

MONTHLY REMINDERS For March 2024

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MARCH						
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Monthly Quote for Reflection

*"I beg our Lord that in his goodness he may animate you
with his true Spirit."*

~ St. Vincent de Paul



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ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

March 2024

4 - St. Catherine

11 - St. Charles

18 - St. Leonard

25 - St. Mary

SVdP Meal Program Volunteer Commitment

The number of guests at the Meal Program is increasing. Please note new requirements: It is asked that **6-7** 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

March 2

Ozanam Orientation

Council Meeting Room, 818 W. Sunset Dr, Waukesha

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

Registration is closed. The next in-person Ozanam Orientation is scheduled for 10/05/24.

March 6

Summer Lunch Start-up Mtg (2)

Council Meeting Room, 818 W. Sunset Dr, Waukesha

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Planning for the 2024 Summer continues!

March 11 & 18

One of Peggy's weekly assistants, Stella, will be on vacation March 11 and 18th. Peggy is asking if anyone is willing to help with meal preparation on those days, ideally a different member for each day. Please contact Peggy at 414-828-6999 at your earliest convenience if you are interested in helping with one of these meals.

March 31

Easter – Blessings to all!

WAUKESHA COUNCIL

Safeguarding

Many of you attended one of the Safeguarding Informational sessions and immediately registered and took the training. Thank you! We have a good foot in the door with many of you already certified! There are many of you to go!

Please remember:

Existing members cannot have any interaction with people in the vulnerable group (as a Vincentian) after March 16 until they complete the training and clear their background check.

On Friday, February 16 all members received by email, full instructions to register for the required Safeguarding Training. All members, volunteers and employees in the Waukesha District Council must be certified.

Included in that mailing were the Waukesha District Council Safeguarding Policy, an overview of how this policy came to be, and instructions to register. **All forms and instructions can be found on our website in the Member Info area under Meetings & Trainings. Note, there are 2 training categories to select from:**

1. Instructions for those of you with previous Safeguarding training (valid certificates)
 - a. Roughly a 20 minute training
2. Instructions for those taking this training for the 1st time, or whose certificates had expired.
 - a. Roughly 2-2 ½ hrs

Please view these instructions carefully and in their entirety before you begin. It is important to understand the process in advance of starting the registration process and tips are included to avoid problems. All members will register by using this link: <https://svdpmilw.cmgconnect.org/>

If you have completed the registration and training process, please offer your guidance to fellow members. Someone with experience is valuable to members who may be a bit skittish about forging ahead on their own.

Need assistance? No computer? Prefer support to help walk you through this registration and training process?

The Council office has 15 stations set up with tablets and earbuds. Members can register and do the trainings on site. Bonnie and Julie will be available to provide support. Groups or individuals are welcome. Call ahead to reserve a space. RSVP to Bonnie: bpranger@svdpwaukesha.com

Week of March 4 – 8

Monday/4 – 9:00am – 3:00pm

Tuesday/5 – 9:00am – 3:00pm

Wed/6 morning only – last appointment is at 10:30am

Thurs/7 – 9:00am – 3:00pm

Friday/8 – 9:00am – 3:00 pm

If you need an evening session scheduled, contact Julie. Arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Watch for continued Safeguard updates. These are sent weekly to all members. And remember that at times computer security systems may recognize large mailings as spam. Check your junk folder.

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.

Voucher Categories & Value Sheet CHANGES

The Categories & Value Sheet has undergone a makeover to help all Vincentians when entering a voucher for a Friend in Need. On one side you will find instructions on entering a voucher into Thrift Works, and the Categories & Values on the back side. For those of you who do not enter vouchers often, and even those that do, please take the time to review the instructions before the next time you sign into Thrift Works. Many of our FIN's are held up at a register when their voucher is improperly entered.

SVdP Awareness Luncheon at Rotunda

Please mark your calendars for our first Community Lunch with St. Vincent de Paul from **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rotunda, 235 W. Broadway in downtown Waukesha on Wednesday, September 18, 2024.** This event will give us the opportunity to widen awareness of all that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul does in our community. Tom Pipines will be the emcee and Ralph Middlecamp, former National SVDP President, will be the main speaker. Several of your fellow Vincentians will also share on Spirituality, Home Visits, and how the Society has changed their lives. This event gives us the opportunity to let others know how they may help support our mission. We are looking for sponsors for the events and we are asking each conference to suggest a local business that might be interested in being a sponsor.

SVdP NATIONAL AND NORTH CENTRAL REGION ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 20 – 22

North Central Regional Meeting

Holiday Inn Sioux Falls

Sioux Falls, SD

Save the Date! (Flyer attached)

Susan Wiland, our National VP for the North Central Region, invites all Vincentians to grow spiritually, learn new ideas/best practices, and inspire personal growth by attending this year's North Central Regional Meeting. **(June 20 – 22 at Holiday Inn City Center in Sioux Falls).** We will welcome John Berry, National President, who will introduce *SVDP Vision – Every Voice Matters* and how this will unfold for all our Vincentians in the United States. You will have the opportunity to participate in facilitated sessions to share your voices. It is perfectly appropriate to use conference or council funds to reimburse meeting expenses (Statute 28). Scholarship funds are also available where needed.

Detailed daily program agenda will be shared in March and information on registration and hotel reservations will be sent in early April. You will have the option to register for the full meeting or as a day participant.

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 again on March 6 at 1:00pm to continue planning for the 2024 summer. To date, SVdP will be serving during the Park, Recreation and Forestry's Park Program and during LaCasa de Esperanza's summer school program. Another site is currently being sought and will be discussed to fill the kids summer school break. Join us 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.

Housing Initiative Coordinator - Welcome Beth Novotny!

We are pleased to announce that Beth Novotny has joined SVdP Waukesha Council as our Housing Initiative Coordinator. You may reach Beth at housing@svdpwaukesha.com. Beth will spend the next couple weeks in orientation and training. One of her first projects will be connecting with conferences to learn about how they are helping people obtain the shelter they need. Beth and her family live in Waukesha. Please join us in welcoming Beth!

GETTING AHEAD

It's never too late to participate in the Getting Ahead program!

A wonderful opportunity to get involved is by supporting our meal program for the workshop. You can find the dates for our upcoming Spring Workshop and all the necessary details to sign up by visiting this link.

<https://signup.com/go/kHGQUHY>

You're welcome to donate money for a meal or prepare a meal yourself and join us for dinner. You can also access the sign-up page directly through this QR code.



If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office.

Thank you for supporting us!
The Getting Ahead Team.

Liliana Cavazos

Getting Ahead Program Manager

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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****St. Vincent de Paul Sundays**

Spring is around the corner and now is the time to schedule the truck for your SVdP Sunday weekend. To get the weekend that works best for you and your parish, contact Tom Colburn at 262-693-7124 or email tcolburn@svdpwaukesha.com. See the attached flyer for a list of items that can be accepted and those that are not.

Voucher Updates

When entering a voucher for a person in a shelter or rehab facility, their address should reflect they are Homeless as those are temporary housing situations. You can include the facility in the Notes box of the address section. Thrift Works combines people at the same address into one household unless there is an apartment number to keep them separate. I have seen 7-8 men using the Salvation Army address as one household. That gives each person access to the voucher funds in that household. You can move someone out of a household but the voucher/assistance history remains with the remaining person at the address.

Store contact information:Waukesha: John Erdmann, 262-719-8486, jerdmann@svdpwaukesha.comOconomowoc: Bridgette Bronk, 262-853-8257, bbronk@svdpwaukesha.comPewaukee: Matt Wojczak, 262-347-6165, mwojczak@svdpwaukesha.comSVdP Sunday Scheduler/Truck Driver: Tom Colburn, 262-693-7124, tcolburn@svdpwaukesha.comDirector of Marketing & Development: Rod Colburn rcolburn@svdpwaukesha.com**CONFERENCE RESOURCES****WPRF Park Program**

Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry Dept. will begin promoting their Swim and Play Park Program early this year. The program includes morning swim lessons and an afternoon activities program. The program is offered at no charge for those that qualify (based on income). An application and income verification form is required, which you'll find attached to these Reminders.

Overflow Shelter Closes

The Emergency Overflow Shelter closed earlier than originally planned. Even so, this early closure does not impact the shelter referral process. Please continue making referrals to Hebron Housing Services, Family Promise, Salvation Army, and the Women's Center.

As you probably know, the Emergency Overflow Shelter opened for guests on 11/15/23 and the initial plan was to operate it until the end of March. On 2/14/24 we received notice that during the prior week, the Housing Action Coalition notified their operating partners (Hebron Housing Services and Family Promise of Waukesha) that HAC would need to close the EOS Shelter at the first of March. The EOS stopped taking new intakes on 2/12/24 and the organizations involved began to transition the current residents. Hebron Housing and Family Promise secured alternative temporary housing for all the remaining Emergency Overflow Shelter guests. The EOS officially closed 2/16/24.

Again, this should not affect the way you make referrals for emergency housing, and you should continue making referrals to Hebron Housing Services, Family Promise, Salvation Army, and the Women's Center.

Please share this information with your conferences.

Take care and God bless, Rob

Conference Corner

Here in New Berlin, Holy Apostles Parish and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish work together to help our Neighbors in Need. Our St. Vincent de Paul conference helps about 150 people each year.

What is special about our committee of thirteen is that we communicate via email many times a week, sometimes many times a day! Our digital communication is almost as if we are having in-person conversations. In 'discussing' a situation via email, someone may have a question or suggestion that can be handled immediately, without having to wait for our next meeting to discuss. At our meetings, discussing specific situations about our Neighbors in Need is sometimes simply a review. However, our meetings are so valuable, since this is where we support each other, pray for each other, and see how God is leading us to continue His work. We come together to be blessed so that we can be a blessing for others.

Another blessing we have here is the New Berlin Food Pantry. In the past, we would use our donated funds to offer meals at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. However, recently, we have started working closer with the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is supported with donations from schools, other churches, and businesses. They have plenty of food to offer those we send to them. Now, the money that we would have spent on groceries and meals, can be used in many other ways we can help. We have a symbiotic relationship with the Pantry as well. Sometimes they refer someone to us who has a car repair need, or other non-food need. We can help in our way, and they can help in their way. (living out Rule 6.3 and 6.7).

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

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

Q: As a Conference, can we limit the amount of money we pledge to those we serve, and can we put a limit on how many times a year we can serve the same person?

A: This question goes to the heart of the Principle of Subsidiarity. These are decisions that should be made at the local Conference level, based on the circumstances unique to that Conference. What resources exist? What number of people are seeking support? How many Vincentians are available to provide quality encounters with the people being served? All these questions can only be answered by the Conference members. So the decision is yours; it is not mandated by the higher-level Councils or by the National Council. However, as you prayerfully discern what to do, you should also treat each case on its own merit. While determining the amount of assistance to give (based on the request and resources available), and saving funds for people who might come in the future might seem prudent, consider that that is not what our Lord is asking us to do. He asks us to love the one in need who is sitting here in front of us, in the best way possible. If you place an arbitrary limit on the amount, then you cannot fulfill what our Lord is asking.

As far as the number of times a year to serve the same person, the same criteria essentially holds true. If you limit the number of times, then you turn people away before you even hear about their circumstances and what they are asking for. You don't have to say "yes" to every request, but listen and to be open to helping in any way possible. St. Vincent asks us to be "creative to infinity." Remember that providing service does not always mean giving money. Listening and prayer are also two essential services Vincentians provide — hopefully without limits.

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

WHAT'S AHEAD

April 2024	May 2024
1 - St. Joan of Arc	6 - St. Teresa of Calcutta
8 - St. Anthony	13 - St. Dominic
15 - St. Bruno	20 - St. Luke
22 - St. Jerome	27 - Memorial Day
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

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. An email containing a registration link will be sent to every member by mid-March.

April 22

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Council Meeting Room

6:30pm – 8:00pm

April 30, May 2, 7

Virtual Ozanam Orientation

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Presented by Milwaukee SVdP Council

[REGISTER HERE](#) 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.

May 27

Holiday Meal Service

Looking for volunteers to serve at the *NEW* Hope Center on Memorial Day, May 27. Please contact Peggy if you are willing to participate.

PETITIONS

Rest in Peace

Jane Babcock, St. Dismas Jail Ministry