members area of our website [here](#) .

Please contact Alec Jewell, 513.345.4983 or ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org , or Tom Roberts, 513.345.4910 or troberts@svdpcincinnati.org , for info about how **your Conference can twin to our CAF** to fuel the good works of your fellow Conferences and Vincentians.

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 (ERA2)

We have received **70** applications: **40** have been approved, **5** have been withdrawn, **8** have been declined, and we have **17** applications in process.

Repeating great news - We have welcomed Anne Tobin (an active Vincentian at Nativity) to work part-time with Kevin O'Brien (Our Lady of the Valley Vincentian) to assist with processing applications. Anne and Kevin can both be reached at era@svdpcincinnati.org . Please feel free to reach out to either of them or your Vincentian Services Team with questions or concerns regarding ERA.

Rahe Beds Fund Program Update

Based upon FY2024 budget provisions and current pricing on our beds purchases, we accepted up to 5 bed requests per Conference for December.

Note: We currently have cribs and pack & plays available. Please use the Rahe contact info below to learn more.

We are able to extend up to six (6) Rahe Beds per Conference for the months of January and February, 2024! Your January applications were due this past Friday, 1/5, and are actively being processed.

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. Our CHRC phone number: 513.706.5822. **We welcomed our new CHRC Program Manager, Christine Ahrnsen, yesterday (Tuesday, 1/9).**

Our Rahe Fund email address is rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org .

Winter Coats

We are continuing to provide coats assistance through vouchers. Please note that we may not offer this assistance for as long as we have in past years, due to the high volume of coat vouchers we've already processed. The duration of this program is based on the supply of available coats at our thrift stores and at our CHRC. We want to make sure that neighbors are able to redeem the vouchers they've been given.

Vouchers are available at our NOC, or Vincentians may request them on behalf of their neighbors by emailing enowak@svdpcincinnati.org . If emailing a request, please include:

1. The name and date of birth of each household member who will be receiving a coat (including the head of household).
2. Where the voucher should be sent (the address of either the neighbor or the Conference member who will be delivering the voucher).

When redeeming their voucher, neighbors must bring their photo ID and an ID for all household members who will be receiving a coat (even if they're not present).

Complete information on this 2023-2024 coat voucher program can be found within the Members page of our website.

There is a limit of one coat per person, at either an event or through a voucher. Neighbors who have received a coat voucher will not be able to receive a coat at a distribution event. Open to all residents of Hamilton County.

Re-Entry Program

Our Cincinnati District Council's Re-Entry Program is based in our NOC as a resource for your Conference members and your/our neighbors and families whose lives have been impacted by the criminal justice system. You can learn more about the services offered by going to our website's Members page, clicking on Resources for Serving Neighbors, and then Re-Entry. Jackie Cales, our Re-Entry Program Manager, can be reached at jcales@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.8851.

Housing Choice Vouchers

Please refer to the blurb in our October 25, 2023, edition of Conference News and Notes or the Members page of our website for context on requests/recommendations for Housing Choice Vouchers. Marnay Love, reached via email to mlove@svdpcincinnati.org , is our Social Services Advocate administering our Cincinnati District Council's role in this program.

Metro Bus Passes (Everybody Rides Metro)

Neighbors residing within a Conference footprint are not eligible to come down to the NOC for bus passes, unless they are coming down for another service to which they are eligible at this site (example: pantry food assistance).

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

Neighbors residing within a Conference footprint are not eligible to come down to the NOC for birth certificates. Your Conference has access to request Birth Certificates for neighbors within your footprint, to be extended for any of these 3 defined purposes:

1. Employment
2. School Enrollment
3. Housing Placement

Conferences should only complete requests for the neighbor's own birth certificate and/or a minor of whom they have custody, and requests can only be completed for neighbors born in Ohio. SVDP can extend up to 2 birth certificates per household per lifetime. Our Birth Certificate Guidelines sheet will be available to Conferences on the Members pages of our website.

If your Conference would like to submit a request for a birth certificate, please complete the form found here: <https://form.jotform.com/232633979750063>.

***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 almost every Monday, 9am-noon**. Neighbors are accepted on a walk-in basis, and should sign in at our NOC reception desk upon arrival. **Haircuts will not be offered this Monday, 1/15, as our NOC is closed for the MLK holiday.**

Cooking Improv with La Soupe

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

These sessions are held on the first Wednesday of each month - which means **our next event is Wednesday, 2/7, 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.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. (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](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 a 1-page summary of Duke's assistance resources on our website [here](#) . You can find additional 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.

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/> .

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's remaining January schedule of operations is: Thursdays (8:30am-3pm, out 11:30am-12:30pm for lunch), 1/11 (tomorrow), 1/18, & 1/25, ; and Monday mornings (8:30-11:30), 1/22, & 1/29.**

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 .

Wow! A record 566 of you opened 2 of our weekly editions between Thanksgiving & Christmas this year...at a time when so many of you/us were so active.

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

Jesus, You turned and asked the disciples, “ *What are you looking for?*”

We have heard Your call to be a disciple and we are following You.

We thank You for the call to be a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, may our Conference be a reflection of the whole family of God.

You call us to be united in a spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, may we be nourished by prayer and reflection.

You call us to mutually supportive gatherings, may we share a deep sense of friendship.

You call us to adherence to our basic Rule,

may we be faithful to the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam.
Amen.

STAY CONNECTED



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

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