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Frederic's E-Gazette

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

January 4, 2018



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Disclaimer:

(NOTE: The links in some of the articles are intended to take you to websites for a specific story, page, function or program approved for your use by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Society does not accept responsibility for, or grant approval of, peripheral advertising or stories that may reside on those websites.)

From your Servant Leaders:

January 4, 2018

If we only know what we read or see in the media, last year was pretty bad and it is only going to get worse. I guess gloom and doom sells more than sweetness and light. I choose to see the positive aspects of today and tomorrow, so here are a few things that can give us hope as Vincentians for the year ahead.



Jobs. Unemployment is down for everyone and especially so for Hispanic and Black groups. We recognize that for many people the best path out of poverty is a job, so this is a very encouraging trend. Perhaps even more encouraging is that non-college degree jobs are in high demand. Every job is potentially a family that supports itself and doesn't need our help, preserving our resources for those who need us most.

Wages. Correlated with the job demand is higher wages. While the effect of mandated minimum wage levels will be debated, the scarcity of jobs in some categories certainly will elevate wages simply to attract workers. The people in need we work with often are employed but under-employed. So we look forward to their earning higher wages next year.

[Read more.](#)

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Bjornson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dave

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*Responding to Local
Disasters Nationally*

Residents in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands still struggling after Fall Hurricanes

Hurricane Maria made its first landfall on the Caribbean island nation of Dominica on Monday, September 18, 2017 as a Category 5 storm with winds howling up to 160 mph. Days later, the storm devastated the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, according to CNN.

The U.S. Virgin Islands were dealt two devastating blows when they were hit hard by Hurricane Irma and then Hurricane Maria just 14 days later. According to the New York Times, Maria drowned and destroyed what Irma did not, leaving the Islands in ruins.

SVdP Disaster Services are still needed! The SVdP Disaster Services Corporation deployed a team of 14 volunteers to Puerto Rico from Dec. 2-9, 2017. While there, they hosted two Parish Recovery Assistance Centers (P-RACs) where they served families that had been devastated by Hurricanes Maria, Irma and poverty.

Two more P-RACs are being planned to open in January 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. A deployment to assist in the U.S. Virgin Islands is being considered for February 2018. Both the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are still declared under a State of Emergency.

While you may not be able to be on the ground in the impacted areas, you can help with the extensive recovery effort from home. Your contribution is critical to meeting the needs of those of who have lost everything!

[\(Click here to support SVdP relief efforts\)](#)

[Click here to read more about the current appeal for assistance for hurricane survivors.](#)



We are deeply thankful for all you do to give glory to God by giving to those in need!

For more information about the Disaster Services, contact:

Elizabeth Disco-Shearer
CEO
Disaster Services Corporation
SVdP-USA
ldisco@svdpdisaster.org

Brooke Newton
Deputy Director
Disaster Services Corporation
SVdP-USA
bnewton@svdpdisaster.org

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Q: How should funds from a closed Conference be used?

A: The intent for the use of funds from a Conference that has closed is to use the money collected to help the poor in that particular area where the Conference once

existed. Upon closure all funds are directed to the next highest Council; they are not to be transferred to the parish or diocese. The District Council should make every effort to serve families in that area using the resources of the closed Conference. If other Conferences are serving the area, then the Council should specifically reimburse that Conference or Conferences individually, and per neighbor in need case, based on their assistance to families in that area. Conferences who step up to serve those in the closed Conference community should not be given the money upfront. Every effort should be made to use the resources of a closed Conference collected for families in the community in which it was originally donated.

Q: Is there an electronic copy of the Rule and Manual available online?

A: Yes, click here <http://www.svdpusa.org/members/Documents/Governance-in-A-Box> and scroll down to The Rule and Manual where you can click and download a copy.

[Click here to view the Spanish translation of this week's Q&A](#)

[Click here to download this week's Q&A](#)

[Q&A Index](#)

Submit your questions to:

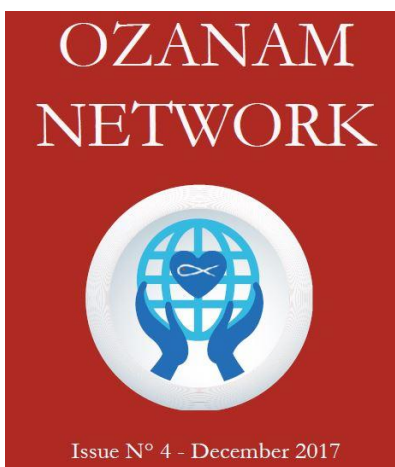
Pam Hudson

National Director of Governance & Membership Services

phudson@svdpusa.org

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Ozanam Network Newsletter
Issue #4 - December 2017



[Click here to read the December 2017 issue of the Ozanam Network's Newsletter.](#)

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2017 Annual Reports Revised Due Dates

The new and improved 2017 reports have been streamlined and now require 50 percent less data collected! Hardcopy forms are available now at:

<http://www.svdpusa.org/members/Documents/Annual-Report-Forms>

Given some technical difficulties with our new database development, the integrated annual report functionality is temporarily impacted.

We are working hard with the vendor to resolve these problems; meanwhile, the online annual reporting capability will not be accessible. At this time we anticipate the online reporting capability to be available in January 2018.

As a result the online annual report data entry deadlines have been extended as follows:

Thrift Store & Special Works Annual Reports:

The owner (Conference or Council) of the store or special work has to do these reports first since the owner needs the store and special work information for their (Conference or Council) report.

Conference Annual Reports Due online for Fiscal Year ending 9/30 Due Date: January 31	Conference Annual Reports Due online for Fiscal Year ending 12/31 Due Date: February 28
District Council Annual Reports Due online for Fiscal Year ending 9/30 Due Date: March 31	District Council Annual Reports Due online for Fiscal Year ending 12/31 Due Date: March 31
(Arch)Diocesan Council Annual Reports Due online for Fiscal Year ending 9/30 Due Date: April 30	(Arch)Diocesan Council Annual Reports Due online for Fiscal Year ending 12/31 Due Date: April 30

Thank you for your patience during this online data entry delay.

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501 (c) (3) Tax Exemption Notice

Good News!

Effective January 1, 2018, the IRS reduced the IRS Form 1023 application user fee from \$850 to \$600 and the group ruling application fee from \$3,000 to \$2,000.

In October of 2016, the Society began a two-year plan to transition all Councils and Conferences (except Isolated Conferences) off the Society's Section 501(c)(3) Group Ruling with the IRS (GEN 5496).

As the deadline approaches, October 1, 2018, we take this opportunity to remind leadership of the need to take action to plan a smooth transition to the tax exempt process your Council will undertake. Please review the transition materials, included under the documents regarding the 501(c)(3) transition on the following website: <http://www.svdpusa.org/members/Documents/501-c-3>

The options contain step-by-step instructions for you to implement the necessary changes for your Conference and/or Council. We recommend Conferences and

Councils work with their local attorney or accountant to help with the transition as needed.

For questions regarding the transition, contact:

Sherry Brown

314-576-3993 ext. 200

sbrown@svdpusa.org

*National has also arranged for additional legal support should you require it beyond the training materials and local professionals.

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Vincentian Formation

A New Year's Prayer



[Click here to read a special prayer for the new year.](#)

For further information contact:

Sister Kieran Kneaves, DC

National Formation Director

kkneaves@svdpusa.org

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SVdP Disaster Services Update



Responding to Local
Disasters Nationally

The Disaster Recovery Corner December 21, 2017

[Click here to read the January 4 issue of SVdP Disaster Services' newsletter, the Disaster Recovery Corner.](#)

Disaster Distress Helpline

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA's) Disaster Distress Helpline provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters.

The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories. Stress, anxiety, and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after a disaster. **Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746** to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

[Click here for more information.](#)

For more information about SVdP Disaster Services, visit their website by [clicking here](#).

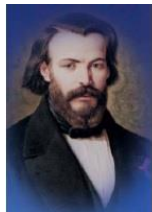
Be sure to follow SVdP Disaster Services Corp. on Facebook for updates, [click here to visit their Facebook page now](#).

For questions regarding Disaster Services, contact:

Elizabeth Disco-Shearer
CEO, SVdP Disaster Services
ldisco@svdpdisaster.org

Brooke Newton
Deputy Director, SVdP Disaster Services
bnewton@svdpdisaster.org

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GOVERNANCE

What Every Leader Needs to Know About the Society

"Father, grant us the wisdom and the integrity to persevere in fidelity to the Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul." - Bl. Frédéric Ozanam

Resolve to focus on Good Governance in the New Year

The arrival of a new calendar year is a good time to remind ourselves that supporting one another while serving the poor is an integral part of our Vincentian mission.

Our Conference meetings are where we help each other fulfill that mission of growing spiritually, developing friendships and having face-to-face encounters with those in need. Meeting at least twice monthly as we should provides the opportunity to continually strengthen those supportive relationships.

Our Councils have a board of directors to guide our efforts and oversee our performance. As a new year begins we challenge you to realize that even the best Councils and Conferences can be better and more effective. Our Council boards and our Conferences should always seek to foster and facilitate improvement. Given the importance of good governance, perhaps this should be your primary New Year's resolution.

Why not start using your Council board as a support group to carry out another resolution to review and update your policies and procedures and clean up your record-keeping? Encourage your Conferences to do likewise.

[Click here to read the entire article and view a special message from Bishop John Quinn.](#)

For more information regarding Governance, contact:
Pam Hudson
National Director of Governance and Membership Services
314-576-3993 ext. 214
phudson@svdpusa.org

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The Friends of the Poor® Grant Program is looking for new Committee Members to review Proposals



Over the last couple years the program's annual awards have grown from \$80,000 to over \$250,000. The program consists of a simple grant application which is limited to Conferences. The maximum amount that can be awarded is \$5,000. The main interest areas are emergency assistance and systemic change. The Committee is composed of Vincentians from all eight regions. The commitment is for one year, and then annual renewals by the FOP Grant Review Committee chairperson.

If you are interested in serving, please review the Friends of the Poor Grant Program documents found on the national Council website by [clicking here](#).

FOP Grant Committee Member Duties:

1. There are four conference calls a year to review the grant applications (lasting about 45 minutes each).
2. Each committee member is sent the grant applications and spreadsheet well in advance of the review committee conference call.
3. Each committee member is asked to review and rank each of the grant applications using a standard scoring method.
4. During the conference call, the top ranked applications are reviewed in detail and the committee decides on the award amounts.
5. Review committee members are asked to recuse themselves in reviewing projects from their Conference/Council.

Anyone interested in serving should please contact:

Steve Martinez
Chief Development Officer
smartinez@svdpusa.org

Martha Desposito
FOP Grant Review Committee Chair
mdesp@att.net

Do you have a Will?

Do you have a will? It is a low-cost way to ensure your assets are distributed according to your desires. Having a will is an excellent way to give yourself and your family piece of mind knowing they will receive part of your assets.

For more information on planning your estate, you can check the toolbox on the SVdP website: <http://new.svdpusa.com/developertools/Planned-Giving>.

For more information regarding Development, contact:

Steve Martinez
Chief Development Officer
314-576-3993 ext. 213
smartinez@svdpusa.org

Gerri Sample
Senior Development Associate
314-576-3993 ext. 211
gsample@svdpusa.org

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Standard Registration Ending Soon for the 2018 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

"Build Community: A Call to the Common Good"

February 3-6, 2018 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC

Join other justice-seekers, both fellow Vincentians and other Catholics, in this premier, national social ministry convocation, for which the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a collaborating, sponsoring organization.

Standard registration ends Friday, January 12, 2018; after that, a significant penalty is imposed for late registration. So sign-up now!

Also, the cut-off date for the preferred hotel rate is coming soon, too - January 22, 2018, so don't miss that either.

As part of the Gathering, Vincentians will play prominent roles: leading a number of state delegations on Capitol Hill visits on the last day of the conference, presenting a workshop, and hosting a special Voice of the Poor meeting on Saturday.

Don't miss this transformative experience where you will have an opportunity to connect with current and emerging leaders and share new energy and ideas. Dynamic and thought-provoking plenary presentations, briefings and workshops will focus on how the Church can respond mercifully to pressing domestic and international social concerns. Then, lend your voice to our advocacy for the common good with members of Congress.

The CSMG enthusiasm is evident in this [1½ minute YouTube video from Msgr. Ray East](#), a social justice committed pastor who has long been the CSMG emcee.

To register or for more information visit www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org.

Join the discussion and be part of the solution! And if you are interested in leading your delegation to Capitol Hill - it's easy, stimulating and meaningful

- contact Tom Dwyer, Chair, National Voice of the Poor Committee at tdwyerma@comcast.net for more information.

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Building the Road out of Poverty - 2018

By: Sheila K. Gilbert

January 4, 2018

January is Poverty Awareness Month. As Vincentians we see poverty in the faces and hear it in the voices of those we serve. Poverty is not about statistics, poverty is about people. Each one special in God's eyes. Each one unique. Each one with their own story.

We have come to know that there are many roads into poverty, but few and difficult roads out. And we have tried lovingly and skillfully to serve our friends in need struggling with the everyday realities of poverty or near poverty. In our service, we have helped many survive another day. We provide hope - often temporary - and when we choose, we can provide hope that is lasting. Hope that tomorrow really can be better.

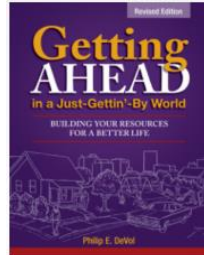
This is a hope based in the truth of God's love, our on-going support and their own effort and dreams for the future.

I invite you to consider those you have served recently. Is there someone who touched you? Whose courage and faith you admired? Who seemed to need just a bit more help or encouragement to make change? Is there someone God has marked indelibly on your heart as a soul in need?

[Click here to read the entire article.](#)

Getting Ahead Facilitator Training Webinar 2018

***Registration for February 2018 Getting Ahead Facilitator Training now open!**



Have you started planning your 2018 Systemic Change activities yet?

Conferences and Councils across the country are running [Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World](#), to empower individuals to build their own personal plans for economic security and create Systemic Change.

[Register now for our next online training!](#)

**Saturday, February 10 & 17, 2018
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Eastern**

2018

- Monday, May 7 & 14 - 2:30-5:30 p.m. Eastern
- Thursday, September 6 & 13 - 6:30-9:30 p.m. Eastern
- Wednesday, November 28 & December 5 - 6:30-9:30 p.m. Eastern

2019

- Saturday, March 9 & 16 - 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Eastern

[Register here!](#)

For more information, contact:

Tom Mulloy

National Director of Poverty Programs

tmulloy@svdpusa.org

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Extension and Revitalization



New Conferences - December 2017

Region	Conference	Arch/Diocesan Council	District Council	City, State	Date Founded
ME	Holy Rosary	Gaylord	Grand Traverse Area	Cedar, MI	11/13/2017
SE	Immaculate Conception	Nashville	Nashville	Clarksville, TN	10/1/2017
MW	Ascension	Denver	Denver Metro	Denver, CO	10/13/2017
NE	Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin	New York	Bronx	Bronx, NY	11/1/2017
MW	Our Savior	Springfield, IL	Isolated	Jacksonville, IL	1/1/2017
ER	St. Paul	Washington	Montgomery County	Damascus, MD	6/28/2017
NC	St. Rita	Rockford	Central	Rockford, IL	10/26/2017
NC	Sacred Heart	Rockford	Northeast	Marengo, IL	10/12/2017

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SVdP in the News



International News

"Charity and Social Media" Address by Renato Lima de Oliveira

CGI / ITALY:

On Saturday, November 11, 2017, the SSVP of Italy organized, in Turin, a video conference entitled "Charity and Social Media" which was attended by 300 people, in the auditorium of the Industrial Union of Torino. The round table was moderated by the SSVP member, Alessandro Ginotta. From Brazil, the 16th General President of the SSVP, Renato Lima, participated. You can read Renato's speech by [clicking here](#).



More International SVdP News

CGI / FRANCE: [In early December, the International Board of the CGI met in Paris.](#)

CANADA: [Spirit of Christmas alive and well in Prince George](#)

IRELAND: [St. Vincent de Paul predicts Irish Poverty Rates to rise in 2018](#)

National News

Cancer pushes older Couple to Brink of Insolvency; Nonprofit lends a Hand

PHOENIX, AZ:



St. Vincent de Paul provides 68,000 sheltered nights to individuals, operates 83 volunteer-run food pantries, allows for more than 15,000 medical or dental visits at its downtown campus and is run with

By all accounts, Alvin and Carolyn Spearman were an American success story.

They were comfortably headed towards their retirement years when they moved to the Valley from Chicago in 2001. Carolyn, with decades of experience as a nurse, found a job in the healthcare system and Alvin, an Army veteran with years of marketing experience, found gratifying work counseling vets in how to navigate the often-confusing VA benefits system.

the help of more than 730,000 annual volunteer service hours. Photo: St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix.

But a series of life events put them on the edge of insolvency. It started four years ago when Carolyn's mother was diagnosed with lung cancer in Chicago. To help, the couple went back to the Windy City. With her mother's condition deteriorating quickly, Carolyn learned that holding a job wasn't possible. At the same time, the couple was informed that health insurance wouldn't completely cover all the treatments. So, they paid the enormous co-pays and out-of-pocket expenses themselves.

[Read More](#)

MORE NATIONAL SVdP NEWS

PITTSBURGH, PA: [Wolf puts \\$7.1M toward improving Western Pennsylvania's struggling Neighborhoods](#)

SANTA MONICA, CA: [Circle V Ranch Camp receives \\$7K from Santa Ynez Valley Foundation for rebuilding efforts](#)

BATON ROUGE, LA: [Early-released Inmates seeking Help from Homeless Shelters this Holiday Season](#)

[Click here for more national SVdP news.](#)

Calendar of Events

Deadline for Frederic's E-Gazette articles submission: Every Wednesday by 12 noon for article to be included in current week's edition

Dates for 2018:

**Mideast Regional Meeting
May 18-19
Owensboro, KY**

**Board Meeting
June 8-9**

Board Meeting
St. Louis, MO
January 26 - 27

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering
February 3 - 6
Washington, DC

Florida Subregional Meeting
February 24
Orlando, FL

Southeast Subregional Meeting
April 6-7
Atlanta, GA

Midyear Meeting
April 11-14
St. Louis, MO

St. Louis, MO

North Central Regional Meeting
June 21-23
Rochester, MN

Eastern Regional Meeting
June 22-23
Emmitsburg, MD

Invitation for Renewal
July 11 - 15
St. Louis, MO

National Assembly
August 29 - September 1
San Diego, CA

Invitation for Renewal
November 14 - 18
St. Louis, MO

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SVdP Social Media and Mobile App Stay Connected in 2018!



[Click here to keep up with SVdP on social media and join our mobile network!](#)

[Download the free SVdP mobile app now by clicking here!](#)



[Click here to connect with Voice of the Poor on social media!](#)

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Vincentian Prayer List



Are you or another Vincentian you know in need of prayers from fellow SVdP members? Send the prayer intention to Pam Hudson at phudson@svdpusa.org and we will add the name to the prayer list on the SVdP website. Thank you and God Bless.

[Click here to view the Vincentian Prayer List.](#)

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To print the E-Gazette

If you wish to print the E-Gazette and are having trouble printing it from your email, [click here](#) to print this issue and past issues of the E-Gazette in PDF format straight from the SVdP website!

**ATTENTION COUNCIL PRESIDENTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:
SOME OF YOUR MEMBERS AREN'T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!**

If you or another member of your Conference is not receiving the E-Gazette email, jwitzel@svdpusa.org.

Have you Opted Out?

WERE YOU GETTING THIS NEWSLETTER BUT NO LONGER ARE?

When an email address has been removed by the owner, or the email address holder designates "Do Not Mail," the email address cannot be re-added by the National Council office. The email address holder must sign him or herself up to resume receiving Frederic's E-Gazette at:

<http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6>

Is your Conference or Council doing something that you think should appear in the E-Gazette or on SVdPUSA social media? Send your good news to me!

Michelle Boyer
Marketing Communications Specialist
Email: mboyer@svdpusa.org
(314) 576-3993 ext. 219

