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STAY CONNECTED TO SVdPUSA



The national office will be closed for Christmas on Friday, December 22 and Christmas Day, December 25. It will be closed for New Year's on Friday, December 29 and New Year's Day, January 1. The office will resume regular business hours on Tuesday, January 2.

There will be no E-Gazette published next week, Thursday, December 28. We will resume the regular publishing schedule on Thursday, January 4.

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Frederic's E-Gazette

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

December 21, 2017



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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:

December 21, 2017

Have you noticed the quiet revolution afoot this year? Maybe it's the economy, or maybe I'm hanging out with more Catholics, but I can't help but notice in my mailbox this year that not only are there more holiday cards, they are actual Christmas cards!

After a long secularization of the holiday that, after all, is about the birth of Christ, and not about Charlie Brown or Rudolf the Reindeer, a return to



Christian faith expression is in the December air. The family of God has found itself again enough to speak up.

Speaking of family, cards seem to come in two groups. One set is of cards with just a signature inside, basically saying "I'm still alive and here's my address" which is great and I'm happy to know they thought about me enough to spend a card, envelope and stamp to find me. The other set is the card with one, or more likely an album of photos and a long letter detailing every family trip, the kids' adventures and what they had for dinner last weekend.

[Read more.](#)

Yours in Christ,



Dave

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Christmas Message from SVdP International President Renato Lima de Oliveira

[Click here](#) to view a special Christmas video message from SVdP International President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira.

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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: Does the Society have a records retention policy to follow?

A: Generally speaking, a good rule of thumb is seven (7) years. On page 32 of the Manual, there is a complete list by type of record of the number of years you are

required to maintain them. Official records are maintained by both the secretary and the treasurer. All officers should be aware of the retention schedule.

Q: Is there any prohibition or policy regarding the use of gift cards by a Conference in our work in assisting our neighbors in need?

A: Many Conferences use gift cards to help those in need. Gift Cards can be used to assist with food purchases and personal hygiene needs. However, many cards can also be used for non-food items such as alcohol. Some cards can be sold by the recipient in the informal market for cash. For these reasons some SVdP Councils do not use them, while others have strict policies on types of cards and uses. Retailers may have special cards or vouchers that are limited to identified users and restricted by type of purchase. Assistance associated with utility payments, rent and other monthly living expenses billed to those in need should be paid to the third party with the Conference checking account.

[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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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:

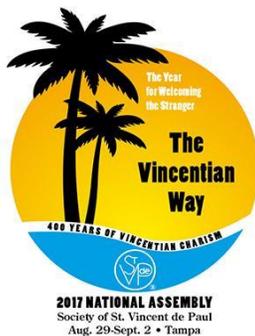
Thrift Store & Special Works Annual Reports:

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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2017 National Assembly StoryBooth Videos now available Online

At the 2015 SVdP National Assembly in Providence, Rhode Island, a new tradition was started of Vincentians sharing their stories about their experiences through "StoryBooth."

In a private space in the hotel, Vincentians had the opportunity to contribute to a video archive by telling their stories.

The questions were:

- 1) What inspired you to become a Vincentian and how has it changed your life?
- 2) What was your most memorable moment or moving home visit?
- 3) How has being a Vincentian increased your spirituality?

[Click here](#) to view this year's StoryBooth videos.

To view StoryBooth videos from National Assemblies past, [click here](#).

Video Recordings of Livestreamed Events from the 2017 SVdP National Assembly in Tampa

At this year's SVdP National Assembly in Tampa, Fla., the Society tried something new. A livestream of some events was offered to allow those who were unable to attend the meeting to still be a part of it all.

Those events were also recorded and are now available for online viewing. To view the home page and choose a video to watch, [click here](#).

Below you will see a list of the videos available. Click on the video you would like to watch and you will be redirected to the viewing site.

- [Welcome & President's Address](#)
- [Thursday Lunch Prayer and Address](#)
- [Retreat: Spiritual Leadership - The Quest for Integrity](#)
- [Friday Lunch Prayer & Addresses](#)
- [Racial Injustice - A Black Leader's Perspective on its Impact on Poverty](#)
- [Saturday Lunch Addresses & The St. Anne Catholic School Choir](#)
- [Saturday Closing Dinner & Keynote Addresses](#)
 - Please note that there are two periods during this video when the screen goes dark, but you still hear audio. The video will continue after the black screen. The times are 8:35 - 17:53 and 24:47 - 28:21.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the 2017 SVdP National Assembly so great! We will see you all in 2018 in San Diego!

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501 (c) (3) Tax Exemption Notice

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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SVdP Disaster Services Update



*Responding to Local
Disasters Nationally*

The Disaster Recovery Corner

December 21, 2017

[Click here to read the December 21 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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Vincentian Formation

Notice: The warehouse and materials department will be closed for inventory (and the holidays) from Friday, December 22 through Monday, January 1.

Vincentian Christmas Gifts

[Click here](#) for more information about Vincentian Christmas gifts and spirituality resources.

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

National Vehicle Donation Program

With the holidays upon us, there will inevitably be an increase in requests for assistance made to local Conferences and Councils. The National Vehicle Donation Program (NVDP) is a great revenue stream to help offset these expenses. The

holidays are also an excellent time to promote the NVDP program, because many individuals donate their vehicles in an effort to receive a year-end tax deduction. Do you know someone getting rid of a car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or even an airplane? Have them donate it through the National Vehicle Donation Program before January 1st, and they will receive a 2017 tax deduction.

Donors can call 1-800-322-8284 to donate, or visit the NVDP website, at www.svdpusacars.org.

Tip: Now is the perfect time to put an ad in your parish bulletin promoting the NVDP program!



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

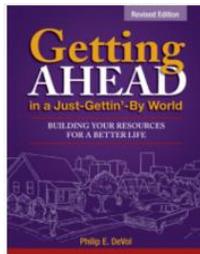
Gerri Sample
Senior Development Associate
314-576-3993 ext. 211
gsample@svdpusa.org

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Getting Ahead Facilitator Training 2018-2019

***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 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!](#)

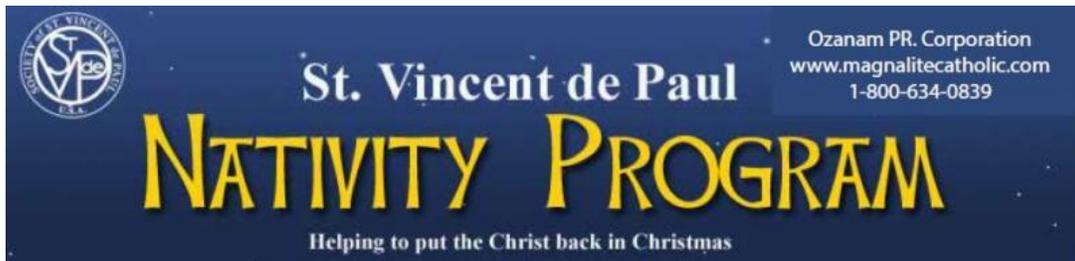
For more information, contact:

Tom Mulloy

National Director of Poverty Programs

tmulloy@svdpusa.org

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The St. Vincent de Paul Nativity Program is a way for us to serve the needy by helping to bring Christ back into their lives during Christmas time. We are making a nativity kit available that includes a Nativity ornament and a booklet of the story of Christmas, the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

[Click here for more information about Ozanam PR's Nativity Program.](#)

Questions, contact:
Ozanam PR Corporation
www.magnalitecatholic.com
1-800-634-0839

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SVdP in the News



International News

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul now exists in Albania

CGI / ALBANIA:

Last November 28, through the hard work of the people who work for the expansion of the Society in the world, a beautiful beginning has occurred: the first Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society was organized in the city of Mollas, Albania.



Located in Southern Europe, surrounded by the Adriatic Sea, this country, where the name literally means "the country of the eagles," was, along its history, the region of numerous foreign occupations, which caused the massive exile of Albanians to neighboring countries, such as Italy. The Catholic Church was interdicted there during some centuries, particularly under the Ottoman occupation up to the 20th century, when the Republic of Albania was taken over by the communist regime until 1991.

Based on its history, its geographic location and the movements of the population, the country has always kept relations with Italy. Considering this natural logic, the SSVP Italy, led by the President National, Antonio Gianfico gave his support and his aid for the organization of the Saint Mother Theresa de Calcutta Conference, which was inaugurated some days ago.

[Read more.](#)

More International SVdP News

CGI / BELGIUM & NETHERLANDS: [The International President General visits Belgium and the Netherlands](#)

CANADA: [20th Annual Yuletide Dinner serves close to 600 Meals](#)

National News

He 'gave up,' but then St. Vincent de Paul put him back on Track with a Job

PHOENIX, AZ:

When the officials at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix found out they won a quarter million-dollar grant to improve their urban farm, they already had a plan to install an irrigation system, plant fruit trees and add shade to extend the growing season.

Those improvements will help the nonprofit provide more fresh fruits and vegetables from the 1-acre farm to food boxes for needy families and to the organization's downtown Phoenix kitchen, which serves hundreds of meals each day.

But Nika Forte, the group's urban farm coordinator, didn't want to stop there. The plans also include transforming the garden into a learning space so they can teach both the children who take classes at the nonprofit and provide skills to the adults who use St. Vincent's services.

[Read More](#)

MORE NATIONAL SVdP NEWS

POULSBO, WA:

[Mother of twins gets help from St. Vincent de Paul](#)

ATLANTA, GA: [St. Vincent de Paul provides Toys for Foster Children](#) (video)

DAYTON, OH: [St. Vincent de Paul providing Shelter for hundreds of Homeless this Winter](#) (video)

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



Nika Forte, the urban farm program coordinator at St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix said she will use the farm as a teaching tool for homeless volunteers to obtain jobs. Photo: Samantha Pouls / Cronkite 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	Mideast Regional Meeting May 18-19 Owensboro, KY
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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

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

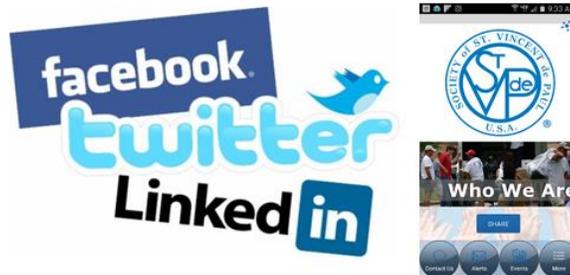
Invitation for Renewal
July 11 - 15
St. Louis, MO

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



[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
Communications and Administrative Associate
Email: mboyer@svdpusa.org
(314) 576-3993 ext. 219

