



DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF AUSTIN SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, INC.

Conference Presidents, please forward to your conference members.

SSVDP Calendar

Upcoming Events

[5/10 Blessing of the Vincentian Family Center](#)

[5/14 Ozanam Orientation - St Theresa Conference](#)

5/14 New Vincentian Family Center - Family Fun Day and Community Celebration

Predatory Loan Conversion Program

The Numbers

\$50,136.90 in loans converted

74 high interest loans converted

22 closed loans

7 incentives paid

329% APR for loans converted

2.25% APR for PLCP loans

85.3% repayment rate

1 day without a default

[Link to secure "how to" page - now with client forms in Spanish.](#)

Archived Documents

[Vincentian documents](#)
[Spiritual Reflections](#)

Friday, April 22, 2016

Opening Doors Brings Gratitude

The Vincentian Family Center and Thrift Store will open its doors in less than two weeks! We couldn't be more excited to begin this new chapter of service. Creating this community resource would have been impossible without the ongoing support of our entire Vincentian family.



We are grateful to the Vincentians and friends who have made a commitment to help us launch the new facility. As we begin to offer more services at the VFC, we will need plenty of volunteers. You can see current opportunities and sign up via ssvdp.volunteerhub.com. We will add shifts throughout the month of May - check back regularly!

We also want to extend a special thank you to our St. John Neumann and St. Thomas More conferences for their generous twinning donations to the food pantry! The food pantry will be just one of many services offered to neighbors in need at the facility, and any gift helps.

Call for Volunteers April 23 - 29th: Help us Move Into Our New Home!

The Diocesan Council Office is looking to our amazing community of volunteers to help us move to our new location at 901 W. Braker Lane. We welcome anyone who wishes to help us pack and say goodbye to our current location, though keep in mind there may be lots of heavy lifting:

Current opportunities are listed below. Please sign up via our new volunteer hub site: ssvdp.volunteerhub.com.

COUNCIL OFFICE PACKERS

Wednesday, April 27, 10 am - 1 pm (3 hours)

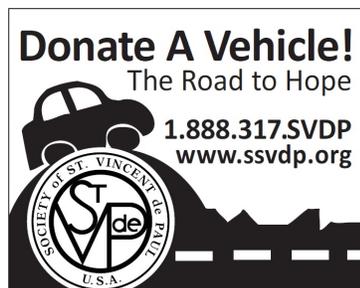
4 Packers needed to help pack up our office at 7801 N.Lamar Blvd.,

Suite D101 Volunteers will be helping with the packing office supplies and equipment for Council Staff Office.

Links

[Bulletin Announcements Ethics & Integrity in Ministry](#)

[Donate your vehicle to our Vehicle Donation Program - the proceeds from the sale of your vehicle will stay right here in our diocese!](#)



Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

COUNCIL OFFICE MOVERS

Thursday, April 28, 11 am - 3 pm (4 hours)

We need strong men who have trucks and trailers to come help load, drive and unload. We need PEOPLE, not just trucks and trailers. Please let me know which spot you are volunteering for,

email me at paula@ssvdp.org

4 trucks and drivers with trailers

2 additional people to assist with moving boxes & furniture, straight level loading and stairs unloading. (total of 6 people)

FOOD PANTRY- Racking & Shelving

Saturday, April 30, 10 am - 1 pm (3 hours)

3 people needed to help assemble racking & shelving for the Food Pantry. Volunteers will be supervised by P&H Equipment rep. Some skill with assembly tools recommended but not required.

We are truly grateful for all the energetic helpers we'll be seeing next week!! If you have any questions, please contact Paula Pompa, our new Vincentian Family Center Manager, at paula@ssvdp.org.

LAST CALL FOR BLESSING CEREMONY REGISTRATION!

at the Vincentian Family Center
Tuesday, May 10th

[Register](#)

if you haven't already to attend the
Blessing of the Vincentian Family Center
on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Remember: all names must appear on the guest list to attend.

Doors open at 1:00 pm, for small group tours of the facility. The
Blessing will take place at 2:00 pm.

All guests need to [RSVP](#) by Monday, May 2.

We are encouraging everyone to bring friends, family, and guests, and remember: all names must appear on the guest list to attend. If you aren't sure if you have registered, please try to register with your "regular" email - the system will let you know if you are already on the list.

Our Society

Pope Francis Quote

"I encourage you to bear witness to Christ in your personal life and families: a witness of gratuitousness, solidarity, spirit of service."

- @Pontifex, April 8

Voice of the Poor Update

What do you know?

What do you know about poverty? Are you currently or have you ever lived in poverty? Blessed Frederic Ozanam tells us that only when we have seen first-hand the issues that people are facing daily can we begin to propose serious measures to end poverty. We Vincentians are members of the communities we serve. That means that some of us need to look no further than our own life or that of our sister, cousin, or friend to know poverty. For most Vincentians, that knowledge comes from our home visits. For Vincentians, "The Poor" are not a nameless "Them", but specific faces and families.

Frederic said, *"When we have accomplished this ministry, not for months, but over long years; when we have thus studied the poor at home, at school, at the hospital, not only in one city but in several, and also in the country, in whatever condition God placed him, then we can start to know the formidable problem of misery, then we are entitled to propose serious measures..."*. Our Vincentian model of service places us in a unique position to speak up for our family and friends who are living with the misery of poverty.

The Voice of the Poor (VOP) Committee would like to learn from what you know. From your work, what are the issues that people in Central Texas are experiencing today? We want to be effective, so we seek direction from you on where to focus our efforts.

I hope you attended the General Assembly earlier this month at the new Vincentian Family Center. I love those events because I get re-energized by being around so many good, good people. If you were there, you had a chance to tell us the top areas of need that you have seen. We will use your input to develop a survey that will be sent to conferences. It is important to identify the top one to three issues on which to devote our energies over the next year. Please start thinking about the primary issues that friends in your conference are experiencing that may be pulling them into poverty or preventing them from rising out of poverty.

The work of the VOP Committee is advocacy. That just means that, with your help, we will speak up and speak out on these issues on behalf of the friends we serve. We will speak to decision makers, we will collaborate with other organizations, and we will do this in partnership with you.

Peace be with you,
Andy Vasquez, Chair
VOP Committee, Diocesan Council of Austin

In Case You Missed It

Spiritual Advisor Update

Greetings Vincentians of Central Texas! What an exciting time it is for us as we wait in anticipation for the opening of our Vincentian Family Center! We gathered for our General Assembly at the Center last Saturday, April 9 and we were all impressed with the big and beautiful space that is emerging. As I "took in" the experience of being in the "almost finished, but not yet" space I was overwhelmed by a sense of the potential and opportunity the Center promises.

In the Vincentian tradition, evolving expression of the Mission is central to our spirit and charism. We are always asking ourselves "Who are the poor and what must be done?" Across the world in the Vincentian Family, we focus on God's Providence by attuning to the needs of those we are committed to serve. The Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul addresses this in Part 1.6, Adaptation to a Changing World: "Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. It seeks to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated..."

This willingness to see beyond our own preferences and comfortable patterns to discern the emerging manifestations of God's Providence for our ministry opens our eyes and hearts to what might be next. Hearts and minds open to discern God's Providence see potential and opportunity. The vision of ending poverty through systemic change is a framework that helps us to engage this potential, this opportunity to stand on the shoulders of our founders, honoring what has been, and saying yes to new ways of living out our Vincentian vocation. This is the Vincentian Spirit, honoring the heritage and traditions that have formed us and engaging the needs of today in creative ways. Part 3.5 of our Rule describes Preserving the Spirit: "Members of all ages strive to preserve the spirit of youth, which is characterised by enthusiasm, adaptability and creative imagination. They are willing to make sacrifices and take risks for the benefit of the poor wherever they may be: by sharing their discomfort, needs, and sorrows and defending their rights."

Next Sunday is Ozanam Sunday. Frederic Ozanam was born on April 23, 1813 in Milan Italy. On April 23, 1883 at the age of twenty, he and six companions founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Energetic and passionate, these young people were supported in their energy and passion by Emanuel Bailly and Blessed Rosalie Rendu, who anchored them with wisdom and engaged their exuberance. This is an opportunity to gather as conference communities and celebrate the Birthday of our Founder St. Vincent de Paul April 24 1581, the Birthday of the Founder of the Society Frederic Ozanam April 23, 1813, and the Birthday of the Society itself, April 23 1883.

As we gather, let us give thanks for what has been and pray for our new beginnings; the opening of our Vincentian Family Center and the emergence of our commitment to systemic change.

Donations & Volunteers

We want to extend our gratitude to all our Vincentians who donated

nonperishable goods to stock our VFC food pantry! Although construction on the building is nearly complete, we still need your help to get programming started at the Vincentian Family Center and Thrift Store.

To that end, conference donations to the Vincentian Family Center are welcome and sincerely appreciated. Similar to twinning or co-pays, these gifts still support the Society's ministry of service. Your generosity will have an immediate impact. Gifts will support numerous services for our neighbors, including a computer lab and classroom, food pantry, restaurant, prayer room, and retail thrift.

Beyond financial support, we are actively seeking volunteers for the new building! We consider ourselves truly blessed to work with such a devoted, enthusiastic volunteer base. Not only do Vincentians continue to serve their neighbors through their conferences, but a number of you have already expressed interest in volunteering at the building! **Please be on the lookout for more information on volunteer opportunities in the coming days.**

Thank you for sharing in this ministry, and thank you for your ongoing support of the Vincentian Family Center and Thrift Store!

Diocesan Council Staff - Phone: 512-251-6995

PO Box 9070, Austin Texas 78766

Office Hours M-TH 9:00 - 4:00 and F 9:00 - 2:00 ---

see calendar above for office holiday closings.

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Prayer Requests: pray@ssvdp.org

**Physical Address of New Vincentian Family Center:
901 W. Braker, Austin, TX 78758**