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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 18, 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 18, 2018

If more than 46 million Americans, about one in six, had something in common, then one would think we wouldn't need to raise awareness about it. We would pretty much already know, right?

I realize that I'm singing to the choir here when I raise the statistic of so many of our neighbors living in poverty in one of the richest countries in the world. We live and serve in the neighborhoods where these people live. We know them as real people, individuals who not only come to us for help but who smile, laugh, work, raise children, help each other out and otherwise are very human to us regardless of their current financial situation. Some of us have people in poverty in our own families, and some of us were among those numbers at one time ourselves.



The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in its Catholic Campaign for Human Development, has named January as national Poverty Awareness Month. That's because awareness is just the first step toward action and results. If we as Catholics and especially as Vincentians can help others see the need, we can help drive everyone to systemic changes that reduce the number. To learn more about this USCCB initiative and some great resources, [click here](#).

[Read more.](#)

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Bjork". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dave

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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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QUESTIONS And Answers

Q: What is the procedure for assisting a client out of our Council's area? Is it handled through the Council or Conference? Can we pay directly to a landlord in another area or do we need to work with the SVdP Council office in the other county?

A: Assistance should be provided to our friends in need in the community in which the parish Conference is located. Hence the individual should be given a referral to the Conference/Council where they reside. In good faith, the Conference/Council should be notified of the individual's need. If however, your Conference wants to help the neighboring Conference/Council with a twinning donation to assist the individual that can occur so long as all members are in agreement.

Q: We recently put a bulletin notice under our SVdP logo asking for a lawn mower and electric dryer for a family in need. The question was raised if there is a liability risk in doing these types of requests.

A: There can be a liability even if the equipment is tested properly before giving it to the person in need and he/she gets injured by the equipment. The recipient should always be informed that they must accept such goods "as is" since there is no warranty or guarantee. We recommend this be in writing. This advice also applied to thrift stores offering equipment for resale.

[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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New SVdP Database is finally here!



We are pleased to announce that the new database is officially available to all Vincentians! It is a fully responsive web application that is accessible on mobile devices, such as phones and tablets, as well as on traditional computers.

New Members Portal - Share Best Practices

The new Members Portal is designed to help us become One Society by allowing any member to access the contact information of others across the country. This not only gives members the ability to assist friends across the country, but it also provides opportunities for more open communication and the sharing of best practices.

Stay Connected

Members can easily stay connected to each other by utilizing the "My Contacts" section. This personal section allows members to keep the information of their most viewed contacts easily accessible. Information on how to add contacts can be found on the "Need Help" page. Members can also easily navigate to all of their own groups by clicking on the links in the "My Groups" section.

New Look for Member Profiles

Member profiles have a new look with the ability to add a profile image. The layout of member profiles has a clean and updated look, but still contains the same information that was included in the previous membership records. Each member is able to update their own profile information even if they do not have administrative access to the grouping.

New Features for Annual Reports

In addition to reducing the amount of information entered in the Annual Reports, some new features are available under the "Annual Reports" tab. The current reporting year will be available for completion and administrators will be able view up to three previous years of reporting. For those who have administrative rights over multiple groups, there is a filter available to help members find the correct report.

The new URL for this database is www.svdpmembers.com

If you have any questions, you can contact Tech Support at techsupport@svdpusa.org

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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 International Twinning Coordinator and Accounting Associate



The SVdP National Council is excited to welcome Elizabeth Martinez as the new International Twinning Coordinator and Accounting Associate.

Elizabeth is from St. Louis, but has lived in a variety of places like Salamanca, Spain, Denver, Colo. and Managua, Nicaragua. She earned her Associate of Arts degree from St. Louis Community College at Meramec in 2005. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 2010.

Prior to coming to the Society, Elizabeth worked at the Lutheran Church Extension Fund in St. Louis. Before that, she was a missionary in Nicaragua with the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission where she helped start up a feeding program for children.

Elizabeth met her husband while in Nicaragua. Together they have two children, a boy and a girl. Her husband's youngest brother and sister also live with them and attend school.

"I feel so blessed to be working with others who are also dedicated to ending poverty," said Martinez." Although I am new to the Society, this cause has long been very close to my heart and I am excited for the opportunity to put my skills to service in this great organization."

To contact Elizabeth, call (314)576-3993 ext.225 or email emartinez@svdpusa.org.

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Vincentian Formation

Vincentian Spirituality Resource



The booklet **Vincentian Meditations**, by **Fr. Tom McKenna, CM** is an excellent resource that spiritual advisors can use for reflection at their Conference meetings, taking a chapter each month. To evoke discussion, you may want to ask the question

"What insight touched your Vincentian heart?" A special thanks to Gail Rowe, the Spiritual Advisor for the Midwest Region, who has created a wonderful PowerPoint which suggests a facilitation process and a document of the scripture reference for each chapter. [To view the PowerPoint presentation, click here.](#)

It will be important to have the Conference provide a copy of the booklet for each member. Vincentian Meditations can be purchased from the National Office, Catalog #9500 at \$2.00 each.

To Order: 1) Online at www.svdpusa.org (Click on SVdP Members, scroll down and click on Order Materials) or 2) Email order to: materials@svdpusa.org

[Click here to view the Vincentian Scripture Reference Guide.](#)

***Now also available in Spanish - Meditaciones Vincentinas
\$2.00 each: Catalog #9501**

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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SVdP Disaster Services Update



*Responding to Local
Disasters Nationally*

The Disaster Recovery Corner

January 18, 2017

[Click here to read the January 18 issue of SVdP Disaster Services' newsletter, the Disaster Recovery Corner.](#)

**New Disaster Services Guest Blog Post:
Is Your Business Resilient? The Five Things You Need To Know
About Preparedness and Planning**



Each month SVdP Disaster Services is partnering with an outside agency to provide disaster preparedness training to Vincentians.

This week the Facility Engineering Associates ask: Is Your Business Resilient? The Five Things You Need to Know About Preparedness and Planning.

We thought this would be a great tool and resource for any Vincentians that own property and have to manage or handle maintenance. The link to this month's guest blog can be found here: <https://goo.gl/iymonZ>. It can also be accessed by clicking the image above.

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

Resources for Good SVdP Governance

Ask yourself these questions: Doesn't it make sense that everyone, no matter their position in an organization, wants it to run smoothly and efficiently? Isn't this

important to an organization that solicits donations and wants to attract good people? Doesn't this apply to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

Whatever your role in our Society, don't you think it's important to know the resources that are available to help your Conference or Council function as effectively as possible?

Here are a few resources every member should be aware of:

Governance Training - The Society has produced a DVD and print course on Governance. The DVD is available for \$10 from the National Office. A printed Participant's Guide comes with it. Members of the National Governance Committee are available to conduct training in person or to answer questions by phone during any training your Council might conduct on its own.

Governance-in-a-Box - At the National website you will find all kinds of helpful material. Go to www.svdpusa.org and on the right side of the bar at the top click on SVdP Members, and then on the page that comes up click on Documents. At the bottom of the drop-down, click on Governance-in-a-Box where you'll find a wealth of information. And instead of calling the National Office with a governance question, why not search the Q & A Master Index for answers to questions posed by members. Chances are that any question you might have has probably been covered. Also, go to Governance Initiatives and look through the material available to you.

Mentoring - If you're a new Council president or executive director you might benefit from a mentor - an experienced Council president or executive director. Why not let them help make your life as a Vincentian leader easier. For more information contact Pam Hudson at phudson@svdpusa.org.

In future issues we'll discuss additional materials that have been produced to help you enhance the governance of our Society at all levels.

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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Friends of the Poor® Grant Awardees - January 2018

[Click here to see the full list of FOP Grant awardees for this quarter.](#)

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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A Witness Perspective Be the Poverty Change Agent

By: Christine Krikliwy / Western Region Voice of the Poor Leader

Have you ever walked down the street or driven down the road and tried to figure out if a certain individual was living in poverty? If yes, one would be amazed that it is not only the panhandler on the median or the scruffy individual on the sidewalk. Instead, they look just like you and me. They may be your neighbor or a parishioner kneeling next to you.

So in this third week of January, designated as National Poverty Month by the United States Bishops, I would like to share a couple of personal stories that have moved me and changed my perspective on poverty.

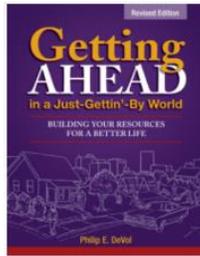
I am an usher in my church and sit by the entrance. An individual who has attended Mass on and off came in. She limps, uses a cane and is cleanly dressed with slightly unkempt hair. Walking back from Communion she slowed down near me, apparently because something was bothering her.

After Mass ended, she informed me that a girl sitting two pews up laughed at her because she almost tripped. I told her that I would talk with the girl and ensure it wouldn't happen again, and she walked away.

[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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SVdP in the News



International News

Liberia: New Country joining SSVP

CGI / LIBERIA:

It is with great pleasure that we announce that, after several missionary visits and a demanding program of formation, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been officially established in Liberia.



Last August, representatives of the Council General International (CGI), headed by the Vice President for Africa 1, Brother Patrick Ebhojie, made visits to various parishes and Dioceses where they met with ecclesiastical authorities, gave interviews to the media and invited the Catholic faithful to join the SSVP.

In December 2017, a successful training meeting was held in which 77 people participated. The program included talks on the origins of the SSVP, our founders, the international structure and the daily work of the Conference. This formation made possible the establishment of 12 Conferences - 11 in the capital MONROVIA and 1 in the city of GBARNGA (195km from the capital). Today, SSVP has already 156 members in Liberia. One key factor which facilitated the establishment of the SSVP in LIBERIA was the strong support of the Catholic Church, whose bishops and priests were receptive to the Vincentian ideal.

[Read more.](#)

[More International SVdP News](#)

CGI/FRANCE: [Council General announces its Activities' Report for 2017](#)

AUSTRALIA: [Recycling helps Vinnies help the Needy](#)

GHANA: [GPHA partners St. Vincent de Paul Society to transform New Ningo CHPS](#)

National News

St. Vincent de Paul Georgia supports Clark's Christmas Kids

ATLANTA, GA:

Despite an unusual blast of snow during prime shopping days, Clark's Christmas Kids gift drive fulfilled the Christmas wishes of thousands of children living in foster care.

Snowfall on Friday, Dec. 8, set back the gift-buying tradition. But with a boost in online giving and volunteer shoppers stepping in, the more than 27,000 gift requests were fulfilled.

Consumer advocate Clark Howard, of WSB Radio, has teamed for 27 years with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services to share gifts with young people in foster care. St. Vincent de Paul Georgia has contributed its logistical expertise to make it happen for the past three years



(L-R) John Berry, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, Donna Pettigrew-Jackson, special initiatives administrator and Secret Santa project director for the Georgia Department of Family and Children's Services and WSB radio consumer reporter Clark Howard attend the sixth and final collection day of toys for foster children at the Marietta Walmart store location. Photo: Michael Alexander

[Read More](#)

MORE NATIONAL SVdP NEWS

JUNEAU, AK: [St. Vincent de Paul Society of Juneau: Serving the Poor with Compassion](#)

MIDDLEBORO, MA: ['Bringing Food to Those in Need'](#)

LOUISVILLE, KY: [Single-digit Temperatures add hundreds of Guests to Louisville Homeless Shelters](#)

[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:

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

Mideast Regional Meeting
May 18-19
Owensboro, KY

Board Meeting
June 8-9
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