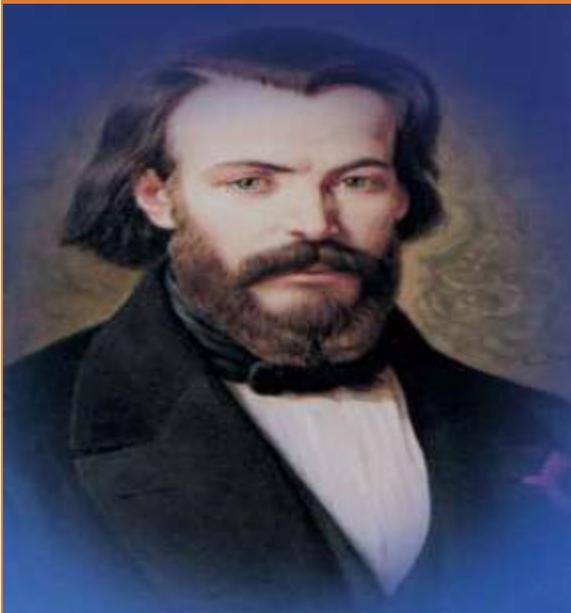




NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, INC.

May 2012



Frédéric's E-Gazette

An e-newsletter from the
National Council of the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

End Poverty Through Systemic Change

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There's a wonderful story told about author Gertrude Stein on her deathbed. One of the people in attendance, seeking some pearl of wisdom, said to her: "What is the answer?" Stein is said to have replied: "What is the question?"

Andrew Soble would probably agree. Soble has just published a new book with co-author Jerald Panas, *Power Questions: Build Relationships, Win New Business, and Influence Others*. Most people, they argue, seem to believe that if they could just get some straight answers from our political, business and community leaders, we'd know what the right decisions are.

Soble said: "The real truth is different: If we just asked

Quick Links

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[Six Goals of the Strategic Plan](#)

[Register now for the 2012 National Assembly in Seattle](#)

the right questions, we'd understand what the real issues are, and the answers would come quite easily. We'd then know what to do -- and what not to do."

Good questions, he went on to say, cut to the heart of the issue because they:

- Help us connect and engage with others in meaningful ways;
- Reframe the problems we're facing; and, perhaps most important of all,
- Show us the potential consequences of our actions.

"Questions," he said, "are almost always more powerful and provocative than statements or direct advice -- which most people don't take anyway. That's because they help us arrive at our own answers. We're more likely to embrace the answers we arrive at on our own than those someone else dictates to us."

Thanks and God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

Roger Playwin
Chief Executive Officer

Registration Now Open for 2012 National Assembly in Seattle



Registration for the 2012 National Assembly in Seattle, Wash., is now open!

You can access the event site by clicking on: [Register NOW for the 2012 National Assembly](#)

The site has information about the event, including pricing, the host hotel (Seattle Sheraton), and the agenda.

Friends of the Poor® Grants Open to Mideast and Western Region Conferences

The application period for the next round of Friends of the Poor® grants is now open and will run through May 31. Conferences in the **Mideast** and **Western** regions are eligible.

The Friends of the Poor® grant program is an original program sponsored by the National Council to provide direct funding for services to those living in poverty in the United States. Grants are specifically targeted to direct services which meet the current needs of the poor, which are above and beyond their available conference and community resources. Only conferences can apply for grant funds.

For guidelines and application forms, go to: [Friends of the Poor Grant](#)

Poor®Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run: Shirts That Fit to a 'T'



The National Council has finalized a contract with a national T-shirt vendor, T-Formation, for the Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run. T-Formation has extensive experience with other national organizations in providing T-shirts for similar events. We have worked hard to obtain the very best terms possible for you, and as our partnership matures with T-Formation, we are hopeful for additional enhancements.

You may purchase your T-shirts from T-Formation or get them locally. If you are not purchasing from T-Formation however you MUST

follow the design features on the front and back of the t-shirts because they are critical to the national branding of the event. You can assist us in obtaining our best pricing next year by ordering shirts from T-Formation this year. The higher the quantity of shirts ordered, the better pricing we will receive for next year's Walk/Run.

Questions? Need help? Contact:

Nathan Martin

National FOP® Walk/Run Manager

Phone: (314) 576-3993, ext. 219

Email: nmartin@svdpusa.org

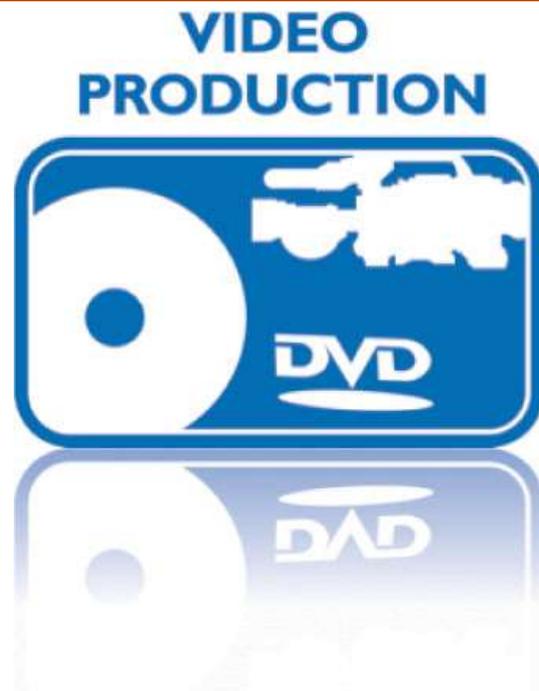
Six Goals of the Strategic Plan Now Available on Video

Presentations of the Six Goals of the Strategic Plan that were unveiled at the Midyear Meeting are now uploaded to their own "channel" on Vimeo (an external service), and can be accessed by clicking on [Six Goals of the Strategic Plan](#).

Links to each video also have been uploaded to the SVdP members' website.

You can watch or download, but please note: Video files are large, so streaming or downloading is time-consuming, and even the fastest computer may "buffer" or pause as it downloads a video. If you choose to download, click on the name of the file in the bottom right corner of the video. This will open the video on its own page. Click on the download button, then choose the format you want to download. When the "QuickTime" logo appears, select "File/Save As" from the browser menu to download to your computer

The National Council is also producing DVD copies of the presentations, and those will be available on request next week.





NATIONAL VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM



Please welcome **Robert O. Minor, Jr.** as the new National Vehicle Donation Program Coordinator.

Rob is committed to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's mission, and his proven experience in helping organizations expand their sales as a general manager and senior territory sales manager will help to strengthen the NVDP program.

Rob may be reached at: 314-576-3993 ext. 218, or nvdp@svdpusa.org



Closing a Conference

Reminder to Council members, board members and Executive Directors:

Some members are laboring under the false impression that they may close conferences for various reasons. The Rule, however, is very clear:

1. The Conference members may voluntarily close the conference.
2. The pastor of the parish may remove the conference from his parish.
3. The national president (for various reasons) may suspend or close a conference. Within The Rule of the Society, this authority is delegated to the National President by the President of the Council General International.

This same process also holds true for officers or members of the Society.



Whether the conference is closed voluntarily or forced, however, there is a set of

procedures that must be followed, described in a document titled "Dissolution of a Conference." The document can be accessed on the National Council's member website: [Important Council and Conference Documents](#) (third section down).

Finally, please remember that when it comes to matters of a serious nature, keep your Regional Vice President and the National Council office informed because they are they to help you in this process.

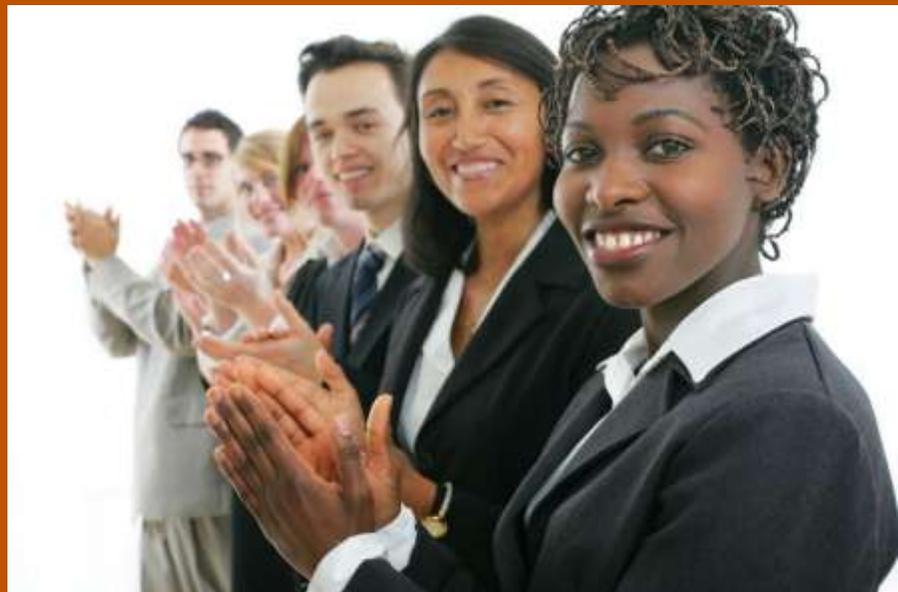
2nd Quarter *Ozanam* News Available



The second quarter 2012 edition of *Ozanam* News is now available:

[2nd Quarter 2012 Ozanam News.](#)

Let's Have a Round of Applause for...



Ramona Rodriguez, founder and president of SVdP's Conference at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Belleville, Ill., was honored by Christian Social Services of Illinois. The organization presents awards to those people who "reflect the mission and spirit" of Christian Social Services.

Cathy Zimmerman, a member of the Uniontown Conference of the District Council of Greensburg, Pa., was honored by the *Herald Standard* newspaper as one of the community's "Top 20 People to Watch." Cathy's dream of assisting individuals with hearing loss/deafness is now a reality through her non-profit organization called Hear Fayette, located in the Samaritan Well building, the extension of the SVdP Store in Uniontown since 2009. It is funded through grants, donations and collaborations with other organizations. Cathy describes the mission

and goal of Hear Fayette as "connecting people with people especially those with hearing loss. Hear Fayette is the place to learn about, complain about and do something about the problems of living with hearing loss."

SVdP Council of Marin County, Calif., was recently recognized by the American Red Cross at the "Marin County Heroes Breakfast" for its work in providing food, clothing and shelter to the needy.

SVdP in San Mateo, Calif., was awarded a grant of \$20,000 for food by the Sequoia Healthcare District. The grant was part of \$6.8 million that the District gave to several organizations in the area.

SVdP's Council of Atlanta, Ga., was honored at the third annual CEO's Community Hero Awards Ceremony. The Council received the "Environmental Change Award" for its numerous programs to reduce, reuse and recycle materials. For example, items donated to the Council's 10 stores in metro Atlanta that may not be suitable for re-selling or offering to those in need are sent back for recycling processing. In the previous fiscal year, more than 750,000 pounds of discarded materials were recycled by SVdP Atlanta's Conference Support Center, saving the county's landfill and protecting the environment.

SVdP's North Sound Council in Everett, Wash., received a donation of \$2,000 from the Greater Everett Community Foundation, Human Services Endowment Fund, in honor of Bob Drewel, for the St. Vincent de Paul Beds for Children Program. The program obtains beds for children in need.

SVdP's Our Lady of Grace Conference in Palm Bay, Fla., received a community development block grant of more than \$11,000 from the City of Palm Bay. Vincentian **Ashley McGrath** helped the Conference secure the funds, which will be used for medical needs for seniors and the permanently disabled.

Natalie Budner, a senior at Kennedy High School in Burien, Iowa, and a member of the SVdP Youth and Young Adults chapter at the school, has been appointed to West Point Academy. More than 15,000 young men and women apply to West Point, and only 1,100 were appointed this year. Every applicant must be sponsored, or "nominated" by a senator or congressman.

Sarah Plantz, a senior at Father Ryan High School in Nashville, Tenn., performed more than 200 hours of community service, which qualified her to be inducted into the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at her school. Sarah also was one of four recipients of the Jack Diller Predators Foundation college scholarship, for which some 150 applicants competed from across Tennessee.

Zafèn, a microfinance program established by the International Vincentian Family to help small growing businesses in Haiti, has surpassed the \$1 million threshold as it commemorates its second year of empowering entrepreneurs and supporting social

projects. Evidence that Zafèn is building Haiti for the better comes in the form of 760 new jobs created at 110 businesses across the country that have received loans. More than 250 of the jobs are full-time, while 197 are part-time and 311 are contract or seasonal positions. Since Zafèn's inception in April 2010, people and organizations around the world lent about \$428,000 to small Haitian businesses. Another \$664,000 has been donated to 20 socially oriented projects, such as funding elementary school tuition and clean water filters to halt the spread of cholera.



Regional Meetings

(NOTE: The Southeast and Northeast Regionsl not be holding regional meetings in 2012.)

North Central

Date: May 31-June 2

Location: Lombard, Ill.

Midwest

Date: June 8-9

Location: Belleville, Ill. (Our Lady of the Snows)

Eastern

Date: June 29-30

Location: Greensburg, Penn.

Mideast

Date: August 3-4

Location: Louisville, Ky. (Galt House)

South Central

Date: July 26-28

Location: El Paso, Texas

Western (combined with Annual Meeting)

Date: August 29-September 1

Location: Seattle, Wash. (Seattle Sheraton)

Event: Invitation for Renewal

Date: November 7-11, 2012;
February 20-24, 2013

Location: Indianapolis, Ind. (Seton Cove)

Facetime on Facebook

Did you know:

- More than 425 million users of Facebook access the site through their smart phones or tablets?
- About 57 percent of Facebook users are women?



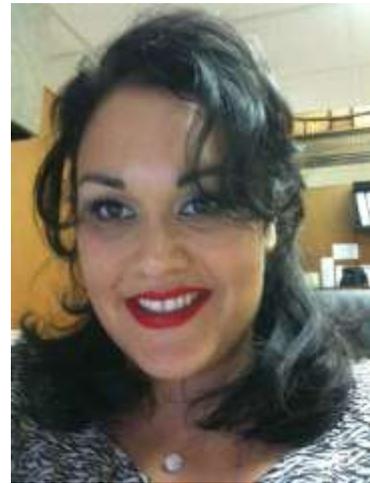
Join the conversation with the National Council on Facebook:

[National Council Facebook Site](#)

We'd Like You To Meet...

Maria Villa-Garcia. Born in Lima, Peru, she is the International Twinning Administrative Associate in the National Council office. The Twinning Program fosters peer-to-peer relationships between SVdP Councils and Conferences in the United States and those in third-world countries, helping to improve the quality of life for those served by them.

Her day-to-day work consists of processing incoming financial contributions, updating and maintaining both foreign and domestic databases, setting up and managing all international special projects, processing foreign and domestic program applications, mediating program issues, maintaining communications with foreign receivers, following through with accountability procedures, preparing fiscal activity reports, processing international applications, wiring funds to foreign receivers, and reconciling account funds to monthly statements.



"I like being part of the mission of the Society," she said, "and seeing how the involvement of people here in the United States can change the lives of people for

the better in other countries."

If you'd like to know more about International Twinning, contact Maria:

(314) 576-3993, ext. 202

Email: mvilla-garcia@svdpusa.org



Does your Council or Council have good news to share? Has someone in your Council or Conference done something remarkable? The National Council would like to know about it:

Contact:

Charles B. Henderson

National Director of Communications

E-mail: chenderson@svdpusa.org