



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

Conference Presidents, please forward to your conference members.

### SSVDP Calendar

#### Upcoming Events

4/18 Council Board Meeting

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

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

5/14 New Vincentian Family Center Carnival and Community Celebration

### Predatory Loan Conversion Program

#### The Numbers

**\$47,986.72** in loans converted

**74** high interest loans converted

**20** closed loans

**7** incentives paid

**329%** APR for loans converted

**2.25%** APR for PLCP loans

**86.4%** repayment rate

**49** days without a default

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

### Archived Documents

**Friday, April 8, 2016**

### Tale of Two Austins: Housing

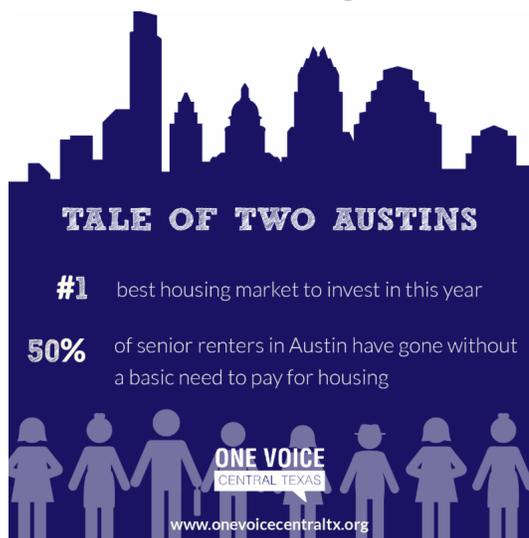
One Voice Central Texas, a coalition of health and human services nonprofits, is committed to raising awareness of economic disparities in Austin. With its Tale of Two Austins, OVCT contrasts the city's the public image as a thriving community with the reality that many residents have not reaped the benefits of Austin's economic growth. As many

Society volunteers know, a number of our neighbors regularly sacrifice their own well-being to keep the lights on or pay their monthly rent. That anecdotal evidence is borne out by One Voice's data.

As a One Voice member organization, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul plays a crucial role not only in alleviating those disparities but also sharing the message. For more information, you can check out One Voice's [website!](#)

### Blessing of the Vincentian Family Center

We are just over a month away from the Blessing of the Vincentian Family Center! On Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, the Most Reverend Joe S. Vasquez, Bishop of the Diocese of Austin, and the Most Reverend Daniel Garcia, Auxiliary Bishop will mark our grand opening with a blessing.



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

**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!](#)



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Doors will open at 1:00 pm, and Society staff and leadership will lead small group tours of the facility. The blessing of the facility will take place at 2:00 pm, with tours resuming at 2:30 pm.

We are honored to bring this phenomenal new resource to our community, the realization of a longtime dream. The VFC and Thrift Store will afford us even more opportunities to serve those in need, and we hope to celebrate its opening with our volunteers, friends, and community partners.

**All guests will need to [RSVP](#) by Monday, May 2.** We encourage you to bring friends, family, and guests, but all names must appear on the guest list to attend.

## Our Society

### Pope Francis Quote

"Jesus shows us the real face of God, for whom power does not mean destruction but love, and for whom justice is not vengeance but mercy."

- @Pontifex, March 28

## Systemic Change Update

Systemic Change is alive and well in the Austin Diocese. Many of our Conferences are doing amazing things to serve our neighbors in need. One of the biggest things we can all do that requires little in the form of additional resources is to adjust our own attitudes towards those living in poverty.

There are many misconceptions surrounding poverty. The more we learn about poverty, the greater will be our understanding of our neighbors in need. In her book, "See Poverty...Be The Difference", Dr. Donna Beegle presents an insider's view of poverty. On pages 46 and 47, she writes:

*"What does the world look and feel like when you are hungry, without a home, and have nowhere to turn? The experience of living in poverty shapes the values, habits, and behavior of those who have to endure its hardships and leaves them with a different perspective than that of those born with privilege. For a long time, researchers and professionals alike neglected to listen to the voices of people in poverty. Assumptions were made about the character and values of people living in desperate situations (Lewis, 1975). Few examined the experiences of poverty to become aware of the impact of these people living in poverty assign meanings to events, things, and people around them..."*

**The shame of living in poverty:** the impact of poverty spills over into every aspect of the experience of living, learning, and interacting with the rest of society. Feelings of shame follow people from poverty into educational situations and into their relationships with others. The context of poverty shapes how people feel about their appearance, where they live, what food they can afford, and

the work their parents do (Beegle, 2000). These perceptions determine whether or not people feel they are worthy enough to belong to various groups with which they come in contact. Freire (1970) states that every society teaches its people what it takes to belong. In the United States, the neighborhood you live in, the clothing you wear, the way you talk, the food you eat, and even the shoes you have matter tremendously and tell you (and others) where you belong.

I encourage each of you to pick up a copy of Dr. Beegle's book because the more we, as Vincentians, study and learn about poverty, the better equipped we become to serve our neighbors. I'm looking forward to visiting with each of you and hearing your ideas on Systemic Change at the General Assembly on Saturday.

Blessings,  
Angela

## In Case You Missed It

### New Vincentian Family Center Manager

We are so excited to welcome Paula Pompa to the Diocesan Council Staff as our new VFC Manager! Paula will be responsible for the efficient, effective coordination and management of the office and service aspects of the new facility.

Paula brings over twelve years' experience in Business Administration and business management to the Diocesan Council team. Throughout her career, she has assisted adults and children who are blind, visually impaired, or have multiple disabilities with goods and services through State of Texas programs.

In addition to her professional expertise, Paula is a member of the St. Margaret Mary Conference in Cedar Park.

Paula is enthusiastic about her new role with the Society, remarking, "I am excited to become part of the team and continue to grow together spiritually in the opening of the Vincentian Family Center. I am honored and feel so blessed to help continue the mission of our founder blessed Frederic Ozanam and patron, St. Vincent de Paul."

Welcome aboard, Paula!

### Diocesan Council Staff - Phone: 512-251-6995

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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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