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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

\$38,741.49 in loans converted

59 high interest loans converted

10 closed loans

3 incentives paid

Friday, September 4, 2015

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.



One Voice shares the Tale of Two Austins

Although the notion of Austin as a booming economy and cultural epicenter is not altogether wrong, it does paint an incomplete picture of the city. Through their Tale of Two Austins series, human services advocates One Voice Central Texas tell the story of the other, less celebrated side of Austin. Just in time for Labor Day, One Voice highlights shocking workforce disparities in Austin, a city that is rated the best economy in the country while also proving the most

Tale of Two Austins

#1 best city for job seekers

1/2 of jobs created from 2009 to 2013 in the Austin area did not pay families a living wage

www.onevoicecentraltx.org **ONE VOICE**
CENTRAL TEXAS

328% APR for loans converted

2.2% APR for PLCP loans

88.1% repayment rate

25 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](#)

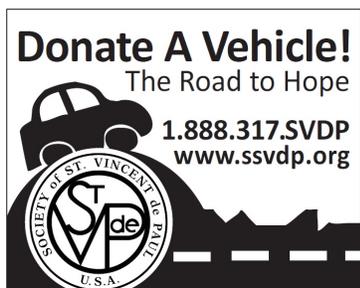
Archived Documents

[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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economically segregated city in the US. OVCT's latest campaign demonstrates just how far out of reach that economic success is for many of those we serve. This awareness is crucial to our work, so please feel share One Voice's latest [story](#) with family, friends, and colleagues! You can also check out their previous Tale of Two Austins infographics on their [website](#).

Bryan/College Station Spiritual Reflection Retreat

The Diocesan Council's Spiritual Advisor James Davis will be leading another Vincentian Spiritual Retreat on October 17, 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](#).

Welcome Midge!

We are pleased to welcome Midge Beard, who has enthusiastically joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's team as our new Executive Office Manager. She has lived and worked in Austin for over 20 years and brings with her both administrative and marketing skills. She is currently working part time for the Diocesan Council Office and continues to pursue her part time career as a freelance graphic artist. We are certain that her professionalism, fabulous organizational skills, and creativity will be great assets to our team as we continue to take on new projects!

Our Society

Pope Francis Quote

"We cannot remain indifferent before the cries of our brothers and sisters. These ask of us not only material assistance - needed in so many circumstances - but above all, our help to defend their dignity as human persons, so that they can find the spiritual energy to become once again protagonists in their own lives. They ask us to fight, in the light of the Gospel, the structural causes of poverty: inequality, the shortage of dignified work and housing, and the denial of their rights as members of society and as workers.

- Address to the World Congress of Accountants November 2014

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!

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](#).

Dr. Donna Beegle's Corner

Dr. Donna Beegle's visit is fast approaching! Systemic Change weekend is just a few weeks away. We are thrilled to have Dr. Beegle join us for what is sure to be an eye-opening weekend for all our Vincentians. Through her Poverty Institute and her work *See Poverty...Be the Difference*, Dr. Beegle offers invaluable perspective into experiencing poverty:

"In order to have the self-esteem necessary to treat themselves as worthy of better circumstances, people in poverty need to understand that their living situations are due to circumstances created by a distressed society and not personal deficiencies. A majority of people from poverty report feeling empowered when they gained knowledge (through their education and interactions with others who had different social class backgrounds) that allowed them to understand their cultural and poverty experiences...IT is hard to feel hope and motivation if you believe you and those you love caused your poverty." - p. 58

Time is running out to register for Systemic Change weekend! [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

Pope Leo XIII declared St. Vincent de Paul the patron of all charitable societies. Outstanding among these, of course, is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, founded in 1833 by his admirer, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam (September 7).

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. There will be a mass and 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 5:15 followed immediately by the banquet.

Those who are **not** planning to attend Poverty Institute and other weekend events are welcome to 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.

"Strive to live content in the midst of those things that cause your discontent. Free your mind from all that troubles you, God will take care of things. Trust in him, I beg you, and you will have the fulfillment of what your heart desires."

St. Vincent de Paul, Letters

Top Hat Awards Nominations

This year we will be recognizing Vincentians in our Diocese who have provided outstanding service in our ministry, growing spiritually by seeking and serving those in need, with the "Top Hat" Award. The "Top Hat" title is used to emphasize that our founder, Frederic Ozanam, did not allow his social class, in which men wore top hats, to blind him to the needs of the poor in early nineteenth century France.

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 - secret until that night of the awards) 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.

"Each one of us carries in his heart a seed of holiness which, by our merely wanting it, can bloom."

-Blessed Fredric Ozanam, Letter to Louis Janmot, Nov. 13 1836

In Case You Missed It

Society launches Mobile Thrift Store at Long Center

On Wednesday, August 26, the St. Vincent de Paul Store staff joined Diocesan Council staff and our Greenlights partner for our first test of our mobile thrift store at the Long Center's end of summer celebration. Our enthusiastic team welcomed Austinites to check out our boutique truck and provide feedback on the experience and our truck design mock-ups. Special thanks to the store team, who truly transformed our donated truck into a hip, quirky shopping experience and the generous folks at the Long Center who invited us to their wonderful event!

Vincentian Family Center Update

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to make great progress with our new Vincentian Family Center. On August 17, Daniel Inda of Levy Architects and project manager Lee Combs met with our Board of Directors to show concept art for the new space. This week, the Diocesan Council is proud to share those designs with our Vincentians. Check out the links below!

[Floor Plan](#)

[Retail, Lab, and Pray Room Elevations](#)
[Office and Conference Room Elevations](#)

Collaboration grows conferences

Several conferences in the Diocese are collaborations between more than one parish. This is true of the San Jose/St. Ignatius Conference. The food pantry, located on the St. Ignatius Campus, regularly serves 3,000 people per month providing aid with food, utilities, rent, medical prescriptions and vouchers to the thrift store. With the help of St. John Neumann Conference, the San Jose/St. Ignatius Conference has focused on expanding their home visit teams. Meetings have been held on the San Jose Campus, and more than 20 new Vincentians will be trained by home visit teams from St. John Neumann. The collaboration between all three Conferences is a wonderful example of seeing and responding to the needs of the conferences so that those in need may be better served.

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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