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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 11, 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 11, 2018

Dear Vincentian Friends,

I have held the office of National Council president for over three months. During that time people have asked me what my vision is for the Society in the United States. The commitment I gave in accepting this servant leader role was to take the time to listen to how the Holy Spirit is speaking to our Society today and to initiate a process of "Inclusive Planning." So the responses I have offered about "my vision" may not have been very satisfying to those asking the question.



Inclusive Planning has been identified as one of our seven "Cultural Beliefs." This belief is in line with the principles of servant leadership and consensus decision-making encouraged in our Rule. To operate an organization in this manner sounds wonderful, but it also is difficult. It takes time and effort. Today, I am asking you to give a little time and effort to be part of a process that will result in a new Strategic Plan for our National Council.

When Gene Smith took office in 1999, I and every member were asked to respond to a survey. That became the basis for our first national strategic plan, which generated a remarkable renewal of the Society, with a strong emphasis on our spirituality. We have made great progress as an organization under the guidance of a series of plans created by our National Council leaders. **As part of our current process, I am again asking every member to provide input through a survey prepared by our Planning Committee.**

Near the conclusion of our national "Invitation for Renewal" leadership program, participants use elements of a practice called "Appreciative Inquiry" to engage in a planning exercise. That process acknowledges what is best about an organization and builds on what is already working to imagine a better future. That is my hope for our planning process. The questions in this survey will help us to know what you value about the Society as it currently exists, and we want to know how we can build on that to work toward an even better future.

Our planning process needs to get information from a variety of sources to determine how best to set the direction for the National Council, which has a mission of service that is both internal and external. The National Council has the unique functions of being the public face and voice of the Society across the United States and of being an important part of the Society's international structure. Many functions of the National Council, however, are also internally focused and are the same as those defined by our Rule for Councils at every level of the organization. "Councils exist to serve all the Conferences (and Councils) they coordinate. They help (them) to develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsive to the needs of those who suffer," (Rule Part I - 3.6).

Please take the time today and fill out the electronic survey using the link found at the end this article. The survey will not identify each respondent; it is anonymous. The results will be reviewed by the board of directors at our meeting at the end of this month. Our planning committee, headed up by vice president, Brian Burgess, will continue to put the process in place to create the new plan. Progress will be reviewed at the Midyear Meeting, and a final proposal will be presented to the National Council at our Annual Assembly in San Diego at the end of August.

[To complete the anonymous survey, please click here.](#)

I concluded my inaugural speech in Tampa by asking four questions that embody my hopes for the National Plan we are now beginning to create:

- **How can we help each other be better friends and Vincentians?**
- **How can we make our organization function better?**
- **How can our Society better serve Christ in the person of our neighbor?**
- **How can the people we serve help us to be better followers of Christ?**

Together, we can create that better Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Ralph Middlecamp



National Council President

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Please help create our Strategic Plan!

The Strategic Planning Committee for the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul has prepared this electronic survey to get information from our members.

Filling it out will take less than 10 minutes. The survey is anonymous. Please respond immediately as the survey results will help inform the development of the new strategic plan. **The surveys are due by Sunday, January 21.**

[Click here to fill out the planning survey.](#)

The strategic plan that guided our Society for the past five years came to an end last year. National Council President, Ralph Middlecamp, has appointed Vice President, Brian Burgess to chair a planning committee to prepare a new three year plan to be presented to the National Council for their approval at the Annual Assembly in August in San Diego.

Members of this planning committee are:

Brian Burgess - Committee Chair

Ralph Middlecamp - National Council President

Guadalupe Valencia - National Council Secretary

Jim Dodd - National Council Treasurer

David Barringer - National Council CEO

Irene Frechette - National Council Vice President for the Northeastern Region

Bill Brazier - National Council Vice President for the Mideastern Region

Althea Graham - National Council Board Member and Coordinator for the last Strategic Plan

Sr. Kieran Kneaves D.C. - National Formation Director

John Berry - National Council Board Observer and Co-chair of Executive Directors Taskforce

Anne Schorno - National Council Board Observer and Co-chair of Executive Directors Taskforce

Sherry Brown - Staff Executive Administrative Associate

If there are members in your Conference who do not have access to the Internet, you can print the survey and have them fill it out. You will have to go back online and enter in a new survey for them. Do not mail them to the National Council Office. Someone locally must provide the information online.

Thank you for helping to create our next strategic plan. Your views are very important.

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Q: A SVdP active member has asked that our Conference help a seminarian in need. I know we should not send him money, but can we pay for books or help pay some of his tuition? We have sufficient funds to help.

A: Assistance to a seminarian would have to be treated as any other case - home visit, then help in the same way we would help others. There are no other guidelines to provide.

Q: We have a parish in our diocese that is giving money to another parish's SVdP Conference to do the work of SVdP Society for them. Is this in keeping with the Rule? Spirit of the Society?

A: It is not uncommon for two or more parishes to support a single Conference and the one Conference takes care of our neighbors in need in multiple parishes. We strive for each parish having its own SVdP but that does not always work out.

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

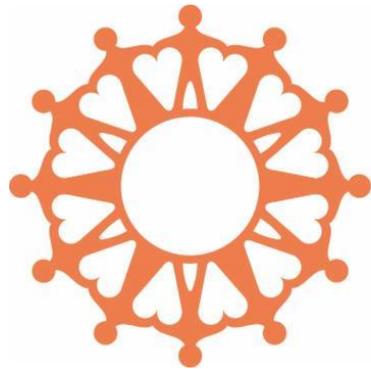
[Click here to download this week's Q&A](#)

[Q&A Index](#)

Submit your questions to:
Pam Hudson

National Director of Governance & Membership Services
phudson@svdpusa.org

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**Share the
Journey** ☀
#sharejourney

USCCB celebrates National Migration Week by encouraging People to "Share the Journey"

Our friends at U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Charities USA have aligned on positioning related to "DREAMers" and DACA. A few years ago, the Society published its own [position paper on Immigration, found here](#). We invite you to read the article below and to take action as you see fit. The Take Action button leads you to an email platform and also to additional background papers provided by the USCCB.

[Click here to read the article and take action!](#)

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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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**National Council Office welcomes new
Administrative Associate**



The SVdP National Office is excited to welcome Anna Filson as the new administrative associate.

Anna is a Missouri native. She has spent the majority of her career working in higher education.

Prior to coming to the Society, Anna enjoyed assisting the faculty and staff of Maryville University of St. Louis with their benefits and human resources-related needs.

"I am very excited for this opportunity," said Filson. "I look forward to helping to move the Society forward."

To contact Anna, you can reach her at (314)576-3993 ext.201 or afilson@svdpusa.org.

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Vincentian Formation

New Spanish Vincentian Spirituality Resource Meditaciones Vincentinas

By: Thomas McKenna, C.M.



A wonderful selection of meditations and scriptural reflections rooted in Vincentian spirituality.

\$2.00 each: Catalog #9501
Meditaciones Vincentinas
By: Thomas McKenna, CM

To Order: Online at www.svdpusa.org
(Click on SVdP Members, scroll down and click on Order Materials)
or
Email order to: materials@svdpusa.org

For further information contact:
Sister Kieran Kneaves, DC
National Formation Director
kkneaves@svdpusa.org

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Society says Goodbye to long-time Vincentian
Continued Society Work in WWII Internment Camp



At 101 years old, Tom Kobayashi was the oldest living Vincentian. He made it his life's work to continue spreading the message of St. Vincent and Frederic. He was, most assuredly, the type of person Frederic and the Society's other founders hoped would continue on with the mission they started. Mr. Kobayashi passed away on Thursday, January 4, 2018.

Tom Kobayashi was born on September 4, 1916 to a poor family of Japanese Americans and was the oldest of six children. He attended the University of Washington where he first became involved with the Society as a member of the Our Lady of Martyrs Conference.

His personal experience with poverty and the trials of living in it, helped Kobayashi maintain a personal connection with those in need he helped through his work with the Society.

"Thomas Kobayashi is a man of great faith and compassion and always sees the face of Christ in those he has served and I know they have seen the face of Christ in him," said Roger Playwin, former SVdP National Council CEO in an interview for the National Catholic Reporter in 2011.

[Click here to read more.](#)

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SVdP Disaster Services Update



Responding to Local
Disasters Nationally

The Disaster Recovery Corner January 11, 2017

[Click here to read the January 11 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

The Meaning of Good Governance

Good governance. What does it mean anyway?

Governance means:

- Responsible use of assets and funds.
- Ensuring the group/organization is fulfilling its mission.
- Openly communicating with others and listening to others at all levels of the organization.
- Accurate recordkeeping for the benefit of the organization and those we serve.
- Maintaining good legal standing through compliance with IRS section 501(c)(3) requirements.
- Serving as a good role model: In the Vincentian world this also includes embracing servant leadership.

Governance does NOT mean:

- The leader cannot share responsibilities.
- Micromanaging.
- Numbers are more important than people.

- Opinions of others do not matter.
- Turning the organization/group into something distant from its mission.

Basically, good governance means good leadership. It means taking good care of the Society; it means taking good care of those we serve. It means taking care of each other, encouraging the spiritual growth of all members and friendship among members, and person-to-person service. It means serving with integrity, accountability and in a trustworthy manner. Taking advantage of ongoing learning opportunities and identifying helpful collaborations can help Vincentian leaders govern and lead with great effectiveness and joy.

St. Vincent de Paul once said, "There is great charity - but it is badly organized." Let us be inspired by St. Vincent's good governance and leadership and allow the generosity of others to be put to good use.

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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SVdP National Partner - Motel 6



Motel 6 is pleased to partner with the National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and offer a nationwide 10 percent discount to assist with housing our neighbors in need, and for the SVdP staff, members, and other volunteers.

Click here to learn

more: <https://partners.supportsvdp.com/campaigns/motel-6/>

For more information about National Partners, contact:

Steve Martinez
Chief Development Officer
smartinez@svdpusa.org

Karen Lanter
National Manager of Corporate and
Donor Relationships
klanter@svdpusa.org

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 Tomorrow 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 tomorrow, 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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A Witness Perspective

Poverty is not a "Thing" - It's about People

By: David J. Dutschke / Mideast Region Voice of the Poor Leader

From my perspective as a long-time and former Louisville Catholic Charities employee serving in several different social justice ministry functions and now in my volunteer role as the Mideast Region Voice of the Poor Leader, I'd like to offer during National Poverty Month this January 2018 a personal reflection on persons who are poor.

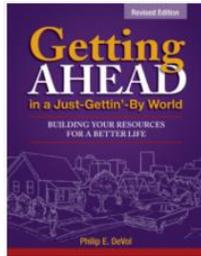
First, just a reminder - poor is an adjective. Thus, this poverty reflection is about people.

Let me tell you about three persons that I know whom I would call poor.

[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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Win an iPad
PLUS money to support
your community service project!

NATIONAL YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

UPDATE!

Thank you to all who participated in the National Youth Essay Contest. A much larger volume of entries was received than expected and judges are still in the review process. We will announce as soon as the winners have been selected, thank you for your patience!

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SVdP in the News



International News

President General visits United States of America this January

CGI / FRANCE:

Between January 14 and 20, 2018, our brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General of SSVP, will be traveling through the United States to fulfil an extensive institutional agenda, visiting Conferences, special works and Councils.



On days 14 and 15, Renato will be in Boston and Providence, visiting Conferences and special works. The president will be accompanied by the national president of the United States, our brother Ralph Middlecamp and also by fellow brother Edmund Keane, international vice-president for Institutional Relations of the CGI.

During the days 16, 17 and 18 the president will be in Philadelphia, participating in the annual meeting of the Vincentian Family Executive Committee (VFEC), accompanied by our brother Ricardo Tavares, president of the Vincentian Family Department at CGI.

During the days 19 and 20, our President General Renato Lima will visit Washington, with the company of our brothers Dave Barringer (CEO of the National Council of the United States) and Mike Nizankiewicz (ITVP America 1).

Prayers are requested to all the members for the success, in favor of the most in need, of this journey.

More International SVdP News

IRELAND: [Lions Club and SVP join Forces to help the Needy](#)

National News

Connections keep the Lights on

SUPERIOR, WI:

For Andrew and Patricia Van Alstine, it was a matter of life and death.

She needed electricity for her oxygen machine; he needed it for his pacemaker. But the wiring in their two-story Superior home was considered unsafe.

Thanks to a web of community connections, their wiring issues were addressed days before Christmas.

The problem came to light when Superior Water, Light and Power employees attempted to change the home's meter. They felt the wiring was too dangerous to touch and called the city's building inspection department, according to Chief Building Inspector Peter Kruit. Inspectors agreed it needed to be upgraded.

[Read More](#)

MORE NATIONAL SVdP NEWS

NATIONAL: [Arctic Plunge challenges Charitable Agencies to keep People Warm](#)

ST. CHARLES, MO: [Catholic Agencies address Poverty Issues, Public Policy](#)

DAYTON, OH: [St. Vincent de Paul opens Shelters during extreme Cold](#) (video)

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

Calendar of Events

<p>Deadline for Frederic's E-Gazette articles submission: Every Wednesday by 12 noon for article to be included in current week's edition</p>	<p>Mideast Regional Meeting May 18-19 Owensboro, KY</p>
<p>Dates for 2018:</p>	<p>Board Meeting June 8-9 St. Louis, MO</p>
<p>Board Meeting St. Louis, MO January 26 - 27</p>	<p>North Central Regional Meeting June 21-23 Rochester, MN</p>
<p>Catholic Social Ministry Gathering February 3 - 6 Washington, DC</p>	<p>Eastern Regional Meeting June 22-23 Emmitsburg, MD</p>
<p>Florida Subregional Meeting February 24 Orlando, FL</p>	<p>Invitation for Renewal July 11 - 15</p>

<p>Southeast Subregional Meeting April 6-7 Atlanta, GA</p> <p>Midyear Meeting April 11-14 St. Louis, MO</p>	<p>St. Louis, MO</p> <p>National Assembly August 29 - September 1 San Diego, CA</p> <p>Invitation for Renewal November 14 - 18 St. Louis, MO</p>
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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