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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®
February 2, 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
From your Servant Leader:

February 2, 2017

Last week I was honored to be part of a Leadership Pro-Life Mass at the St. John Paul II Shrine in Washington DC. Held the day before the annual March for Life, the Mass and the Shrine were both packed with the faithful. Looking at the various nametags, many participants were from organizations unknown to me.

We sat in prayer together and then gathered downstairs for a light reception and the chance to meet new friends. I was reminded how we all had specific Catholics beliefs we are working toward and trying to get more people excited enough to act. Yet we also all spring forth from the same faith roots.

Even within only the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we have fellow Vincentians who "specialize" in their actions and discussions. Some focus on spiritual development of fellow members. Others want only to work in the food pantry or other special work. Some are Voice of the Poor advocates, while others are becoming mentors in our systemic change programs. We have needs for many types of skills, and we are certainly active in so many ways to express our love and care for our fellow neighbors in need.

Read more

Yours in Christ,

Dave
Announcing our National President-Elect

The time of discernment is over and our Conferences and Councils have cast their ballots.

RALPH MIDDLECAMP is our National Council president-elect. His six year term begins October 1, 2017. Please pray for Ralph as he prepares to assume office.

Our thanks to Bill Migley, who had also agreed to be a candidate in our discernment.

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Circular Letter to my Beloved Brothers and Sisters, Members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Conferences Around the World
By: Renato Lima De Oliveria, 16th General President

Praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ!

My dear brothers and sisters, beloved new members, employees of our centers and projects, esteemed collaborators and volunteers.

As you know, on September 9, 2016, in Paris, France, I had the joy of being inducted as the 16th General President of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. This brought an enormous responsibility, and at the same time an immense privilege for me and for the new members of the International Board, given the huge challenges facing us until the end of our term in 2022.

Thus, it is with great joy that I have the pleasure of reinstating the annual Circular Letters, based on Vincentian tradition and on the good practices of the unforgettable and enlightened General Presidents who preceded me. This is the first time in the history of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul that the General President's Circular Letter is being published in Arabic, Italian, and Chinese, in addition to our organization's official languages.

Click here to view the letter in its entirety in English

Click here to view the letter in French
Click here to view the letter in Chinese

Click here to view the letter in Portuguese
Click here to view the letter in Spanish
Q: I've noticed the tendency to "hang on to money" both in my former Conference and the Conference I am a member of now. Each treasurer announces proudly the significant account balances while some of our poor are receiving little more than food cards. Is this a common practice?

A: It is not permitted for Conferences to hoard money. Secondly, if this is occurring in Conferences you are aware of; it needs to be brought to the attention of the SVdP leaders in your District Council and to the Regional VP to determine how to resolve this issue. This is not what members are supposed to do with donated resources. Donations to Conference are meant to address today's needs. Generally speaking, a Conference is expected to spend all of its funds for the purposes of the Society (primarily for assisting those in need).

Q: We have a member who does a lot of travel as a representative for national. Does the Conference record these miles on the national annual report?

A: Typically, mileage counted is for home visits and other works being done in the immediate area. However, it won't hurt to include members travelling as national representatives in the same place as mileage for home visits and other Society work on the Conference annual report.
Submit your questions to:
Pam Hudson
National Director of Governance & Membership Services
phudson@svdpusa.org

2017 Annual Reports Are Here!
New & Improved!
Streamlined, saves time!

Hardcopy forms are NOW available! Click here:
http://www.svdpusa.org/members/Documents/Annual-Report-Forms

The 2017 online annual report data entry program will be available after the 2016 reporting cycle closes in the coming weeks.

Be sure to enter your 2016 reports online TODAY! Click here
https://www.svdpusa.net/reporting3/login.php

The login is the same one you use to login to the National Membership Database

For questions, contact:
Pam Hudson
National Director of Governance and Membership
314-576-3993 ext. 214
Annual Reports Deadlines Update

The Conference annual reports completion deadline was November 30. If your Conference has not finalized your annual report yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Below are the deadlines for the remaining annual reports:

**Thrift Store & Special Works Annual Reports Due**
The owner (Conference or Council) of the store or special works has to do these reports first since the owner needs the store and special work information for their (Conference or Council) report.

*(Arch)Diocesan Council Annual Report Due*
for Fiscal Year ending 9-30
February 28

Conference Annual Reports Due
for Fiscal Year ending 12-31
February 28

District Council Annual Reports Due
for Fiscal Year Ending 12-31
February 28

*(Arch)Diocesan Council Annual Report Due*
for Fiscal Year ending 12-31
March 31

The online annual reporting program is also now available for data entry on the National Council Membership Management website: [www.svdpusa.net](http://www.svdpusa.net).

For questions contact:
Pam Hudson
314-576-3993 ext.214
phudson@svdpusa.org
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Vincentian Formation
Celebrating 400 Years of the Vincentian Charism... Who belongs to the Vincentian Family?

The Vincentian Family consists of all the congregations and associations whose apostolate is inspired by the Vincentian charism of service to those who are poor, as given by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac.

Click here to view a list of some branches of the Vincentian Family.

For further information contact:
Sister Kieran Kneaves, DC
National Formation Director
kkneaves@svdpusa.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." - B. Frédéric Ozanam

National Mentoring Program supports New Vincentian Leaders

"It is very common for those in leadership to have mentors. Mentors provide objective input and are usually at the same level or higher in leadership positions so their suggestions are often very useful. I think it is good that SVdP offers this program. It can help all of us improve our leadership ability thus improving our councils, thus improving our ability to serve the poor."

- Council president and participant in the National Mentoring Program
As February begins the focus of the governance material shifts to Mentoring.

The Society believes that competent servant leadership is essential and so the National Governance Committee set about developing tools that will help members become effective leaders. One such tool is the National Mentoring Program which is available for new Council presidents and new executive directors. The program allows them to have a more seasoned counterpart available to answer questions and give guidance.

"I've read that any successful business person will be the first to admit that mentorship is vital to any attained success."

- Program Participant

Click here to read the complete article.

Have you made your Annual Solidarity Contributions?

The fiscal year 2016-17 solidarity invoices contributions deadline has passed. If your Conference/Council has not sent your remittance to the National Council, please do so immediately. The name Society of St. Vincent de Paul is trademark protected, and solidarity contributions make up a significant portion of the National Council's budgeted income. It is an essential annual membership requirement. Click here for a listing of the Benefits of Solidarity.

Thank you for your annual support. If payment has not been made email or call me to discuss payment schedule arrangements!

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

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Click here to read the full message from Ready.gov about fire safety.

Click here to view a promotional video for the SVdP Disaster Services Disaster Preparedness Conference.
Development Department News

The Friends of The Poor® Grant Program received a $150,000 Foundation Grant
More Grants to be awarded this Year!

Click here to see a list of current awardees.

North Central and Southeast Regions apply now!
Grants up to $5,000 for SVdP Conferences Available

The National Council has received a very generous contribution from an anonymous foundation. This additional funding will allow more Conferences to receive grants. Grant applications for the North Central and Southeast Regions are being accepted. This simple application can be downloaded from the National Council Development Toolbox - FOP Grant tab at: http://new.svdpusa.com/developtools.

Grants are awarded by an independent peer review committee in the following areas of interest:

- Emergency assistance purposes beyond available Conference resources
- Systemic Change projects

Please send completed applications to the National Office. Email applications are preferred.
Send to Gerri Sample at gsample@svdpusa.org or Steve Martinez at smartinez@svdpusa.org

If you have any questions about the grant application or your project, please call Steve Martinez, National Chief Development Officer 314-576-3393 extension 213.

DEADLINE: February 28, 2017

Click here for more Development Department news.

For more information on Development, contact:
Steve Martinez 314-576-3993 ext. 213
smartinez@svdpusa.org

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

 Neighborhoods of Hope-Systemic Change for Councils

Is your Council looking for ways to have a bigger impact on poverty?
Is there a community or neighborhood that needs more focused help?

Learn about the Society's updated approach for Councils. Neighborhoods of Hope can help align current systemic change work, such as mentoring and Getting Ahead, towards more definable outcomes. This introduction can also be used to begin from scratch. Emphasis is on use of tools like enhanced home visits, community outreach, and collective impact collaboration to move the needle on poverty in a neighborhood.

Thursday, February 16, 2017 3:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern

Connect: https://societyofsaintvincent.adobeconnect.com/vop
Call-in: 877-885-3221
Passcode: 7812587

Tips for a successful webinar experience

For more information, contact:
Jack Murphy
goal 4 leader
jack.murphy@att.net

*   *   *

Why is health care so important to fighting poverty? What are the implications for poor and vulnerable people of proposed changes to our health care system?

If you missed last month's webinar, "Advocacy Essentials for Preserving Health Care for the Poor and Vulnerable," download the recording and presentation here and spread the word!

For more information, contact:
Tom Dwyer
National Chair, Voice of the Poor Committee
tdwyerma@comcast.net

Is your Conference or Council ready to Implement Systemic Change in your Community?

Our Rule calls us "to help the poor to help themselves whenever possible, and to be aware that they can forge and change their own destinies and that of their local community."
Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World attacks poverty holistically, empowering individuals to build their own personal plans for economic security and create Systemic Change. It is currently being used by conferences and councils of all sizes, across the country.

Join Jeanne Harper, member of the National Board of Directors and Vice President of the North Central Region, for our next Getting Ahead Facilitator Training Webinar:

Part I: Wednesday, March 8 @ 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CST
Part II: Wednesday, March 15 @ 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CST

Register Today!

* Please Note: Registration will close two weeks prior to the webinar, in order that participants have sufficient time to prepare. Late requests cannot be accepted.*

For questions about Systemic Change, the Getting Ahead program, or other poverty-related issues, contact Tom Mulloy, National Director of Poverty Programs, at tmulloy@svdpusa.org.

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REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!
For the 2017 Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Midyear Business Meeting

Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark
March 23 - 25, 2017
We are looking for presenters for the National Assembly

Under the following topics inspired by our Cultural Beliefs & Key Results:

- Increasing the number of Active and Associate Members
- Increasing the number of Councils and Isolated Conferences utilizing Systemic Change
- Increasing the number of people served each year
- Increasing the income of Councils and isolated Conferences

If you or someone you know would like to present one of these topics at our 2017 National Assembly in an uplifting, interactive format, please contact Michele Schurk at (314) 576-3993 ext. 223 or mschurk@svdpusa.org.

Submissions need to be received by April 1, 2017; notifications will be given no later than May 1, 2017.
*2017 National Assembly in Tampa, Fla. August 29 - September 2! Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!
Vincentian Family Gathering of North America
June 9-11, 2017 in San Antonio, TX

The Gathering will include the voices of immigrants and refugees, two keynote presenters, and five workshops.
National Council of the United States-Society of Saint Vincent de Paul,
58 Progress Parkway, Maryland Heights, MO 63043-3706