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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!

[9/12 Friends of the Poor Walk - St. William \(Round Rock\)](#)

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

10/5 Demo Day - Mobile Thrift Store Truck Pitch (Austin)

10/5 - 10/12 Council Office Closed for Fall Break

[10/17 Ozanam Orientation - St. Anthony \(Kyle\)](#)

10/19 Council Board Meeting (Austin)

[10/24 Vincentian Spiritual Reflection and Retreat with James Davis \(Bryan/College Station\)](#)

10/31 Conference Annual Reports due to District Presidents

Predatory Loan Conversion Program

The Numbers

\$39,346.29 in loans converted

60 high interest loans converted

11 closed loans

4 incentives paid

Friday, September 11, 2015

House in a Box® takes Best of Austin Award

Paul Kleypas is now a Best of Austin award winner! The Austin Chronicle designated the Society's House in a Box® program as the Best Way Home After a Natural Disaster. Paul and the Society developed the House in a Box® program to help disaster victims refurnish their homes with new furniture and household goods. Now a National Program, House in a Box® continues to restore normalcy and dignity to those impacted by disasters in Central Texas and throughout the country.

We're incredibly proud of the work Mr. House in a Box® has done with long-term disaster response. By next year, we anticipate that his program will have helped 1,000 of our neighbors in Central Texas, including those affected by the Memorial Day Floods. [Check out the full article!](#)

Cardinal Sean O'Malley Praises Society

On August 28, Cardinal Sean of the Archdiocese of Boston joined Society leadership for the Society's annual meeting in Providence, RI and celebrated Mass with 800 Society members, including nine from our Council. For Cardinal O'Malley, the Society's mission offers people an unparalleled opportunity for people to engage in Christian service, particularly as the Year of Mercy approaches. Recounting the experience in his blog, he praised the Society's commitment to Pope Francis' call to serve those in need: "In caring for the poor, the vulnerable and disadvantaged, they are evangelizing in word and deed. The many works of charity they undertake embraces the love of Christ and leads those they serve to know and love the



333% APR for loans converted

2.2% APR for PLCP loans

88.3% repayment rate

32 days without a default

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



Donate to House in a Box®

[Give to Bastrop County](#)

[Give to Williamson County](#)

[Give to Hays 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!](#)



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Lord." [Read more!](#)

Annual Report Update

With our fiscal year wrapping up, annual report time is almost upon us! There are a few changes to the report this year, so Conference Support Director Roz Gutierrez will be reaching out to **all conference presidents** to schedule a meeting to complete these reports. Please be on the lookout for an email from Roz with more details!

One Voice Central Texas Update: Austin City Council Budget

City Council passed the budget this week, and the following Health and Human Service items were passed, impacting Austin's ever-growing capacity to serve those in need:

- \$2.5 million for the Health and Human Services Department to address chronic disease, communicable disease, epidemiology, health equity, infrastructure, social service reports, neighborhood centers, and maternal health
- \$1.825 million for undesignated social service contracts
- Additional projects (see [link](#) for complete list):
 - \$1.05 million for health equity initiative
 - \$100,000 for sobriety center (one time funds)
 - \$1.2 million for AISD for parent support specialists and
 - Prime Time after-school programs
 - \$400,000 for healthy food corner store initiative
 - \$15,000 for Jump On It Teen night
 - \$35,000 for River City Youth

For the full article, click [here](#).

Original article from One Voice Central Texas

Our Society

Pope Francis Quote

"Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs, or anything else - God is in this person's life. You can, you must try to seek God in every human life. Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

- Pope Francis, *A Big Heart Open to God: A Conversation with Pope Francis*

Papal Visit Campaign

Council staff will launch a PR campaign next week locally (provided by and in conjunction with Society USA) to promote the Society in light of the Pope's upcoming visit to the United States. Details will be coming to individual conferences, on our website and via social media leading up and through his late September visit. Stay tuned!

Dr. Donna Beegle's Corner

Dr. Donna Beegle's visit and the Systemic Change weekend is just a couple of weeks away. We are so grateful to have Dr. Beegle join us! Through her Poverty Institute and inspiring book, *See Poverty...Be the Difference*, Dr. Beegle offers invaluable insights into the issues associated with living in poverty and the power of resiliency:

"Researchers have begun to identify important features that seem to give protection against the poor outcomes usually associated with living in environments with many risk factors. These 'protective factors' safeguard individuals in spite of difficult obstacles. ...The greater the number of protective factors, ..the greater number of risk factors he or she is able to overcome. These 'protective factors'...fall into three general categories: the qualities developed in the individual, the opportunities for support ..., and the connections and support from outside the family. Promoting resiliency can be accomplished by:

1. Helping individuals feel special or unique. They need to know they are not another problem.
2. Recognizing and valuing the strengths of an individual's family and friends.
3. Helping individuals see their opportunities."

- p. 84-85

Just a few days left to register for Systemic Change weekend and learn how to support those in need! [Register Now!](#)

We encourage you to follow [Donna Beegle on Facebook](#), and follow the [Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Diocesan Council of Austin on Facebook](#) to get to know her and this topic more intimately over the next few months.

Feast Day Mass and Banquet Reminder

Saturday, September 26th

This year, we join with the Ladies of Charity to celebrate the heritage of our ministry in The Society of St. Vincent de Paul on Saturday, September 26. In honor of his feast day, we are co-hosting a banquet. The celebration is being held in conjunction with the St. Vincent de Paul Systemic Change Weekend and the South Central Regional Meeting.

Mass and the Banquet will be held at the Renaissance Austin Hotel at the Arboretum, located at 9721 Arboretum Boulevard, Austin, TX 78759. Mass will begin at 5:30, followed immediately by the banquet.

Those who are **not** planning to attend Poverty Institute and other weekend events are still encouraged to join us for fellowship with their fellow Vincentians! Please register for the banquet [here](#). **Those who have registered for the Poverty Institute have already submitted their RSVP for the event, and no further action is required.**

Top Hat Awards Nominations

We're still accepting Top Hat Awards nominations! In the spirit our founder Frederic Ozanam, Top Hat Award winners demonstrate a

true commitment to serving those in need. We hope you'll help us honor some deserving Vincentians by nominating one of your peers for this distinguished award.

While not everyone will receive an award, all nominations will be carefully considered by the awards committee. Self nominations are allowed and encouraged. To nominate a Vincentian, please use the form provided [here](#). **All nominations must be submitted by September 20 to the Diocesan Council Office.** Notification of award selection will be provided to the nominating party (not the award winner) by September 21.

The Top Hat will be awarded at the Feast Day Banquet which will take place immediately following the Feast Day Mass on Saturday, September 26.

In Case You Missed It

Invitation to Serve

In Providence at the National meeting, it was highly recommended that all local conferences conduct an Invitation to Serve before Thanksgiving, as parishioners will be inspired by Pope Francis to our ministry and service to the poor. As Invitation to Serve is a 6 - 8 week process, please contact [Roz](#) if you would like help getting started. Related files (English and Spanish) can be found [here](#).

Bryan/College Station Spiritual Reflection Retreat

The Diocesan Council's Spiritual Advisor James Davis will be leading another Vincentian Spiritual Retreat on October 24, 2015. Not only has the event proved a great success here in Central Texas, but James and his wife (and fellow Vincentian) Judy have had the great opportunity to share their session with over 80 Spiritual Advisors from around the country! As we are called to grow spiritually through our service, all Vincentians are encouraged to attend this great event. These retreats provide an excellent opportunity to gain insight from fellow Vincentians, reflect on our Vincentian history, and think about our own personal vision.

[Registration](#) is now open for Bryan/College Station, but we hope to schedule additional dates soon! If you are interested in hosting a Spiritual Reflection Retreat at your parish, please contact [Roz](#).

Bryan/College Station expands with sorting center

We are happy to announce that the Bryan/College Station conference is growing! Bryan/College Station has signed a lease for an additional 625 square feet in downtown Bryan (very close to their current thrift store) to act as a donation drop-off site and sorting center, as well a place to prepare and ship eBay sales items. With the new space and a limited amount of renovation, the store sales floor will gain a couple of hundred square feet of display space. This annex will allow them to use the original thrift store almost entirely for retail operations as a revenue generator and client services center. The Society office and food pantry will remain in the thrift store space. In optimizing their space, the Vincentians in Bryan/College Station will be able to better serve those in need.

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.

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