

MONTHLY REMINDERS For February 2024

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FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Monthly Quote for Reflection

"How fortunate you are to have such a large number of sick to look after! Oh how obvious it is that God loves you since he gives you so many opportunities of serving him! Continue to do this for love of him, with all the necessary gentleness, care, and charity."

~ St. Louise de Marillac



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ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

February 2024
5 - St. James MF
12 - St. John Neumann
19 - St. James, Muk
26 - St. John Vianney

SVdP Meal Program Volunteer Commitment

The number of guests at the Meal Program is increasing. Please note new requirements: **It is asked that 7-8 conference members arrive at 4:50 with 4 gallons of milk (2 white & 2 chocolate) and 80-100 desserts of any type.** The commitment is comprised of serving the meal with cleanup afterwards, normally completed by 6:30. Thank you all for your great support of the SVdP Monday meal program. Please contact Peggy Fahl to confirm your assignment and/or if you have any questions. Call/text 414-828-6999 or email pegfahl@gmail.com

February 7

Summer Lunch Kick-Off Meeting

Council Meeting Room

1:00pm – 2:30pm

February 15

990 Filings Due

Please send your filing confirmations to Bonnie bpranger@svdpwaukesha.com or Julie jmcintyre@svdpwaukesha.com

February 20

Best Practices

Council Meeting Room

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Please join us for a Best Practices Session focused on housing. Our emphasis will be on what is working for conferences, e.g., what are tips and tricks of working with landlords. There will also be a short update on the Council's initiative on housing. RSVP to bpranger@svdpwaukesha.com

February 20, 21, 22

Spiritual Advisors Formation & Training

6:30pm – 8:30pm

For Spiritual Advisors, Associate Spiritual Advisors, or those thinking of becoming Spiritual Advisors, join us for this three-part webinar training and formation program. Whether you are new or experienced, if you have never previously attended, please register and attend this program led by Tim Williams, National Formation Director, and James Davis, South Central Region Spiritual Advisor. Over three evenings, about 2 hours each session, you will learn about Vincentian Formation, the role of the Spiritual Advisor, tools, resources, and reflections you can use, and Vincentian Discernment and Consensus. We also encourage attendance by Conference and Council Presidents, who have "a special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality." Click [HERE](#) for more information and registration.

February 28

Getting Ahead Bridging Seminar

11:00am - 1:30pm

Council Meeting Room

Registration is required. Email: gettingahead@svdpwaukesha.com or call 262.547.0654

March 2

Ozanam Orientation

Council Meeting Room, 818 W. Sunset Dr, Waukesha

Registration begins 8:15am, Program from 8:30am-1:30pm

Continental Breakfast and Lunch is provided.

Seating is limited. Register soon!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Attending the orientation will help you understand the history of the Society, our spiritual journey, and our core ministry-the Home Visit. Attendance of an Ozanam Orientation is one of the requirements of all members wishing to have Active status and for those that have not attended an orientation in 3 years.

WAUKESHA COUNCIL

Safeguarding

We are preparing to launch! The Safeguarding Policy will be forwarded to each of you in an independent email you will receive on Monday/Feb 5. Please watch for it!

Safeguarding for SVdP is a requirement for all members, volunteers, employees. Each individual must read the policy in its entirety. This is the important first step for members! Please attend to this promptly.

After your review we will host two meetings to discuss the policy and take questions. To accommodate schedules, we will host one meeting during the day and one in the evening:

Monday, February 5 at 10:30 am

Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 pm

Even if you are familiar with the registration process, it is asked you do not try and register at this time. Instructions will be provided to members. Plans are being made to host joint gatherings and group registration opportunities as well.

Safeguarding information will arrive as an email to you regularly. Because the mailing is distributed to a large group, some computer security systems may consider the mailing as spam. Please check your spam, junk or clutter folders regularly. This will be timely and important information. Thank you!

State of WI Department of Financial Institutions Annual Reporting

Mid to late November conference leaders received two emails:

1. FY22 State of WI – Department of Financial Institutions Charitable Applications and Financial Reports for conference records.
2. FY23 guide and instructions

If you need your conference instruction forwarded, please contact Julie.

Conferences that filed with the State of WI – Department of Financial Institutions last year, and all conferences who file a 990 EZ with the IRS are required to file annually. *It is recommended that this filing become routine and taken care of during the same time frame the IRS 990 EZ's are submitted.*

City of Waukesha Conference Boundaries

St. John Neumann, St. Mary and St. William boundaries expanded to cover St. Joseph's conference area October 1. Conferences have been monitoring the volume of help calls and it was determined that a slight adjustment to the boundaries was needed. St. John Vianney also expanded their borders to help support the needs throughout the City of Waukesha. Look in the March Reminders for a link to an interactive map showing the new borders. If a help call comes into your conference help line with a City of Waukesha address, please provide the SVdP Council general phone number 262-544-1850 to the caller.

2024 Ozanam Medallion (Nominations due April 3)

The Ozanam Medallion is awarded to an individual or to a conference to present a model of service for the broader community, for the purpose of increasing its knowledge of the works of the Society and to assist the Society in creating an image helpful in recruitment and resource development.

The 2024 Medallion will be awarded at the Archdiocesan General Meeting to be held on Sunday, April 21 at Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Random Lake (Sheboygan Council) after the 8:15am Mass. The nomination form is attached and must be submitted via email or mail no later than April 3, 2024.

SVdP NATIONAL AND NORTH CENTRAL REGION ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 20 – 22

North Central Regional Meeting

Holiday Inn Sioux Falls

Sioux Falls, SD

August 14 – 17

2024 National Assembly

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown

Phoenix, AZ

Mark your calendars! Great Vincentian gatherings are ahead! Both events offer workshops geared specific to conference operations, activities, best practices, etc. Attending these events are a great opportunity to learn and share experiences with fellow members from around the country. Council hosts also include social events, highlighting their communities on their agenda. Consider attending!

PROGRAMS & MINISTRIES

2024 Summer Lunch Program

Participating groups will be coming together on Feb 7 at 1:00pm at the Council office to begin planning for the 2024 summer. Last year a lunch was provided at multiple sites and served 1,998 lunches to kids over the summer months. Individuals and conferences are invited to attend to learn more about the program and how to get involved.

Back-to-School Program

Aug 5 – 15 St. William gym

Will your conference be hosting a Back-to-School supply drive? Parish calendars book up quickly! Please consider any weekend on or before August 11 to host a Back-to-School supply drive.

Patron Grant Fund Program

Has your conference assisted a neighbor that desired a change to their situation; someone who may need a hand up to reach their goal? If so, this could be a candidate for the Patron Grant Fund.

The Patron Grant Fund Program provides grants to neighbors in need in four categories: Rehabilitation Treatment, Health Treatment, Job Training, and Education. These 4 areas are defined broadly. Do not hesitate to question an individual's goal and possible eligibility to participate in the Patron Grant Program.

As you do your Home Visits, keep your eyes and ears open. Your next visit could be the person with a goal that seems unreachable to them. The Patron Grant Fund could be the answer to helping them along in their journey to improve their situation.

✝ Jail Ministry News

Project Angel Tree

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in and made this year's Angel Tree Christmas Program a huge success.

This year:

- 17 Conferences took part in adopting 97 children of inmates in Waukesha, Milwaukee and Black River Falls. This was about a 30% increase in the participants and children served last year.
- 2 gifts plus one stocking per child were donated.
- A Total of 291 gifts were purchased, wrapped, sorted, hand delivered or mailed.

Special THANKS go out to:

- Volunteers who helped log, sort and deliver the gifts.
- The Mini Vinnies who made and filled all those wonderful stockings.
- My Spanish interpreters who made many of the calls for missing details and delivery information.
- Our angel who donated the funds for the mailings!

What a blessing it was to get to know so many of you and for your generosity to these children and families. As we head into 2024 St. Dismas will be applying to adopt children from our area for next year. And I am excited to possibly be able to connect some of these local families with your parishes. Thank you again for your love and service.

Blessings,
Cheri Winchowky
Angel Tree Coordinator for St. Dismas Jail Ministry

Welcome Tom Keenan!

Tom joined the Jail Ministry intake team on January 29, 2024. He is a great addition to the staff and will help them keep the operation running timely/smoothly. Again, welcome Tom!

GETTING AHEAD

Thank you for your ongoing support of Getting Ahead. We are thrilled to announce our upcoming Spring Workshops (#33 and #34!) and would like to extend two opportunities for you to get involved:

1. Referrals: We have spots open for our English-speaking workshop (flyer attached). If you know someone who is looking to improve their financial stability, please let us know. We will also have the same workshop in Spanish, so please connect with us if you know someone interested.
2. Meal Teams: The meal is an integral part of the evening, and there are several ways you can help. You can
 - a. Donate homemade meals and serve dinner,
 - b. Deliver boxed meals (we will provide the boxes),
 - c. Or contribute financially towards the meal (and we will order the food).

We estimate about 30 meals, but we will provide you with more information closer to the event date. Please use the link or QR code provided to sign up if you would like to participate.

Here is the link: <https://signup.com/go/kHGQUHY> and QR Code



Additionally, we have attached our flyer for the **Bridging Seminar** scheduled for February 28. If you are interested, please call or email us to reserve your spot.

We look forward to continuing to work with you toward a thriving Waukesha,

The Getting Ahead Team

Liliana Cavazos
Getting Ahead Program Manager
262-547-0654 office
262-225-3903 cell phone
lcavazos@svdpwaukesha.com



A St. Vincent de Paul program to help individuals and the community become more financially stable.

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

STORES



Waukesha Grand Opening

Waukesha will have a **grand reopening sale** to the general public on 3/1/2024.

Also, on March 1st Rod Colburn will host a full tour of the store, specifically for members at 10:00am and at 6:00pm. No registration is required.

Electronic Voucher Updates

Recently I have been finding duplicate households in Thrift Works. It is very important that when you search for your Friend's name, you look closely at the search results the program provides. Look for names that are close to the one you entered and check the address, phone number and/or birth date to make sure it's not the same person. There is no way to merge two household records. When this happens an Alert is added to the record containing older information and instructs members to only use the more recent record. This way the vouchers that were given and any other assistance provided are still available for perusal.

Issues from Quarterly Membership Meeting

Members raised several stores-related questions at the Quarterly Membership meeting. The first was about some signage at the Pewaukee and Oconomowoc stores that implied “we only accept wearable clothes.” Rod Colburn and the store managers have looked at the signs and those signs were specific to FURNITURE items (upholstered items, broken furniture) and CHILDRENS ITEMS (car seats, pack n plays, etc.). Signs will be reviewed/updated for better clarity. The stores accept all clothes, in good condition AND/OR clothing that is ripped, torn, stained, dated, etc. The only clothing items not accepted is if they are soaking wet or covered with tar.

Another question was about the availability of furniture at the Waukesha store. A lack of furniture at this store creates an issue for our voucher patrons. Stores are aware that the voucher eligible furniture at the Waukesha store is limited. Store leadership and staff are exploring several different ways to increase that amount. The stores are developing some relationships with local fee-based pickup services and exploring how we might work together. The reality is that pick-ups have high costs and present logistical challenges. Stores closely monitor the costs and benefits of all that they do in order to provide effective love and service to the poor.

Store contact information:

Waukesha: John Erdmann, 262-719-8486, jerdmann@svdpwaukesha.com

Oconomowoc: Bridgette Bronk, 262-853-8257, bbronk@svdpwaukesha.com

Pewaukee: Matt Wojczak, 262-347-6165, mwojczak@svdpwaukesha.com

SVdP Sunday Scheduler/Truck Driver: Tom Colburn, 262-693-7124, tcolburn@svdpwaukesha.com

Director of Marketing & Development: Rod Colburn rcolburn@svdpwaukesha.com

CONFERENCE RESOURCES

AARP Foundation Tax Aid - Free Tax Preparation

Where: at the Waukesha Public Library

When: Appointments available most Wednesdays, February 7, 2024 through April 10, 2024.

Appointments are required. Call (262) 290-3021 for an appointment.

Pick up a Pre-Appointment Packet at the Library after making the appointment.

Where: Sussex Civic Center

When: Appointments available on Mondays, February 5 through April 8, 2024

Call 262-246-5181 for an appointment.

See attached flyers.

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Resource Guide

2024 ADRC Resource Guides are available. A stock of these guides was delivered to the Council office. We will have enough to provide 1 (maybe 2) to each conference. You may also order or pick up multiple copies at ADRC – call [\(866\) 677-2372](tel:8666772372) to make arrangements.

Online! See links below for the Resource Guide online to view or print.

English: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/HealthAndHumanServices/adrc/ResourceGuide/>

Spanish: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/globalassets/health--human-services/adrc/2024-2025-spanish---espanol-adrc-resource-guide.pdf>

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

Q: For annual reporting, my thought is that SVDP volunteer time should align with serving the poor or disadvantaged. However, there are some who feel that if I am a Vincentian, any volunteer time at the parish would be counted as SVDP volunteer time.

A: The National Council seeks to determine the number of volunteer hours devoted specifically to SVdP or Vincentian work to enter on SVdP annual reports. There is no interest in the hours members of the Society spend in volunteering at the parish or other organizations and ministries. Only hours spent doing legitimate SVdP service and assistance should be recorded on the annual reports.

Index of Conference & Member Q & A

Questions and answers appear in the E-Gazette, the National E-newsletter. The National office has put together a collection of all Questions & Answers since this practice started! [Index of Conf & Member Q&A's](#) Pam Hudson, National Director of Governance & Membership Services, phudson@svdpusa.org

Conference Corner

St. William is an extremely active conference. Our past fiscal year we had 202 home visits and over 1,700 calls from or for the assistance of patrons. Currently we have 14 active Vincentians, soon to increase to 15 in March. We obviously enjoy helping those in need because the active Vincentians years of service with St. William conference range from 10-19 years! We have 25 associate members. Approximately 8 of those individuals go along on client calls as a second. We are blessed to have a strong team however we are looking to the future for filling officer? positions that may become vacant over the next 5+ years. Any suggestions that were successful for your conference would be welcomed.

We hold three meetings each month. One Sunday after morning Mass, one Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. and one Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., to pray and discuss our recent patron calls in a timely manner and give flexibility to Vincentian's busy schedules.

We have members of our conference that also:

- Volunteer for the Dismas Jail Ministry correspondence program for those incarcerated.
- Maintain our conference nonperishable food and toiletry pantries more than one pantry? (we deliver these items)
- Assist the Council during the Back-to-School drive
- Mail Mass cards on birthdays or loss of a family member to our Vincentians
- Participate in the annual Bundle SVdP Sunday collection
- In observance of the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, we host a "Fest" for parish members to bring awareness of our mission. This features food, drink, friendship, and a silent auction.

Thank you for letting us share a sampling of what our Conference life is like in addition to prayer, reflection and focusing on how to best serve those reaching out to us in need.

If you have responses/comments to last month's article, please send them in and your conference may be part of the next Conference Corner. Questions, comments, responses, etc. please contact Rob Shelledy at rshelledy@svdpwaukesha.com or 262-327-8089.

WHAT'S AHEAD

March 2024	April 2024
4 - St. Catherine	1 - St. Joan of Arc
11 - St. Charles	8 - St. Anthony
18 - St. Leonard	14 - St. Bruno
23 - St. Mary	22 - St. Jerome
	29 - St. William

SVDP Meal Program Volunteer Commitment

Contact Peggy Fahl before your week for up-to-date information on serving needs. Call/text at 414-828-6999 or email pegfahl@gmail.com Please note, with the new location and room for more guests, 7-8 people are now needed each Monday evening.

March 2

Ozanam Orientation

Council Meeting Room, 818 W. Sunset Dr, Waukesha
Registration begins 8:15am, Program from 8:30am-1:30pm
Continental Breakfast and Lunch is provided.
Seating is limited. **REGISTER HERE**

Attending the orientation will help you understand the history of the Society, our spiritual journey, and our core ministry-the Home Visit. Attendance of an Ozanam Orientation is one of the requirements of all members wishing to have Active status and for those that have not attended an orientation in 3 years.

March 31

Easter

April 10

Home Visit Training

Council Meeting Room

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Home Visit Training provides an in-depth look at the expectations, process, tools, and administrative aspects of the conference. The training is a must for all members wishing to be part of a Home Visit Team, or to gain a valuable understanding of the Home Visit process to all Vincentians. Registration is **REQUIRED** to ensure adequate seating and materials. A light dinner is provided. Look for the Registration link in the March Reminders.

April 30, May 2, 7

Virtual Ozanam Orientation

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Presented by Milwaukee SVdP Council

REGISTER no later than April 17 or call Beth at 414-667-0240

This orientation series is offered for all Vincentians in the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council. Meet and share with others from around our 10 Counties. Must attend all three Virtual sessions to complete the orientation requirement. The Milwaukee Council will mail the orientation materials directly to you.

PETITIONS

Rest in Peace

Alice Maurer, mother of Gene Maurer, St. Joan of Arc Conference

Henry DeBoer, member St. James MF