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Subject: SSVdP - weekly e-news

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

Conference Presidents, please forward to your conference members.

Calendar of Events

Blue events need your
RSVP!

8/1 - Decision deadline for
current presidents to serve in FY
2016

8/17 - Council Board Meeting

8/22 - [Ozanam Orientation \(St.
Patrick, Hutto\)](#)

8/25 - 8/30 - National Assembly
(Providence, RI)

[9/25 - 9/28 - South Central
Regional Meeting - Austin, with
Donna Beegle](#)

Predatory Loan Conversion Program

The Numbers

\$34,777.54 in loans converted
to date

53 high interest loans converted

7 closed loans

3 incentives paid

321% average APR of loans
converted; our APR is **2.2%**

88.5% repayment rate

11 days without a defaulted loan

[Link to secure "how to" page -](#)

Friday, July 24, 2015

Ozanam Orientation at St. Patrick in Hutto

We invite you to join us for our upcoming Ozanam Orientation session! Online registration is now open for our upcoming Ozanam Orientation at St. Patrick in Hutto. This session will take place on **August 22, 2015 from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm.**

Ozanam Orientation is **required** for new Vincentians and is a great opportunity to learn about the Rule, the guidelines of conference activities, how to do home visit, and much more.

Please note that Ozanam Orientation content was updated in January 2013. Vincentians in need of a refresher will greatly benefit from the revised material.

To register online, please visit this link and fill out the form: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eb9vz3njea434030&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Please direct any questions to Katie Conyers at katie@ssvdp.org.

The Gifts of Those in Need

The gifts of those in need are tremendous. When we serve someone in need we are challenged to shake off any pretense of money, possessions and the importance of things in our lives. When we serve those in need, we have the opportunity to see the world through different eyes. Some opportunities are greater than others.



[now with client forms in Spanish.](#)

Disaster Resource Centers

Current Locations

Danforth Junior High School, 200 Texan Blvd, Wimberley, TX (Hays County)

ROTC Building/Bastrop High School, 1200 Cedar Street, Bastrop, TX (Bastrop County)

San Marcos Crossroads Building (17 & 18), 501 S LBJ Dr., San Marcos, TX (Hays County)

City Hall, 400 Porter St, Taylor, TX (Williamson County)

Rutherford Lane Campus Bldg #1, 1520 Rutherford Lane, Austin, TX (Travis County)

Martindale Baptist Church, 12351 Highway 142, Martindale, TX (Caldwell County)

Archived Documents

[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!](#)



The staff of the Diocesan office recently shared in one such opportunity. We were privileged to assist at the Summer Food Pantry at the Santa Rosa Conference in Andice. The conference collaborates with local school districts participating in the Feeding America BackPack Program, which provides a bag of food each week helping local children get the nutritious and easy-to-prepare food they need to get enough to eat on the weekends.

But what happens to these children over the summer when school is not in session? The Conference proactively addresses this need by holding an evening food pantry once a month during the summer giving out a substantial amount of food and paper items. For several hours, the Conference supplies food and sundries to a very large community. At the July Summer Food Pantry, 38 families were served, impacting over 350 people.

The Conference members welcomed families into the parish hall where many tables with pantry items were laid out across the room. A Vincentian was assigned to each family and accompanied them through the process of choosing the items for their families. Conference members chattered with the families throughout the process asking about the events going on in the lives of the family members. Children walked with their parents and grandparents smiling and telling the stories of their summer adventures. Before the summer pantry opened, the conference members had gathered to set up the room enjoyed each other's company and shared a meal.

We strive to remind ourselves that one of the primary objectives of the Society is to deepen the spirituality of the Vincentian through service to those in need. We are often thanked for the work we are allowed by our baptism to do. In reality, we are allowed to see the world in a new way, to see the bigger picture and to be thankful for everything in our own lives, the good and the not so good. We are thankful for the gifts those in need bring to us; in those times, we see the face of Christ.

Our Society

Pope Francis Quote

"The one who helps the sick and needy touches the flesh of Christ, alive and present in our midst."

-@pontifex, July 23

Dr. Donna Beegle's Corner

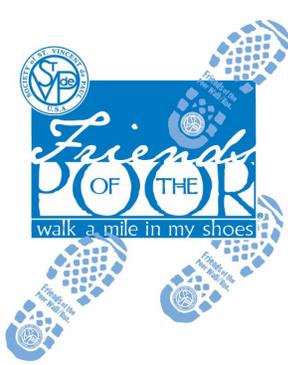
In anticipation of Dr. Beegle's visit to Austin in late September, we are going to regularly print excerpts from her book *See Poverty... Be the Difference* and videos of some of her presentations.



"The systemic barriers that people in poverty face often manifest themselves in a deep lack of self-esteem and a strongly ingrained sense of despair. Faced with what they perceive as impregnable barriers, people in poverty find no one to blame for their failures but themselves. Even if they verbally blame others, to try to save face, they keep internalizing the poverty." - p.63

[Registration is now open for the Systemic Change Weekend!](#)

We encourage you to follow [Donna Beegle on Facebook](#), and follow the [Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Diocesan Council of](#)



Friends of the Poor Walk 2015

We will be hosting the South Central Region and Dr. Donna Beegle, so we ask that you walk with us! **We will be having a small Walk on 9/26 at 8 a.m. at the Systemic Change Weekend.** This will give us the opportunity to physically walk with Vincentians from the South Central Region, but we will also walk in solidarity with the rest of the nation.

All other walks should be scheduled for Saturday, September 19 or October 3.

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

[Austin on Facebook](#) to get to know her and this topic more intimately over the next few months.

Community Impact - The Numbers St. John Neumann

St. John Neumann is located in Austin, TX. Currently, 39 active and associate Society members serve the conference in their mission to provide assistance for those in need. Those 39 Vincentians drove a total of 19,1133 miles (a value of over \$10,000) to conduct 425 home visits. Their service is comprised of the following: Utilities: 33%, Rent: 26%, Food: 5%, Meeting Other Needs: 36%. For these Vincentians, Meeting Other Needs entailed helping with holiday meals, spiritual materials, furniture/household goods, and assisting other needy areas. In total, this conference assisted 4,542 neighbors. St. John Neumann's total reported parish impact was \$424,372.23..

Repeated Important News

2015 Affordable Energy Policy Summit

Society staff members and a number of dedicated Vincentians attended Austin Energy's 2015 Affordable Energy Policy Summit on July 16 to get crucial updates on Austin Energy's ongoing measures to serve our low-income community. Austin Energy staff provided insights into programmatic changes, an update on community impact through the Plus 1 Program, and a primer on their educational programs for K-12 students. During a series of breakout sessions, attendees learned about revisions to payment arrangements and pledges, the customer service experience, and Austin Energy's Low Income Advisory Task Force, which is charged with determining how to implement weatherization for low-income and low-moderate income households in Austin.

For more information on Plus 1 and how your conference can get involved in FY 2016, please contact Katie Conyers at katie@ssvdp.org.

VOAD Disaster Updates

Hundreds of volunteers are still needed in Hays and Bastrop counties to assist those affected by flooding. To sign up, please visit one of the following volunteer reception centers:

- **Bastrop:** 1106 College St., Bastrop, TX, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, (512) 521-3001
- **San Marcos:** 126 W. Hopkins St., San Marcos, TX, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, (512)753-2320
- **Wimberley:** 200 Stillwater Dr., Suite 2, Wimberley, TX, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, (512) 715-4134

For more information, please visit <http://go.usa.gov/3fzBJ>.

Unemployment assistance is also available for those affected by the disaster. Those in need should call 800-939-6631 Monday through Friday between 8:00 am until 5:00 pm to register. Please be aware of the following registration deadlines:

- 07/17/15: Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Liberty, Nueces, and Walker Counties
- 07/27/15: Fayette County
- 08/05/15: Brazoria, Bowie, Cherokee, Ellis and Harrison Counties
- 08/12/15: Erath, Jim Wells, Montgomery, Angelina, Frio, and

Diocesan Council Staff - Phone: 512-251-6995

Office Hours M-TH 9:00 - 4:00 and F 9:00 - 2:00 ---
see calendar above for office holiday closings.

Stacy Ehrlich Executive Director stacy@ssvdp.org
Roz Gutierrez Conference Support Director roz@ssvdp.org
Katie Conyers Executive Office Manager katie@ssvdp.org

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