

Faith in Action



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A Message from your Servant Leader

Mother Teresa said, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” This got me thinking about twinning within our SVDP Worcester Diocese. At times, conferences are faced with requests that are a bit steep. These requests are, more often than not, related to delinquent mortgage or rental payments, the need to secure first and last rent payments, or security deposits for a landlord. The first step a conference should take is to complete an intake assessment on the individual or family. The assessment should tell us what the root cause or causes are that have put them in the position of falling behind. Once we are clear on the “How” and “Why,” the conference can collectively discuss the best approach to help them. By utilizing the state agencies for financial assistance, we can stretch our funds to help other neighbors in need. If, for some reason, an individual or family doesn’t qualify for the funds available through the state agencies, but the conference deems the request real and valid, then what should we do? The requested amount could be \$3,000, \$5,000, or more. Yikes!

We have twenty-three conferences throughout the Worcester Diocese. United, we are a force that can solve just about anything. A conference on its own may be financially challenging, but if we come together, we can do great things, for a small amount. Twinning gives us that power. A \$5,000 mortgage bill could become a \$217.00 if other conferences “choose” to twin. Couple this with the District Relief Fund and the \$217.00 would actually become less.

Conferences that choose to take this approach will need to send the assessment form along with verification of the need to your District President. To maintain confidentiality, the name on the assessment should be an alias and the address (if there is one) left off.

Times are difficult and the demand for assistance appears to be increasing. Twinning is a tool we have in our arsenal to aid us with the bigger issues we may face.

Rule 4.1 Twinning states in part: *“This direct link between two Conferences or Councils, consisting of sharing prayer, a profound friendship and material resources, is called twinning. This activity contributes to world peace and to understanding and cultural exchange among peoples.”*

In Vincentian friendship,

Susan Treveloni

Spirituality, Friendship and Service

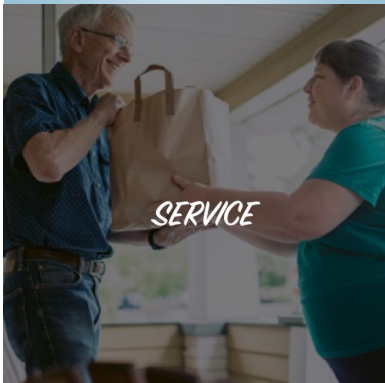
Since its founding in 1833, the Essential Elements of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have been Spirituality, Friendship and Service.

In this and future issues, we will explore those three Essential Elements and provide stories, profiles, information, and examples of how we can practice all three and grow in our shared Vincentian journey.

To Reach the Diocesan Council:

Phone: 508-556-0559
 Fax: 508-839-1225
 Address: P.O. Box 319
 Grafton, MA 01519
 Email: svdpworcestercouncil37@gmail.com
 Website: www.svdpworcester.org

St. Mary of the Assumption—Milford



In August, our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference at Saint Mary of the Assumption in Milford distributed 141 backpacks filled with school supplies to very happy students.

The giveaway was in partnership with the Knights of Columbus, Father Peter and the very generous parishioners of Saint Mary of the Assumption.

We were available from 11 to 6 in the large hall to hand out the backpacks and we distributed the remaining backpacks after the masses.

It was great to see the smiles on the children's faces!



No work of charity is foreign to the society. It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions.

Rule I: 1.3

Poverty Statistics

- ◆ According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 statistics, there are currently about 38.1 million people living in poverty in the U.S.
- ◆ 5.3% of the population live in deep poverty, with incomes below 50% of their poverty thresholds.
- ◆ 16.2% of children under age 18 currently live in poverty.
- ◆ 8.5% of Americans (27.5 million) are medically uninsured.

Source: SVdP State of Poverty in the U.S.



Turn The Page Recovery

Turn The Page Mission is a Faith Based transition sober house for men. The organization has three houses located in Worcester that can house a total of 14 men.

To be considered to live at Turn The Page, an individual must go through a detox program (i.e., AdCare, CHL, (Community Health Link), Spectrum, etc) and complete an "aftercare" program which consists of an additional 10–30-day extension program offered by the treatment center. It's at this point in their recovery that they can interview at Turn The Page to continue their recovery. If accepted, the individual may live in their homes for a period of 9-15 months for \$180 per week which includes everything except food.

Sue Treveloni was first introduced to Turn the Page Recovery when working with a young man who had recently been accepted into one of the houses. She was able to meet with the house manager and received a tour of the facilities and grounds which were immaculate. They are also working on starting a similar program for women.

For more information please see their website at www.turnthepagerecovery.com



In Memoriam

O God, the bestower of forgiveness and the lover of human salvation, we beseech Thee, of Thy tender love, to grant that our sister and brother Vincentians, with their relatives and benefactors, who have passed out of this life, may, by the intercession of Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, and all thy saints, come to the fullness of eternal bliss, Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us remember all our past members whom God has called home.

Names of deceased Vincentians may be submitted to FIANews-WDC@gmail.com for inclusion in future editions.



Come to the Water
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
2022 National Assembly
BALTIMORE • AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 3

Each year, as your servant leader, I attend the SVDP National Assembly meeting. This year, our theme was “Come to the Water”, and as always, I came home refreshed to serve our conferences with the work of helping our brother and sisters in need. Imagine 800+ Vincentians coming together in friendship and spirituality to learn and share ideas. We felt the Holy Spirit’s presence in every conversation and story told.

The assembly offered workshops, retreats, great speakers, beautiful Masses, and our business meeting. This year’s business meeting focused on electing two out of four candidates

for National President. Soon, you will be receiving packets including all the information from your conference president to decide who you would like to see as the next National President.

Attending the assembly is an honor and privilege that I look forward to each year. The friendships made are enjoyable and lasting. Thank you!

Vincentian Profile

Examples of Servant Leadership

When one thinks of the St. Vincent de Paul conference at St. Brigid’s in Millbury, the names Stuart Mulhane and Bill Kane come to mind almost immediately. Both men have been long-time residents of Millbury and long-time Vincentians, with over 60 years combined service between the two of them. Service is not a word that is foreign to either of them as their dedication to serving others also includes many other local Millbury organizations.

Stuart Mulhane, co-owner of Mulhane Home for Funerals, has been a Vincentian for nearly 40 years. During that time he has held multiple leadership roles within the conference, including that of president and vice president.

Bill Kane, a retired foreman electrician, joined the St. Brigid’s conference at the invitation of Stuart Mulhane, over 20 years ago. He has also held various leadership roles, such as president and most recently that of treasurer.

Both men have recently retired from the conference, but have left quite a legacy behind them. Stuart and Bill were part of the effort to form a food bank at St. Brigid. Later they were able to build a partnership with the Worcester County Food Bank to further expand their resources and consequently their outreach. They also took part in forming a Needs Committee within their conference to address the requests of neighbors in need.

Their dedication to the Society and the friendships they have formed will be remembered and treasured. We thank them for their many years of faithful service.

SVdP Spirituality Resources

St. Vincent told us that we should “love God with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brows”. We are called to be members of conferences which are “genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action”. To help us with this, the SVdP National website (<https://ssvpusa.org>) contains many resources to aid conferences on their spiritual journey. One of those resources is Serving in Hope.

The Serving in Hope modules contain readings, discussion topics and prayers and are divided into short sessions. These magazine sized books are designed to be used in conference meetings or retreats. Each session takes about 20 minutes as a group reflection.

There are currently 7 different Serving in Hope modules available:

- Module 1: Our Vincentian Vocation
- Module 2: Our Vincentian Spirituality
- Module 3: Our Vincentian Heritage
- Module 4: Our Vincentian Mission
- Module 5: Our Vincentian Rule
- Module 6: Our Vincentian Conference
- Module 7: Our Vincentian Home Visit

Conference presidents: if you would like to review the 7 modules for possible use by your conference, please contact your district president to receive a set which includes a copy of each book.



“Do all in a spirit of gentleness and love.” – Saint Louise de Marillac

Saint Louise de Marillac

Saint Louise de Marillac was born to a wealthy and powerful family in Paris, France on August 12, 1591. Poor health prevented her from joining the strict order of Poor Clares, and in 1613 she married Antoine Le Gras, secretary to Queen Marie de Medicis of France, with whom she had a son.

After being widowed, her spiritual advisor, Vincent de Paul, encouraged her to undertake charitable works. She trained girls in the spiritual life and taught them to assist in visiting, feeding, and nursing the needy.

In 1663 Vincent de Paul founded the Daughters of Charity with Louise as their superior. The Daughters of Charity was the first non-cloistered religious institute of women devoted to active charitable works.

At first dedicated to nursing the poor in their homes, the sisters almost immediately undertook the teaching of poor children and the running of hospitals, and gradually they became involved in every form of charitable work. Their services during various wars in many countries earned them the title Angels of the Battlefield. Their provinces all over the

world are subject to the motherhouse in Paris, which is under the supervision of the superior general of the **Congregation** of the Mission, or **Vincentians**.

Louise de Marillac died on March 15, 1660 and was canonized on March 11, 1934. Her feast day is March 15th.

All must be done with gentleness of heart and humility, as we consider the interests of those with whom we are working rather than our own.

— Louise de Marillac

Vincentian Saints, Blesseds and Venerables

Since the foundation of the society in 1833, thousands upon thousands of men and women throughout the world have become holy through the practice of Vincentian Spirituality. Some of these persons have been recognized by the Church and raised to the altar. More will be so honored in the future. The Vincentian Family of St. Vincent de Paul includes a large number of saints, blessed and venerables.

- excerpt from National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Inc. Manual, page 89.

For a deeper understanding of our Catholic and Vincentian history, we will feature a Saint, Blessed or Venerable in each edition of our newsletter.

Neighbor or Client?

When speaking with other Vincentians, we often hear those we assist referred to as neighbors or clients. The terms are used interchangeably but are they really interchangeable? According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, a client is a person served by or utilizing the services of a social agency. A neighbor is one living or located near another or a kindred human being. The two terms connote very different relationships with those we serve.

The Society's preference is to refer to those in need as neighbors or friends. It would be easy to now say that the question has been asked and answered so let's move on but why does the Society have a preference? It all started in the beginning when Blessed Frederick Ozanam invited his friends to join him in going directly to those in need. This was the start of our long tradition of the home visit. We listen, we observe, we ask questions and provide assistance to not only what might be the need at hand but to other needs that may come up through our visits. Whether it is helping to follow-up on a request with an agency or introducing them to services they may not have realized were available, we are not restricted to assisting with only needs of one type or another, nor are we subject to multiple layers of review and approvals. Through our home visits, we learn about the situation in which this person has found themselves. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give is that of a caring ear.

The SvDP Membership Handbook defines the Vincentian Vocation in part as: "... to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Members show their commitment through person-to-person contact. Vincentians serve in hope." Does that sound more like a client or a neighbor?

God is calling us to see everyone, not just those like us, as brothers and sisters in Christ. It can be very difficult though, when helping someone who is homeless and making one bad decision after another, to see them as a neighbor. Very few vocations are easy. This is where our spiritual growth happens. While our neighbors needs may be more practical in nature, in some cases, our spiritual needs could be much greater. Humbling ourselves to see Christ in those we serve can at times be much harder than arranging for a rent payment or food.

Think about the last time you went to the RMV or filled out a loan application at the bank. Do you remember how transactional the interaction was? Would those people remember you today? Would they ask about your health or your family? Do you care if they don't? What about those you have helped in the past? Do you still check in on some of them? Do you wonder how others you may not hear from in a while might be doing? Now ask yourself, are these people my clients or my neighbors?

"As for your conduct toward the poor, may you never take the attitude of merely getting the task done. You must show them affection; serving them from the heart; inquiring of them what they might need; speaking to them gently and compassionately."

St. Louise de Marillac

Passing the Torch

As you may be aware, the term of Ralph Middlecamp, the National President for the Society, is coming to an end in September 2023. Sue Treveloni recently returned from Baltimore, the host city for our annual National Assembly Meeting. Diocesan Presidents across the country are National Council Members and as part of their duty, they are called to vote on all resolutions put forward. This year, during the business meeting, as part of the election process they voted two out of four candidates to move forward into the final election.

The final election requires all councils and conferences to vote. Soon you will be receiving a packet of information and your conference will be asked to vote for one of the two candidates running for the office. The two candidates are Brian Burgess, who is the current VP under Ralph Middlecamp, and John Berry. If you have not already reviewed their autobiographical and platform statements, you will be receiving them again soon. The vote will take place in December. The president elect will work alongside of Ralph for the remaining nine months of his term.

The ten-minute presentation made by the two candidates will be made available to all members to view. The links will be made available in the E-Gazette newsletter.



Ozanam Orientation

The councils held an Ozanam Orientation on July 16 at Blessed Sacrament's Phelan Center. Despite being a less than ideal time of year for an orientation, we had a very good turnout. Going forward, the Ozanam Orientations will take place in the fall and spring.

The Conferences attending were Blessed Sacrament, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sacred Heart, St. Anne/St. Patrick, St. Mark's and St. Augustine. The group was very engaged, asked a lot of great questions, and we had a lot of fun. Our Vincentian charisma shined throughout the day, and we were all uplifted by one another.

A special thank you to Irene Frechette, VP of the northeast region for facilitating the Orientation, and to our district presidents Pat Nedoroscik and Colleen Resca, for all their help with preparation, management of the sign-

in table, and coordination of breakfast and lunch. Their servant leadership is remarkable!

Vincentians strive to model five virtues of our patron, Saint Vincent de Paul:

- Simplicity
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Selflessness
- Zeal

All of these virtues were present within the group participating that day.

Our next Ozanam Orientation is scheduled for October 1 at St. Cecilia's Parish Center in Leominster. We hope to see you there!

Election Results

On behalf of the diocesan and district councils and all the conferences, we would like to congratulate Pat Nedoroscik on being officially elected for a second term to the South District Council.

We are very blessed to have Pat in this role. Her servant leadership has embraced our core values of friendship, spirituality and service and all of the conferences in Pat's district demonstrate these values in their mission work.

As the District President is a very important role that supports the conferences and the diocesan council, we would like to thank Pat for saying "yes" to a second term. May the Holy Spirit guide her in all of her decisions as we together fulfill our mission of serving our brothers and sisters in need.

We are all behind you!



Ozanam Orientation



Please join us on October 1, 2022 for the Ozanam Orientation hosted by:

**St. Cecilia Church
Parish Center
188 Mechanic Street
Leominster, MA 01453
8:30 am – 2:30 pm**

Vincentians are required to attend at least one Ozanam Orientation.

At the Orientation you will find answers to these questions:

**What is our history?
Who we are and what we do?
What Is Vincentian spirituality?
How are we organized?
Why do we have a Rule and what is it?
Why and how are we accountable?
Where are we going?
What is poverty?
Why do we make Home Visits?**

**Coffee & Pastries will be available at sign-in.
The Orientation will begin at 9:00 am and will include lunch.
(Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions)**

Please contact your District President by September 23rd with the number of individuals that will be attending from your conference.



Faith in Action

St. Vincent de Paul Conferences of the Worcester Diocesan Council

North District

Parish	City/Town	Website
Annunciation Parish	Gardner	www.annunciatingardner.org
St. Cecilia Parish	Leominster	www.stceciliachurch.net
St. Denis Parish	Ashburnham	www.saintdenisashburnham.org
St. Francis of Assisi Parish	Fitchburg	www.saintfrancis-fitchburg.com
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish	Winchendon	www.heartofmary.net
St. Joseph Parish	Fitchburg	www.stjosephfitchburg.org
St. Leo Parish	Leominster	www.stleoparish.org

Central District

St. Brigid Parish	Millbury	www.stbrigidparish.org
Blessed Sacrament Parish	Worcester	www.blessedsacrament.us
Immaculate Conception Parish	Worcester	www.icworc.com
St. George Parish	Worcester	www.saintgeorgeparish.org
St. John the Guardian of Our Lady Parish	Clinton	www.stjohnsclinton.org
Our Lady of Good Counsel	West Boylston	www.goodcounselma.com
St. Mary & St. Philip Benizi Parishes	Grafton	www.stmarysgrafton.org
St. Stephen Parish	Worcester	www.ststephenworcester.org

South District

St. Anne—St. Patrick Parish	Fiskdale	www.stannestpatrickparish.com
St. Augustine Parish	Millville	www.staugustinesmillville.com
St. John Paul II Parish	Southbridge	www.stjp2parish.org
St. Mark's Parish	Sutton	www.saintmarkparish.org
St. Mary of the Assumption	Milford	www.stmarymilford.org
St. Mary Parish	Uxbridge	www.stmaryuxbridge.org
St. Paul & St. Theresa Parishes	Blackstone	www.stpaulblackstone.org www.sttheresablackstone.org
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish	Webster	www.sacredheartwebster.org

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