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REMINDERS

December 2017

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To Use the Table of Contents:
 Hold your mouse over the topic of interest
 and press Ctrl + Click to jump to that particular section.

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PRESIDENTS – A lot of work is put into these monthly REMINDERS to bring you current and upcoming events, news about our Programs, resources for your patrons, and so much more. Every month we're asked questions by members that have already been answered in the REMINDERS. We know that reading every page may take more time than you have to give so we would like to suggest that you ask members of your Conference to each take a section and report on it at your next meeting. Breaking the REMINDERS into smaller parts might make it more interesting to those members, and you won't miss anything truly important. Please don't let this valuable tool go to waste.

ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

December 2017
4 - St. James MF
11 - St. Dominic
18 - St. Jerome
25 - Christmas Day - No meal

Meal Program SVDP Volunteer Commitment

Please note it is very important that eight (8) volunteers are present each Monday evening at 5:00 PM. If you do not have enough conference members to serve, please seek additional volunteers through your parish.

December 5 CTGA 8th Workshop Graduation

December 12 Project Angel Tree Gift Drop-off

Drop off Project Angel Tree gifts (wrapped and labeled) on or before Tuesday, December 12 at the Waukesha Council office.

December 16 Food Pantry of Waukesha County (FPWC) Home Delivery Program 1301 Sentry Drive, Waukesha

Conference Commitment for 3rd Saturday of the month: **St. Agnes**

Jason Aide, SVDP Home Delivery Program Coordinator will continue to contact each conference in advance to confirm the number of vehicles, affirm automobile insurance, provide instructions and answer any questions. Jason Aide can be reached at 262-424-6017.

Council Office Holiday Hours

The Council office will close at Noon on Friday, Dec 22 and reopen on Tuesday, Dec 26 for the Christmas holiday. For New Year's it will close at Noon on Dec 30 and reopen on Jan 2.

December 25 Christmas Meal Delivery for Homebound and Those in Need

St. William and other area churches will be preparing and delivering a Christmas meal to anyone in Waukesha County who are homebound or in need. If you are aware of someone who would appreciate a meal, please call Marcia Slowinski at (262) 798-1520. Find more details in the Conference Resources section.

DISASTER NEWS

The National Council has issued a national domestic disaster appeal. Hurricane Irma hit the state of Florida as a Category 5 hurricane, the most powerful hurricane ever recorded (National Hurricane Center, September 5, 2017), right on the heels of flooding and devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Irma left miles of destruction throughout the entire state of Florida and into adjoining states. Just 15 days after Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida, Puerto Rico took a direct hit from Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 hurricane (The Washington Post, 9/21/017).

The U.S. Virgin Islands suffered a one-two punch when they were hit hard by both Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

In Texas and Florida, the recovery effort is still very active as Vincentians carry on with their work touching the hearts of many who are suffering. The recovery in both states will likely take several years. The Society will soon begin operating a House in a Box® warehouse in both Texas and Florida while continuing to fundraise.

In Puerto Rico, which is home to nearly 3.4 million U.S. citizens, according to CNN, more than 70 percent of the population is still without power and many still do not have access to clean drinking water. The island nation is in dire need of support and assistance. SVdP Disaster Services has been working with Vincentian leadership in Puerto Rico as well as with national partners to get resources to Puerto Rico. Vincentians have been deployed to map out logistics for ground support and prepare for the Society's next phase of assistance in the recovery process.

The Virgin Islands is home to more than 106,000 Americans according to the Census Bureau. In the Virgin Islands, more than 80 percent of the residents are still without power. The entire Virgin Islands territory is currently under a boil-water advisory. SVdP Disaster Services is in contact with Vincentians on the ground in the Virgin Islands and are working to send much-needed supplies.

[Click here to read more about the current appeal for assistance for hurricane survivors.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Waukesha Council

Tracking Telephone Calls for Annual Report

It was previously reported to Conference Officers that Telephone Contacts had been removed from the Annual Report and therefore did not need to be tracked any longer. Much to our surprise this question was raised in a recent E-Gazette. Julie & Bonnie sheepishly admit to taking the removal of the Telephone Contacts section at face value and not reading through the instructions to see if they were to be captured elsewhere. We do not expect any Conference to go back in their records to provide these numbers but please be aware that you should resume tracking them for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Vincentian Weekly Reflections and Parish Bulletin Inserts

2018 Reflections and bulletin inserts are posted on the website.

Member Toolbox>Spirituality Tab

New Telephone System

The Council and Stores will be upgrading to a new telephone system in January. The day of installation may result in our phones being down. Once the date has been set an email will be sent to Conference Officers so they will be aware of our unavailability.



ANNOUNCEMENTS – Stores

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who have given their time and talents volunteering at the store this past year, and if anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer at the store we are always looking for more hands. All you need to do is call the store and ask to speak with a manager. They will answer all your questions and get you started!

Holiday Decorations

Are you tired of putting up the same Christmas décor year after year? Are they looking dated and ragged? Plan to do your shopping for Christmas items at both Thrift stores. Shelves are stocked almost daily with many great unique holiday bargains! Spread the word to your neighbors, friends and family.

Holiday Store Hours (Oconomowoc and Waukesha)

December 24 - Christmas Eve – Closed

December 25 - Christmas Day – Closed

December 31 - New Year's Eve – (regular hours) 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

January 1 - New Year's Day – Closed

Store contact information:

Oconomowoc: John Erdmann 262-569-0761 jerdmann@svdpwaukesha.com

Waukesha: Kaia Poulson 262-547-3281 kpoulson@svdpwaukesha.com

Truck Pick-up/Delivery: Jason Schmitter 262-569-0763 js-svdp@outlook.com

Store Marketing & Development: Rod Colburn rcolburn@svdpwaukesha.com

COMING TOGETHER TO GET AHEAD

[Like on Facebook! Click here!](#)

Workshop Update

The next Getting Ahead workshop begins Tuesday, January 30th at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Waukesha. This workshop is a wonderful opportunity for those you work with who need a change. If your patrons are tired of just getting by, invite them to consider learning how to get ahead. Enrollment is now open for this workshop.

How you can get help-

1. If you know of a potential workshop participant, please refer them now!
2. Provide a meal for the workshop!
3. Become a mentor! Be there to encourage the participant as they work on their personal plan and be a bridge to community resources.

To get involved or for more information, please contact Jodie Cleary, CTGA Program Manager. Jodie can be reached at 262-547-0654 or jcleary@svdpwaukesha.com.

Poverty Seminar

We are preparing our 2018 Poverty Seminar Calendar. If your church or organization is interested in hosting one of these events, please contact Jodie Cleary, the program manager, at 262-547-0654 or jcleary@svdpwaukesha.com



Coming Together to Get Ahead

A Society of St. Vincent de Paul Mentoring Program

Ending Poverty – One person, One neighborhood, One community at a time.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES



2018 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering February 3-6, 2018

“Building Community: A Call to the Common Good” at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC. Join other justice-seekers, both fellow Vincentians and other Catholics, in this premier, national social ministry convocation. You will have an opportunity to connect with current and emerging leaders sharing new energy and ideas. Dynamic and thought-provoking plenary presentations, briefings, and workshops will focus on how the Church can respond mercifully to pressing domestic and international social concerns. Then, lend your voice to our advocacy for the common good with members of Congress. To register or for more information visit www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org.

The First World Day of the Poor November 19, 2017

*“Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth” (1 Jn 3:18).
These words of the Apostle John voice an imperative that no Christian may disregard.”*

With this opening, Pope Francis established November 19th, the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, as the first **World Day of the Poor**. This foundational message from the Holy Father comes at a time when people living on the periphery of our society are increasingly being blamed for causing their own condition. We know from experience that simple contact with those in need doesn’t necessarily connect us with a person or family. Vincentians know, however, that we must gain empathy before we can express compassion. Otherwise we are not doing charity out of love. We are doing it out of obligation.

Here, Pope Francis has a reminder, in his message for the World Day of the Poor:

“We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work, or of impromptu acts of generosity that appease our conscience. However good and useful such acts may be for making us sensitive to people’s needs and the injustices that are often their cause, they ought to lead to a true encounter with the poor and a sharing that becomes a way of life.

If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist.”

Our faith calls each of us to be a voice of the poor. As the Pope instructs us:

*“Blessed, therefore, are the open hands that embrace the poor and help them: they are hands that bring hope. Blessed are the hands that reach beyond every barrier of culture, religion and nationality, and pour the balm of consolation over the wounds of humanity. Blessed are the open hands that ask nothing in exchange, with no “ifs” or “buts” or “maybes”:
they are hands that call down God’s blessing upon their brothers and sisters. The poor are*

not a problem: they are a re-source from which to draw as we strive to accept and practice in our lives the essence of the Gospel.”

SVdP Jail Ministry News

Car Donations Greatly Needed

This is the time of year when many people are finalizing their last-minute donations in preparation for tax season (ugh!). If anyone knows of someone planning to donate a vehicle as part of their tax reduction strategy, St. Dismas has people who are in need of low cost used cars for transportation to work. A vehicle donation could not come at a better time. Please pass on the (good) word!

Welcome Larry Coté

Larry Coté is the newest member of the Council office. He is the Wisconsin Re-Entry Coordinator working out of Waukesha. Larry will be working with Conferences to revitalize the Voice of Poor to support the initiatives he'll be targeting. Stop in to introduce yourself to Larry.

CONFERENCE RESOURCES

Salvation Army Toy Shop

The date to refer patrons to the Christmas Clearing Council has passed but the Salvation Army Toy Shop offers Late Christmas Assistance. Families who have not pre-registered with any agency are welcome to complete an application and receive assistance. This is a one-day event on Thursday, Dec 21 from 1pm to 4pm at The Salvation Army Toy Shop, 1721 Northview Road (corner of Northview and Grandview). See details on registration and requirements in both English and Spanish on our website at Members Toolbox>Resources & Forms>Community Resources. You can also call the Salvation Army at 262-547-7367 or visit their website www.waukeshasalvationarmy.org.



Christmas Meal for Homebound and Those in Need

At this very special time of the year, most of us are blessed to have family and friends to share the holidays with. But, as you know, there are also many in our own local area who are alone, homebound, or just unable to afford a nice meal. On Christmas Day, Monday, Dec 25, parishioners from St. William and other area churches will again be preparing and delivering FREE dinners to anyone in the Waukesha County area who may be in this situation. If you are aware of someone who would appreciate a meal, please call Marcia Slowinski at (262) 798-1520, and we'll make sure they receive a warm Christmas dinner and a friendly visitor!

Christmas Cookies & Volunteers Requested: If you could spare some homemade Christmas cookies to share with the meal recipients, please bring them to the marked tables in the glass lobby at St. William anytime from December 17 – 23. Also, if you are interested in helping with the meal program, contact Marcia anytime.

Please help us to serve those whose hunger for food and friendship are so much greater than our own. Thank you for your caring and generosity!

We want to hear from YOU!
« « « CONFERENCE TO CONFERENCE FORUM » » »

At the request of Members, we will post questions, concerns and best practices in this section from Conferences who would like to share or request input from other Conferences. Send your responses to Bonnie at bpranger@svdpwaukesha.com, or to put you in contact with the person inquiring! Responses will be posted the following month.

From St. Dominic: Our donations have been down for quite a while. What do you do to promote your Poor Boxes or raise money in novel ways through collections?

St. James-Muk: We put donation envelopes in the pews the first weekend of the month. They are printed in red so they stand out from the parish donation envelopes to make it easier for the Monday counters to separate them.

St. Charles would like to share their use of a custom Prayer Notecard. The notecards are sent to members and patrons who are in need of encouragement and prayer. When one is needed, the card is sent around the group at the next meeting and every member present signs it. The inside verse says "The St. Vincent de Paul Conference meets every other week for prayer, fellowship and discussion of how to help those in need of life's necessities and moral support. These goals are reached through financial contributions, food pantry, and visits to those homebound, hospitalized or institutionalized. During our time of prayer, your name was brought before the group and we have asked Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to bring you comfort and hope." If you would like a sample of these cards, please contact Bonnie.

Conference and Member Questions and Answers (E-Gazette National Newsletter)

Q: On the new and improved 2017 Conference Annual Report, where do you report telephone contacts made to serve others?

A: On the 2017 Conference Annual Report, phone contacts should be reported under 'Other In-Person Visits' which includes any personal contact that is other than a home visit: pantry, parish office, special work location, gas station, restaurant, and any other place other than the home where we would meet someone in need. This would also include telephone contact since we no longer capture that separately. These instructions can be found on page 7 item E of the hard copy form.

Index of Conference & Member Q & A

Conference and Member questions and answers appear in the E-Gazette, the National E-newsletter. Similarly, each month questions and answers are chosen to publicize in the monthly REMINDERS because the question was asked at the Waukesha Council office.

The National office has put together the entire stream of all Conference and Member Questions & Answers since this practice started! This will be a great tool for conferences. Many inquiries are common throughout the US. This is a link worth saving!

[National Office Log and Index of Conference & Member Questions & Answers](#)

Pam Hudson, National Director of Governance & Membership Services
phudson@svdpusa.org

WHAT'S AHEAD

January 2018
1 - New Years Day - No Meal
8 - St. William
15 - St. James, Mukwonago
22 - St. Luke
29 - St. Joan of Arc

Meal Program SVDP Volunteer Commitment

Please note it is very important that eight (8) volunteers are present each Monday evening at 5:00 PM. If you do not have enough conference members to serve, please seek additional volunteers through your parish.

January 1
Council Office closed

January 20
Food Pantry of Waukesha County (FPWC) Home Delivery Program
1301 Sentry Drive, Waukesha

Conference Commitment for 3rd Saturday of the month: ***St. Dominic***

PETITIONS

Prayers for Good Health

Kathy Noe, St. James, Mukwonago Conference
Frank Schmanski, St. John Vianney
Mary Freisleben, St. Luke Conference
Ruth Anne White, St. William Conference
Jim Smallhoover, St. James, Mukwonago Conference

Rest in Peace

Rich Laven, St. James, Mukwonago Conference
Penney Liedtke, St. James, Menomonee Falls

Wishing you all a Joyous and Blessed Christmas

