

Our Vincentian Voice



The Monthly Newsletter for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council



#13 Vieux Carre Drive P.O. BOX 3415 East St. Louis, Illinois 62203
OFFICE PHONE: 618.394.0126

November 11, 2016



A PRAYER TO SHARE ON THANKSGIVING DAY

Good and gracious God, we gather this Thanksgiving Day to give you thanks and praise for your many blessings in our life. We have grateful hearts for your constant presence in our daily journey and your overwhelming love for us.

Today we are grateful for your many gifts, especially food, family and friends as we gather to celebrate this national holiday. Bless this food that it may sustain us in mind and body. Bless your family and friends who gather here as well as our beloved ones who now enjoy eternal peace.

Good and gracious God, give us daily the grace and strength to continue our faith journey and to reach out to those in need. May every day be a day of thankfulness. We ask you to continue to bless us and allow us to experience your peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

DURING THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERYONE FOR ALL YOU DO TO SERVE GOD AND THOSE IN NEED!



**We Pray That God Bless Our Nation,
Leaders, Troops and Veterans as we Look
Prayerfully to the Future**

Prayer for Troops and Veterans

Lord God, Almighty Father, Creator of mankind and author of peace, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

ALL COUNCIL



VOLUNTEERS

**RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH OUR
ANNUAL VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY PARTY**

January 20th at

St. Henry's Parish Center

It will be an elegant Wine Tasting Event complete with an array of appetizers and desserts, entertainment and fun!

Our Vincentian Voice



The Monthly Newsletter for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council



COME AND SHARE THE
JOY OF CHRISTMAS
WITH
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

COUNCIL HOLIDAY MEETING



The next Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 29th at Mount Carmel Cemetery Chapel. Please note the date change because of Thanksgiving from the usual fourth Tuesday to the last Tuesday of November. This meeting will be the last one of the year- NO COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER.

We will celebrate the holidays at this meeting with a potluck dinner and a presentation from a special couple who spent last year as missionaries in Africa.

All conference members are welcome! The Council will provide meat, drinks paper products and dessert Vincentians bring a side dish or salad and come for a great evening! We will gather promptly at 6PM for drinks and our presentation followed by the potluck and a brief meeting.

RSVP to pat.hogrebe@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Join us on Sunday, December 4th for our annual Christmas Mass and Breakfast at Queen of Peace Parish, 5915 North Belt West, Belleville, IL.

Mass will be at 9am with breakfast, catered by Ro-yel Catering immediately following. Send in your reservations now and see you there!

JOB WELL DONE!

Thank you for completing your annual reports on time! We appreciate your cooperation so much!

Holiday Schedule 2016 For SVDP Kitchen & Thrift Store THANSGIVING HOLIDAY

- Thanksgiving Dinner at Cosgrove's Kitchen- Tuesday, November 22nd
- Open Wednesday, November 23rd
- Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday Thursday, November 24th
- Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Luke's November 24th sponsored by Young Vincentians
- Closed Friday, November 25th
- Closed Saturday, November 26th
- Closed Sunday, November 27th
- Open as Usual on Monday, November 28th

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

- Christmas Dinner t Cosgrove's Kitchen- Wednesday, December 21st
- Open Thursday, December 22nd
Employee Christmas Gathering 3PM SVDP Office
- Open Friday, December 23rd
- Closed Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th
- Diocesan Christmas Dinner at St. Henry's on December 25th
- Closed Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th
- Closed Monday, December 26th
- Open as Usual on Tuesday, December 27th

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

- Open Friday, December 30th
- Closed New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31st
- Closed New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1st
- Closed Monday, January 2nd
- Open as usual on Tuesday, January 3rd

Our Vincentian Voice



The Monthly Newsletter for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL On the canonization process for Frederick Ozanam

Le Président Général Renato Lima de Oliveira
Paris, October 28th, 2016

NATIONAL SUPERIOR AND ASSIMILATED COUNCILS

Dear Vincentian friends,

When I took office, on the 9th September 2016, I said in my speech: "We are going to intensify the actions focused on the canonization process of the Blessed Frederic Ozanam, by investigating a new event that took place in Portugal, and reopening the Venezuela case, besides enlarging the search for new cases around the world. I feel that, between now and the end of my term of office, we will receive the Vatican's decision to canonize Blessed Frédéric.

Since I serve in hope, I keep having that dream, but I am aware that we have to work to obtain the canonization.

As you know, in the canonization procedure two miracles are required.

The first one took place on 2nd February 1926, the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the person of the 18-month-old Brazilian child, Luiz Fernando OTTONI, who suffered from an acute form of diphtheria. But it was unanimously recognized on 22nd June 1995 by the theologian Consultants who ratified the decision of the "Medical Consultant". As a result, we had the beatification of Frederic OZANAM by the Pope John Paul II, on 22nd August 1997, in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, in Paris.

Today, we need a second miracle, and two cases are being studied which will be analysed by the canonization commission:

1. The case of Profetina Jesus Almeida Queiroz, member of a Conference in Portugal, who had an

accident in the year 2012 resulting in vascular brain damage, and whose health is currently very good.
2. Andréia Auxiliadora da Luz Nascimento, from Minas Gerais, Brazil. In 2013 she had a pregnancy with a high risk of anencephaly for the baby; but the mother who is a Vincentian said many prayers and her son Jose Antonio is today 2 years old and is full of health and life.

Saint Benedict used to say "ora et labora", therefore the prayers of all the brothers and sisters will be required, and at the same time the promotion and claim of the case imply, as a matter of fact, a considerable amount of administrative work, which demands our constant monitoring.

In order to cope with this administrative work, we have set up a commission for the canonization cause, which is made up of the following members:

- 1- Sebastian Gramajo, (Argentina, 3rd General Vice-president) & Commission coordinator.
- 2- Amin A. de TARRAZI (France, Ex-President General).
- 3- Father Shijo KANJIRATHAMKUNNEL PHD CM, postulator.

In addition, other Vincentians have been assigned several tasks of the Commission, especially for the reports that should be submitted when eventually a miraculous healing happens.

All the members of the General Confederation, we share this dream!

May the year 2017, in which we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian charisma, kindle our enthusiasm and zeal so that our joint efforts should lead us to invoke our dear Frederic OZANAM as a saint!

Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th President General

Our Vincentian Voice



The Monthly Newsletter for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul® Statement on National Poverty Statistics. Upon the release of the U.S. Census Bureau's annual report on poverty and income in America, Sheila Gilbert, president of the National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization serving those in need in over 4,440 communities throughout the country, released the following statement:

"Poverty deeply wounds human dignity. Today's news that the rates of people, children, and families living in poverty all declined last year is cause for celebration. Millions of people have improved their economic security. It is also heartening that over 2.4 million more people worked full-time, and that median household income (\$56,500) grew substantially.

"This is wonderful news, but it is not a time for us to rest on our laurels. We have a moral duty to assist our brothers and sisters struggling to live in dignity, as well as develop ways to create more just and equitable communities. These gains cannot blind us to the 43 million people, over 14 million of them children, still living in poverty. We must not ignore nor accept the reality that poverty rates for communities of color continue to be substantially higher than the overall rates.

"Our volunteers see the struggles of families in poverty when a health emergency strikes. I have encountered too many health emergencies on home visits. Access to affordable health care can provide profound benefits and peace-of-mind, which is why I am pleased that the rate of households living in poverty without health insurance continued to decline. Again, there is still much work to be done, as the percentage of poor uninsured households remains much higher than the national average. Access to health care for low-income families must continue to be pursued. Gilbert continued, "Pope Francis continuously calls us to go to the margins and

build an authentic culture of encounter, beginning with those who have been excluded and marginalized. Vincentians do this important work every day, encountering those we serve in home visits, where they feel safest.

"Vincentians also recognize that everyone--individuals, churches and nonprofits, private businesses, and the government--should have a voice and a role to play in alleviating poverty and advancing the common good. We can do more as communities and as a country, and as today's report makes clear, we must do more.

"Too many people continue to be excluded and marginalized, and the relative silence on poverty has been deafening. Who will stand for the poor and vulnerable in our debates, campaigns, and commentary? I call on all public officials and those seeking office, at every level, to make fighting poverty and building equitable communities a priority."

One of the largest charitable organizations in the world, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (www.svdpusa.org) is an international, nonprofit, Catholic lay organization of about 800,000 men and women who voluntarily join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in 150 countries on five continents. With the U.S. headquarters in St. Louis, Mo., membership in the United States totals nearly 100,000 in 4,400 communities. SVdP offers a variety of programs and services, including home visits, housing assistance, disaster relief, education and mentoring, food pantries, dining halls, clothing, assistance with transportation, prescription medication, and rent and utility costs. The Society also works to provide care for the sick, the incarcerated and the elderly. Over the past year, SVdP provided over \$1.2 billion in tangible and in-kind services to those in need, made more than 1.8 million personal visits (homes, hospitals, prisons and eldercare facilities) and helped more than 23.8 million people regardless of race, religion or national origin.