



St. Vincent de Paul Society NEWSLETTER



Published by and for Vincentians
Diocesan Council of Phoenix, AZ

<http://www.stvincentdepaul.net/Vincentian-Support>

April 2025
Vol. 27 No. 4

"It is for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them." St. Vincent de Paul

Being an Easter People!

"We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"

St. John Paul II



This famous quote from St. John Paul II's papal address in November of 1986 serves as a reminder that as Catholics and as Vincentians we are called to be people of the Resurrection. The idea that the Gospels call us to live as an Easter people is not new. Very similar words about being an Easter people were spoken centuries ago by St. Augustine.

So, what does it mean to live as Easter people? John Paul II goes on later in his address to share what living out the Resurrection means.

We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the "fundamental duty of love of neighbor, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy". We realize that joy is demanding; it demands unselfishness...

As Vincentian, we know all too well the demanding nature of love and unselfish service to others. At times, it seems that there is too much to do, too few members to do it, and not enough resources to meet the needs of the poor who call upon us. The demanding or rude caller, the ungrateful recipient, or the repetitive caller often test our commitment to loving service to all.

In the face of the demands of being a Vincentian, we have to remember the source of our call. God called each of us to this vocation and we answered that call. We need to always remember that it was His call and that He will not abandon us in our struggles to live out that call.

As followers of Christ, we live in the Paschal Mystery. The Resurrection was only made possible through suffering and death. We all experience suffering and death but these times should not diminish the joy of our faith and our hope. When we enter fully into our Vincentian call, we find ourselves suffering with the poor and marginalized. We die to self in service to others. We learn to be less judgmental, more accepting and compassionate to others. Remembering that the joy of the resurrection is our destiny and loving service is an important part of our path to that destination.

Being an Easter people means we live in the joy of the Resurrection. John Paul II expressed the joy of life when he said, "We are meant to have our human joys: the joy of living, the joy of love and friendship, the joy of work well done. We who are Christians have a further cause for joy: like Jesus, we know that we are loved by God our Father. This love transforms our lives and fills us with joy."

Joy and happiness are often confused but there are major differences. Joy requires great sacrifice but leads to lasting contentment and peace. Joy can endure hardships while happiness cannot exist in the face of trials and struggles. Joy is constant while happiness is fleeting. Joy is selfless and happiness is most often self-centered. Joy has a deep spiritual component while happiness lacks depth. Joy is transformative and shares itself with others.

Being an Easter People continued

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Being an Easter people means we live with new eyes. The glory of the Resurrection and the conquering of death gives new life and hope to the world. Along with that new life comes a new type of vision. We know with confidence that the gates of heaven have been opened and that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. No longer does death have a hold on us. We live in the knowledge of the completed resurrection that awaits us while at the same time we celebrate the parts of the resurrection that we experience in the here and now.

For Vincentians, this means we need to look at others with the eyes of God. We are called to view people not by their physical appearance, their status, their accomplishments, and achievements, or even their mistakes but as a child of God. Each and every person is equally loved by the Father and redeemed by the Son. Seeing with new eyes is an important part of our growth in holiness. John Paul II said it distinctly when he said, "Jesus makes it clear that we will be judged on how we respond to his presence in the hungry, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned." The new eyes of the Resurrection allow us to see the face of Christ in everyone we encounter. New eyes are a gift from God that has been given to all Vincentians, we just have to open our eyes and choose to see others as our true friends and neighbors in Christ.

The Resurrection of the Lord is real. We are truly an Easter people so let us commit anew to live and sing alleluia each and every day not only in our words but in our actions and our very way of being.

Shirley Smalley
Diocesan Council President



Is It Okay?

“Is it okay if he sleeps there?” we ask ourselves, looking at the homeless man rolled up in his blanket outside the entrance to our parish hall. It is a simple question, but as is so often the case, simple does not mean easy. This is so partly because the question may be understood in

more than one sense, but mostly because of the second question that is implied: “If it isn’t okay, what should I do about it?”

“Is it okay if he sleeps there?”, meaning, “Is it permitted?” is one sense in which we ask the question. It is fair to ask, since it may or may not be permitted to sleep in many places around town, but on our church property we haven’t any “No Trespassing” signs, so there doesn’t seem to be a rule against it. We certainly welcome all of our neighbors here. We share friendship and food and sometimes shelter when the weather is very bad. We can’t think of a reason his sleeping would be forbidden. He probably didn’t get much sleep in the overnight cold, so, yes, it’s okay if he sleeps there.

It’s a relief to conclude this, since if it were not okay, we would have some responsibility, as parishioners, to tell him to leave, wouldn’t we? Nobody wants to be the one to do that, much less to call law enforcement to remove him.

“Is it okay if he sleeps there?”, can also be understood to mean “Is it right?” In this sense, the answer seems much more obvious. Of course, it isn’t right. It isn’t right that the most comfortable place he could find to sleep on is a bench, a sidewalk, or the mud of an unplanted flower bed. It isn’t right that he’s homeless. So, since it isn’t okay, what should we do about it?

This is **the Vincentian Question**, lying before us on the sidewalk, challenging us with its insistence: what must be done? It is our Catholic Social Doctrine, wrapped in a dirty blanket, vividly reminding us that “something of the glory of God shines on the face of every person”. **[CSDC, 144]** It is our Lord and Savior, “the sacred image of that God whom we do not see”. **[137, to Janmot, 1837]**

“God forbid,” Bl. Frédéric wrote, “*That we should think of slandering those whom the Gospel blesses, of making the suffering classes responsible for their ills and of serving the insensitivity of the bad hearts who believe themselves exempt from helping the poor when they have established their wrongs!*” **[The Causes of Poverty, 1848]**

It isn’t right that some are homeless, and it isn’t right that it is so hard to figure out the best way to help people overcome whatever demons, whatever past mistakes, or whatever current troubles are keeping them on the street, but we won’t stop trying. And in the meantime, it’s okay to follow **Veronica**’s example, offering what comfort we can, and to make “charity accomplish what justice alone cannot do.” **[136, to Lallier, 1836]**

Contemplate

Do I pause to refresh myself with prayer and reflection, rather than focusing only on “the work”?



BRICKS to build the foundation

Topic: Parliamentary Procedures for Conference Meetings Date: January 2025

Category: General Information

Parliamentary Procedures are a set of accepted rules for conduct and decorum at meetings that allows everyone to be heard, to make decisions in an orderly and timely fashion and to record those decisions in a reliable and consistent manner. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul does not have a constitution but does have a Rule and bylaws at all the various levels. When the Rule and the bylaws are silent in regards to procedural situations, the Society has set Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as our default rules of order.

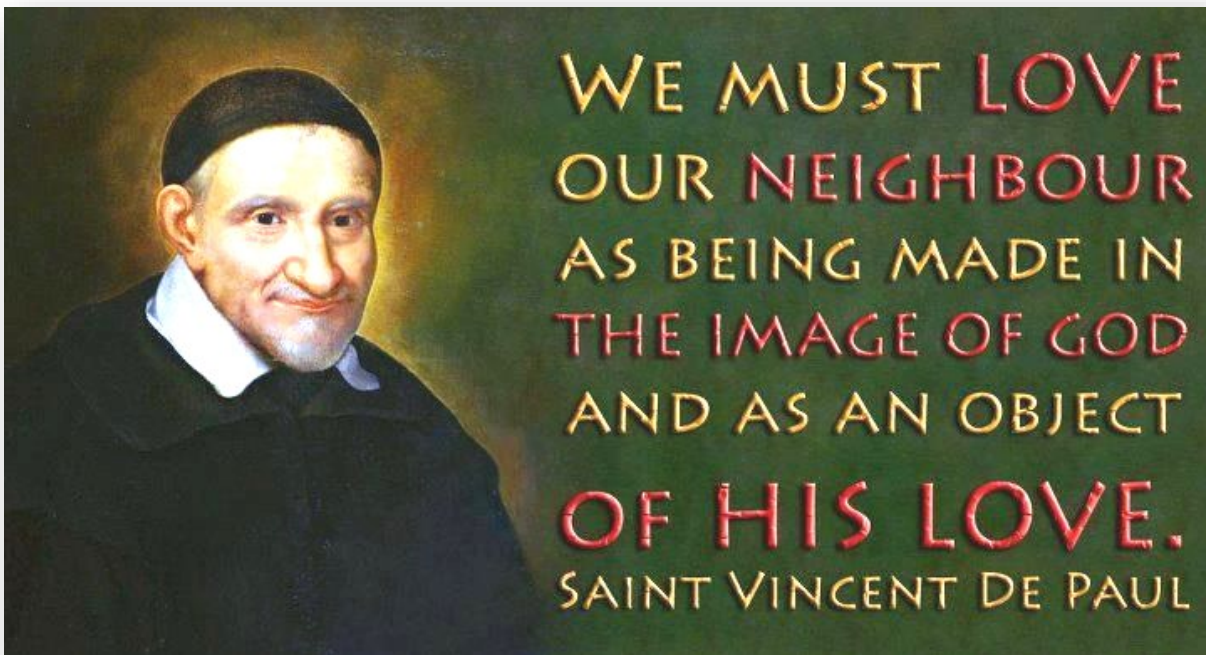
Because the Society and its conferences strive to make the majority of decisions by consensus, Robert's Rules of Order are seldom needed during a conference meeting.

Here are some major points for conference presidents to consider when setting their agenda and chairing conference meetings:

- A quorum is a simple majority or 50% of your current voting membership. It is not 50% percent plus one. However, if you have an odd number of members, since you can never really have half a member, you always round up.
- Silence by the assembly gives implied consent and the assembly may move forward as if the matter has been adopted.
- Although our sample agendas have the word Old Business, there is no such thing. The correct term is Unfinished Business. This section of the meeting is for action items that were previously brought up but where action was deferred.
- Items to be considered at a later date are not tabled, they are postponed. Tabled items must be dealt with during the meeting in which they were tabled.
- New Business is for items where action can be taken. It is not for new discussion only items or brainstorming.
- Minutes may be approved by consensus and no motion or vote is needed to approve them.
- Treasurer's Reports are not approved. They are filed for an annual audit. The conference does not have a copy of the check book or the reconciled Bank statements and thus are unable to authenticate the report.

Remember to be in “Good Standing” all Conferences must:

- Hold in-person meetings at least twice a month. Hybrid meetings with a combination of in-person and remote attendance to accommodate the needs of homebound members may be conducted, however, members attending from out of the parish area must meet all full member requirements in order to vote.
- Have an active Spiritual Advisor and include Opening and Closing prayer and a Spiritual reflection at every meeting.
- Have a full slate of conference officers that meet the full enhanced member requirements.
- Follow the SVdP Meeting Agenda for all meetings.
- Have Secretary minutes and a Treasurer’s Report at each meeting.
- Obtain verification that all members, volunteers & employees are Safe Environment compliant and approved.
- Provide person-to-person services to our neighbors in need and, as often as possible, through
 - Home Visits
 - Conduct home and pantry visits in pairs.
 - Be represented at 80% of their District Council and 50% of the Diocesan General Membership Meetings.
- Complete and submit Quarterly and Annual Reports in a timely fashion.





***From the Desk of the
Conference Resources Committee***

***Conference Members, are you aware a Capital Asset
Fund exists for Conferences?!***

The Conference Capital Asset Fund Policy is available for all conferences in good standing, and provides for funding up to 50% of a capital expenditure with a total cost of \$250 or more.

The Assets purchased must be solely for the benefit and use of the Conference in the course of its normal Conference operations of serving the poor, including the operation of a pantry.

Please see the full [Capital Asset Policy](#) on the website under Policies & Programs. The policy outlines how to apply for the funds, and details what is covered as a Qualifying Capital Asset and what is not covered/excluded.

Conferences may apply at any time during the fiscal year for funding available. Every dollar the Conference commits to the acquisition of a Capital Asset is matched up to a Maximum Funding Limit set each fiscal year during the budget approval process, and documented in the Capital Asset Funds Policy.

Conferences may apply for funds by submitting a completed [Conference Capital Asset Fund Application](#) to the Council's Conference Resources Committee (CRC) at capitalassetrequest@svdpaz.org The application can be found on the Vincentian website at Conference Resources/Applications & Forms/Conference Capital Asset Fund Application.

During the last fiscal year 18 conferences submitted Capital Asset Requests for purchases of laptops, printers, refrigerators, freezers, and other covered items.

A Moooving Encounter

Several weeks ago two Vincentians from St. Anthony of Padua Conference were in a grocery store buying gallons of milk for their conference to distribute with their food boxes. They had a basket full of milk when another customer approached them and asked them what they were doing with all the milk. They explained they were with St. Vincent de Paul and they gave it to neighbors in need with a food box. The customer told them he knew of a ranch in Nevada that raised cows to donate to charities and maybe they could provide some cows for the conference. They explained that was more than they could respond to and gave him Martha Hernandez's name (the conference treasurer) and phone number. When they returned to the conference they apologized to Martha for giving her name and phone number.

The gentleman, Cade Davis, tried to call Martha but she didn't answer. He sent her a message that went to her spam folder. Sometime later Martha saw the message and called him. He explained that the Mormons had a cattle ranch in Nevada and raised cows for charity and would be interested in donating 40 cows to SVDP. Martha explained their conference was not equipped for such a donation. She wasn't sure if it was live cows or just the meat! She asked if she could have his name and phone number to get someone else to reach out to him.

She called Mary Ann Hunter, who wanted to know if we needed to do a cattle drive to Phoenix! His name and number were sent to the only logical person in the society who would know how to respond – our CEO, Shannon Clancy. It is now Friday, at 4:30 and Shannon is in her car with other family members. She was told it was urgent that she called then. Her family got out of the car and she spoke with Cade for the next 30 minutes.

The results of this contact, by two conference Vincentians, resulted in SVDP receiving 16500 lbs. of packaged beef at a value of \$1.63 lb. All of the steaks and roasts were ground into hamburger and it was processed by a USDA approved company. Shannon was also able to acquire a refrigerated trucking company who would transport the hamburger to Phoenix free of charge. This purchase enabled us to save \$4590. This hamburger will be making its way soon to all conferences and dining rooms.

Special thanks to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Utah Beef Producers, Next Phase Enterprises, and the Moves that Matter program. They made these gifts happen for our Arizona communities.

Thank you to the two Vincentians in Wickenburg who didn't discount the customer they encountered and to Martha who just didn't refuse the offer. This gift could have derailed at so many times along the way but it didn't. We are a bottom up organization! We are ONE SOCIETY. Now does anyone know of any pig farms we might contact?

By Mary Ann Hunter

Vincentian Friendship and Fellowship

***Members of St. Anthony enjoying the fish fry,
clam chowder and time together on a Friday***



***Easter Blessings
to All***



From the VESS office.....

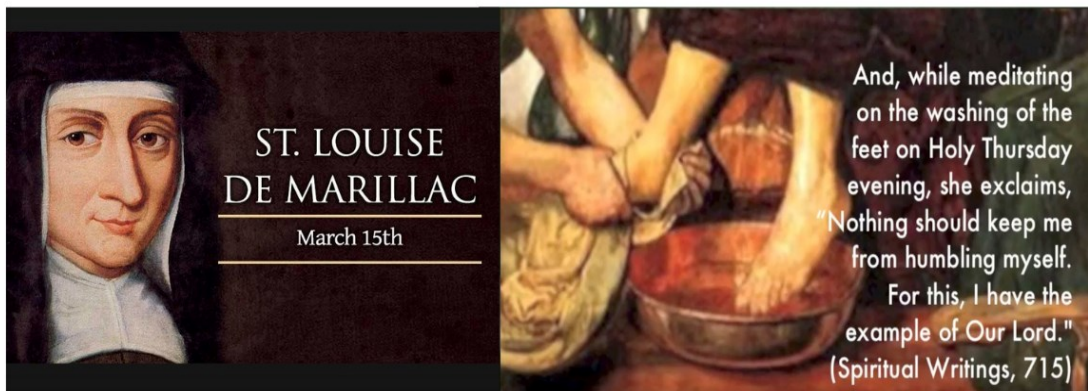
We have finally completed our staff move out of our old VESS building and are working on settling into our new space in De Paul Manor. We are a little tight on space, but it has been great to be working side by side with some of our resident case managers and wellness coordinators. It has also been wonderful to be able to meet and interact with more of our residents in De Paul Manor. They all have been so wonderful and welcoming to our team.

Since we are temporarily displaced and are tight on office space, all of our Vincentian merchandise is packed up in the warehouse and not easily accessible. So, during this time of transition, we ask if you do need items like shirts, books or other materials, please plan on purchasing those items during the General Membership meeting. It is quite the ordeal to ask a forklift driver to pull down a pallet in the warehouse for a couple of items. If you need something immediately please feel free to order directly from our very own Vincentian provider <https://www.magnalitecatholic.com/regular-customers/st-vincent-de-paul>. We really appreciate your patience.

Please welcome to our VESS team, Nathan Subia, Data Support Specialist. He will be working and learning ServeWare and reporting process from our awesome ServeWare team of Rebecca, Jenney and Julie. Nathan has been with SVDP for over 8 years and is excited to jump into the conference tech support role and meet our Vincentians. He has already been joining some of our district meetings so some of you may have had the opportunity to meet him. In just the first week he was with us, he was able to create a "ServeWare - Training Videos" folder [Serveware - Training Videos](#) and added in all of the awesome training videos Jenney had put together. Now they are all in one place in ServeWare for our Vincentians to find. Please welcome Nathan to our team!

Please don't forget to distribute your Safeway/Albertson's \$50 gift cards that were generously donated to our conferences by our friends at Safeway/Albertson's. These cards are intended to help our neighbors for Easter, so please do your best to get them to our neighbors by Easter. They do track the return rate on the cards and are inclined to keep up their generosity of donating cards when they see there is a need and we are using the cards.

**Our VESS team wishes you and yours a very blessed Holy Week
and a Happy Easter season.**



Homelessness Prevention

**Calling all Vincentians and
community volunteers!
Join Us in Preventing
Homelessness**

Volunteer Today



Do you want to make a real difference in someone's life?
Are you passionate about helping neighbors in need stay safely housed?
Do you have computer skills and a heart for service?

We're looking for dedicated volunteers to support the **Homelessness Prevention (HP) team** as we continue our mission to serve families in crisis.

☐ **How You Can Help:**

- Assist the HP team in processing housing assistance applications
- Ensure timely support for our local Conferences
- Help us continue providing critical services to families facing housing insecurity

☐ **What We're Looking For:**

- A commitment of **2 days per week (6 hours each)** at our **main campus**
- Comfort with basic computer use
- A compassionate, reliable spirit

With the launch of the **2nd Allocation of the HP/Conference Program**, we've already processed over **80 applications**—providing more than **\$130,000 in life-changing assistance** to families in need. That's incredible progress—but **we can't do it alone.**

If you're ready to serve with purpose, **we'd love to talk to you.**
Together, we can keep families in their homes and hope in their hearts.

☐ **Contact us today to learn more about volunteering with the HP team!** Laurie Sobel – lsobel@sudpaz.org – 602-850-6859



SVdP Vincentian Opportunities



Areas of Need:

◦ Thrift Stores

Scottsdale Hope Chest, Sunnyslope, Surprise, & Last Chance - Phoenix

- Two people needed - 2-3 days a week for 1-2 hours to help gather items to be sent to our housing shelters
- Two people needed - 1-2 days a week for 1-2 hours to help gather items to be sold on our Virtual Hope Chest

◦ Ozanam Manor & De Paul Manor

- Sunday - Saturday - (2hr shifts)
 - Resident Information Specialist, Front Desk Assistant, Inventory Control Specialist, Mentor, Wellness Coordinator Assistant, and Home Visit Team

◦ Rosalie's Place

- Tues & Thurs from Noon-7pm (2hr shifts) - Operations Coordinator - help inventory and organize supplies
- Tues & Thurs 8am-4pm and Fridays 8am-Noon (2hr shifts) - Welcome Desk Assistant - answering phones, welcoming residents and other guests; help with mail distribution; organizing supplies

◦ Homelessness Prevention

- Mon - Thurs - 2 days a week - (6hr shifts) - Basic computer skills needed; Will train how to use our programs; Will train how to process applications

◦ Volunteer Engagement

- Mon - Fri - 2-3 days a week - (2hr shifts) - Basic computer skills needed; Will train how to use our programs; Calls to confirm and thank volunteers

For question reach out to us at:

E-mail: volunteer@svdpaz.org

Call: 602-261-6886



ALL CONFERENCE MEMBERS QUARTERLY TOWN HALL

**You are invited to join our Diocesan Council President
Shirley Smalley for a quarterly Zoom webinar.**

This quarter our webinar will discuss political advocacy and the Society. Please join members of our board of directors including Pat Lucas, our Council Voice of the Poor representative. Conference leaders, please be sure to cascade this information to other members of your conference and your fellow Vincentians.

Please email any questions you would like to have addressed to our VESS Team at vincentianengagementsupport@svdpaz.org

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday, May 20th 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



**Scan the QR code to sign up or register at:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register
/WN_gIXEA3n9QK2azSH-p5GTig](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gIXEA3n9QK2azSH-p5GTig)**

Any questions or assistance registering please contact Irma Leyendecker, ileyendecker@svdpaz.org

OFE CLASSES – 2025
ALL CLASSES RUN 9AM – 3PM

Apr. 26 OFE 3 & 4
St. Steven – 24827 S. Dobson Rd., Chandler

May 17, 2025 OFE 1 & 2; May 24, 2025 OFE 3 & 4
Christ the King- 1551 E. Dana Ave., Mesa, AZ

June 12, 2025 OFE 1 & 2; June 13, 2025 OFE 3 & 4
St. John Vianney – 180 Soldier Pass Rd., Sedona

Aug. 9, 2025 OFE 1 & 2; Aug. 10, 2025 OFE 3 & 4
Sacred Heart- 150 Fleury St., Prescott

To register contact: Mary Ann Hunter
928-699-9232 (Text or Call)
Email: maryannhunter44@gmail.com
Give your name; email, phone number, address,
and your conference name.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Intercession Prayer Line

O God, our Father, You alone have the power to bestow those precious gifts of Yours which we rightly call miracles. If it be Your will, be pleased to grant such a gift on behalf of...

ALL SAINTS MESA

Judy Allard
Barbara Velleman

BLESSED SACRAMENT

Teresa Quadros
Lee Matthews
Eddie and Terry Wilson
Pat Galea

HOLY CROSS

Mary Powell
Andy Torres
Dee Shack

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mike & Diane McCann
Tom and Barbara Reed
Frank and Ruthie Reed
Dave Miller
Roger Reif
Frank Simmons
Joyce Sinman
Lynn Treimer
Rita Muscarello
Rosie Bell
Nanci Calvert

MOST HOLY TRINITY

Jackie Jennings

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Sue Miller
John Cronin
JoAnne Kontak
Hazel Clark
Lynn Schmidt
Joe DiGiovanni

OUR LADY OF THE DESERT

Elaine Gavitt
Rita Hughes
Tony Mueller
Valerie Panagopoulos
Peggy Merrill
Duke Merrill
Mary Austin
Art Austin

PRINCE OF PEACE

Greg Roark
Audrey Thorp

QUEEN OF PEACE

Susan Petrie
Mary Kay Dunlevy
Martina Bonilla

SACRED HEART PARKER

Edith Smith
Dora Norris Family
Fr. John Ikponko
Vernon Norris Family
Peggy Knapp
Ana Lopez
Tomasia Torres
Terry Watts
Marmelejo Family

ST. ANTHONY

Ann Casaus
Kathy McDonald
Cecilia Laubenthal
Marnee Ballay
Cheri Massie
Ken & Lorraine Hesketh

ST. BERNADETTE

Mike Smalley
Ron Betz

ST. BRIDGET

Cheryl Crame
Joe Fellhauer
Terri Lyn Gardner

ST. DANIEL THE PROPHET

Phil Murphy

ST. GABRIEL

Clare Marion
Jack McAward
Dolores Galligan
Robert Fitzer
Louise Fullam

ST. GREGORY

Edd Harrington
Beverly Heart

ST. HELEN

Charlie & Jean Olds

ST. JAMES

Diane Stofko
Abel Noble

ST. JOHN VIANNEY SEDONA

Marie Brown
John Hanson
Wilis Rogers
Jackie Moorman
Pam Klauser
Kathleen DeWeever
Ray West

ST. JOSEPH MAYER

Dennis Baile, Sr.

ST. JOSEPH PHOENIX

Robert Keenan

ST. MARGARET MARY

Ray Baca
Mary Esquibel

ST. MARY'S BASILICA

Robert Nue
The Boozer Family

ST. TIMOTHY

Margaret Hewett
Karl Rusnock
Thea Podrybau

ST. LOUIS THE KING

Esther Escarcega
Mary Fierros

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

Joyce Murphy

ST. GERMAINE

Don Rien

ST. MARGARET MARY-BHC

Rev. Peter Dobrowski

ST. MARY—KINGMAN

Ray Martin
Michael Aguiar
Patty Couch
Roger and Rita Gaumond
Diane Schatz

ST. MARY-ST. JUAN DIEGO

Zoe Rainey
Angie Welsh
Winnie Bridgens
Carl Cunningham
Allen Vaughan
Rich Gray
Irene Beard

ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Nancy Weise

ST. JEROME

Nancy Barnes
Yvonne Hurley

ST. MATTHEW

Alicia Garibaldi
Carmen Alfonzo

ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE

Lucia Mastroianni
Corlaine Mortenson
Philomena Kamara

ST. JOAN OF ARC

Paul Parent

ST. THERESA

George Dorley
Twila Stern
Tim Coughlin
Colin Campbell

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

Patty Lucus

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Megan Ford
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Margaret Pawlak
Rob Sobczak
Jon Ehlinger
Paul Zabalski
Steve & Lucy Howell
Greg Ryan
Barby Groft
Barby Burr
Phillip Cookman
Craig Davidson
Ken Wagon
Lisa Longmire
Jeff McLean

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them;
and may their souls, and all the souls of the
faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*



Jim Finnerty
St. Agnes

***May the Angels lead them into Paradise,
may the martyrs receive them at their coming
and lead them into Jerusalem, the Holy City.
May the Choir of Angels welcome them
and, with Lazarus, who was also poor,
may they have everlasting rest.***



THE VINCENTIAN ANNUITY

Supporting
St. Vincent de Paul
not just
for a lifetime,
but **forever.**

SAMPLE ANNUITY RATES

	SINGLE LIFE	TWO LIVES
AGE 60	4.4%	3.9%
AGE 70	5.1%	4.6%
AGE 80	6.8%	5.7%
AGE 90	9.0%	8.2%



**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.

A gift through the Vincentian Annuity will give you the security of a fixed income over your lifetime and provide support for St. Vincent de Paul that will last **forever.**

As an example, Helen, an 80-year-old widow and St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, recently established a \$50,000 Vincentian gift annuity. For her age, the annuity rate is 6.8%, meaning she'll receive \$3,400 annually for the rest of her life. And, she may take an income tax deduction of about 50% of her gift this year. Best of all, her gift will support St. Vincent de Paul's work for generations to come. Annuity gifts start at \$10,000.

TO SEE IF AN ANNUITY IS RIGHT FOR YOU
visit plannedgiving.stvincentdepaul.net.

Take a look at our planned giving tools, including a benefit calculator. To discuss giving options, contact Donna Rodgers at 602-261-6884 or plannedgiving@svdpaz.org.

P.O. Box 13600 Phoenix, AZ 85002 | stvincentdepaul.net