

*A. P. Chanam*  
7

# V E T E R A MONIMENTA

*"A Newsletter for Vincentians, by Vincentians"*

June, 2021 | A monthly newsletter of Tools, Resources and Activities for Vincentians in Contra Costa County

## Calendar

## Bob Liles' Corner

### Thrift Shop Tales

#### **Tuesdays with Vincent**

Tuesday, June 1st  
6 PM - 8 PM on Zoom

#### **SVdP St. Paul's Conference Food Distribution - San Pablo**

Saturday, June 5th  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

#### **SVdP Food Distribution - Richmond**

Tuesday, June 8th  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

#### **Home Visit Training on Zoom**

Thursday, June 8th  
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

#### **SVdP National Board of Directors Meeting**

June 11 - 12  
St. Louis, MO

#### **15th Annual Knights of Columbus "Swing for Charity" Golf Tournament**

Monday, July 19th, Crow Canyon CC  
10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Prior to my joining the Society I don't think that I ever went into a thrift shop. I know that I never went into a SVdP thrift shop.

This forbearance soon ended when my conference began buying and delivering mattresses and furniture for families in need.

My thrift store experience though, was just running in and out of the store. I did not do much browsing. Probably because I hate shopping. I did not fully understand thrift stores and how they operated. That all changed when I became the District Council President and started making decisions on how our thrift stores should operate.

One of our volunteers suggested that I read a book she wrote – Thrift Shop Tales, by Ellen Page Israel.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

### SVdP Thrift Store Locations & Hours

**Pittsburg Store:** 2210 Gladstone Dr., Pittsburg  
Monday-Saturday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Currently does not take donations on Thursdays.

**Pleasant Hill Store:** 2815 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill  
7 days a week: 10:00 am-6:00 pm  
Currently does not take donations on Wednesdays.

**Brentwood Store:** 8890 Brentwood Blvd., Brentwood  
7 days a week: 10:00 am-6:00pm  
Currently does not take donations on Tuesdays.

All Links to Above Sessions on  
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# Art Prindle – A Vincentian life of Service at St. Stephen’s

by John Prindle, St. Stephen’s Catholic Church



Art Prindle

Art Prindle was called to service with SVdP at Saint Stephen's Parish over 30 years ago. Working as a teacher and principal in the Lafayette school district for 37 years, he heard a story which touched his heart as he neared retirement.

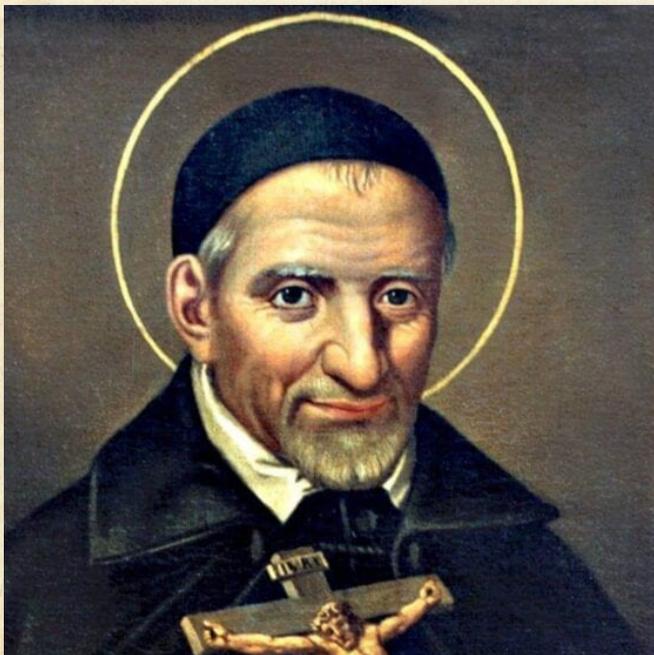
There was a man from Vietnam in the area who needed some housing assistance. St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County stepped in to help him find housing. Once housed, the man became a custodian at Saint Stephen's where he worked for many years.

This story touched Art deeply, and he began to reflect on what it means to help another person. A short time later, and he was asked to begin his ministry with the society.

Art said, "It makes you feel good to be able to help somebody. Our faith tells us that everyone is equal and if there is somebody in need we ought to help that person."

Art has worn many hats as a Vincentian, and loved the work he has done to help his neighbors in need. He has helped stock food pantries and distribute food to the hungry. He has helped provide furniture and housing for those without shelter. He also served as the President of his parish chapter, where he has been a member since 1968 when the church first opened. As a Vincentian, Art has been able to touch the lives of those in need within his community.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



“Charity is the cement which binds communities to god, and people to one another”

-St. Vincent de Paul

# Western Region and Beyond the Pandemic

by Steve Krank



Steve Krank

Beginning May 17, 2021, 13,000 Vincentians from 400 St. Vincent de Paul Conferences and Councils in the Western Region participated in the 2021 Western Region Meetings! This was the first year so many Vincentians had the chance to participate. By going virtual these workshops were able to host far more people than we could have in person.

The meetings started with an introduction to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul presented in English and Spanish, and a reflection of the successes and set-backs of the last year by the Western Region Vice President of the National Council of the US, John Hallissy. The meeting also featured a tribute to the Vincentians in the Western Region who passed away in 2020.

Sr. Paule Freeburg, Daughter of Charity and Spiritual Advisor for the Western Region, then led us on a journey that would last all five days with a presentation and Reflections to "Seek and Find the Forgotten." Each day's theme examined social issues which had risen during the past year from a Vincentian perspective. These reflections served to prepare us for our return from pandemic isolation to meet again together with Christ as we serve the poor.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Here are links to the four reflections and one of the best Vincentian Mass's I have ever seen.

Human Dignity: <https://youtu.be/zQ6qswowhK0>

Option for the Poor: <https://youtu.be/GdVnfAgWuVs>

Racism: <https://youtu.be/a6PKMp1iDtE>

Charity and Justice: <https://youtu.be/H9xcQZ20JpQ>

Link to the Vincentian Mass: [https://youtu.be/N9sdwDwbo\\_0](https://youtu.be/N9sdwDwbo_0)



# Home Visits – The Eucharist of the Society

by Shawna Costanzo

The Spirituality and Formation committee is hosting a Virtual Home Visit Workshop for all Vincentians!



Shawna Costanzo

It's a chance to share your thoughts and perhaps learn tips about Home Visits. If you are new and have never been on a Home Visit, then maybe this workshop is the thing which will assist you on your journey of helping our neighbors.

This is a Zoom Workshop, so you don't have to drive. Just relax and enjoy five videos about home visiting and join in on various discussions on this very important topic. Home Visits are the core activity around which Vincentians help our neighbors in need, and they can be both a intellectually and spiritually rewarding activity.

The Workshop is on Thursday July 8th from 6pm to 8:30pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9254395060?pwd=N3BxU0w4RjFiUnlQZ1BYWGVVcHIRUT09>

The id is 9254395060 and the passcode is Ozanam.

We appreciate your RSVP to 925-200-5952, call or text. Please call Ron at 925-487-4986 if you have trouble logging in on July 8th.



## Friends of the Poor Walk

St. Vincent de Paul's "Friends of the Poor Walk," is returning on September 25th!

Last year, we had to do our walks separately, but with restrictions scheduled to go away, we are proud to announce we will be able to walk together to benefit those in need once again!

If you are interested in hosting a Friends of the Poor Walk in your community, please email Barb Hunt, [b.hunt@sudp-cc.org](mailto:b.hunt@sudp-cc.org) or Brian Boyle, [b.boyle@sudp-cc.org](mailto:b.boyle@sudp-cc.org) for more information.

# Tuesdays with Vincent The Congregation of the Mission

On June 1st, Tuesdays with Vincent will focus on the topic “The Congregation of the Mission,” and how St. Vincent de Paul brought people together to help those in need.

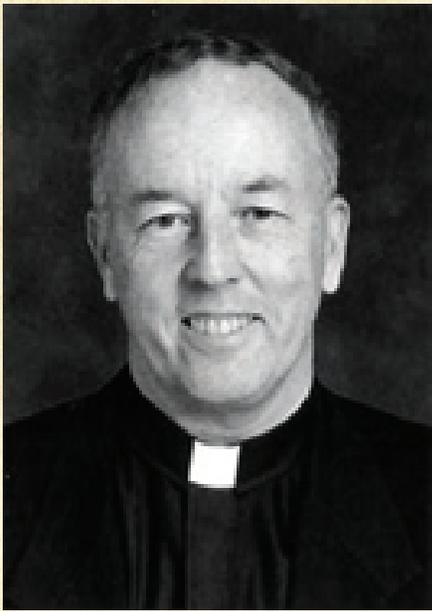
In this session you will learn:

**All about the Congregation of the Mission**

**How St. Vincent de Paul and the Congregation of the Mission helped their neighbors.**

The Reverend Thomas F. McKenna, C.M. will be our guest host to follow up on our study for the June 1, Workshop from 6 PM - 8PM on the Spirituality and work of the “Congregation of the Mission.” The link to attend is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83218451763>

## Presenter Bio: Rev. Thomas F. McKenna, C.M.



Thomas F. McKenna has been a member of the Congregation of the Mission since 1963. He grew up in Brooklyn, New York and he attended schools there, in New Jersey and in Pennsylvania until his ordination in 1970.

He received an M.A. in philosophy from St. John's University in New York in 1973 and a ThM from Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, Pennsylvania in 1974.

He spent fifteen years in seminary work including time as the Director of Novices for the Eastern Province of the Vincentians, as well as Rector of their college seminary in Niagara Falls, New York.

He earned a doctorate in systematic theology from the Catholic University of America in 1982. For ten years, he taught Spirituality as a tenured member of the theology department at St. John's University. He has published a book on St. Vincent de Paul, articles in various theological journals and has been involved in retreat work nationally and internationally, especially within the Vincen-tian Family.

For more than twenty years he was part of his Congregation's leadership team, where he served as the Assistant Provincial then as Provincial completing his term in 2008.

Since then, he has taught theology at Tangaza University in Nairobi, Kenya, and also at Niagara University. Additionally, at Niagara he functioned as Assistant to the President for Mission. For six years he served in St. Louis as the Provincial Director of the St. Louise Province of the Daughters of Charity. Most recently, Rev. McKenna has worked as Formation Director for the Vincentian major seminarians in Philadelphia as well as again taking up the role of Assistant Provincial.

# The Congregation of the Mission

In order that he might better respond to a wide variety of needs, St. Vincent de Paul brought together as many people as he could, rich and poor, humble and powerful, and used every means to inspire in them a sensitivity to the poor, who are the privileged image of Christ. He moved them to help the poor directly and indirectly (Constitutions of the Congregation of the Mission, Introduction, p.19).

The purpose of the Congregation of the Mission is to follow Christ evangelizing the poor. This purpose is achieved when, faithful to St. Vincent, the members individually and collectively: (1) make every effort to put on the spirit of Christ himself (Common Rules I:3) in order to acquire a holiness appropriate to their vocation (Common Rules XII:13); (2) work at evangelizing the poor, especially the more abandoned; (3) help the clergy and laity in their formation and lead them to a fuller participation in the evangelization of the poor (Constitutions, #1).

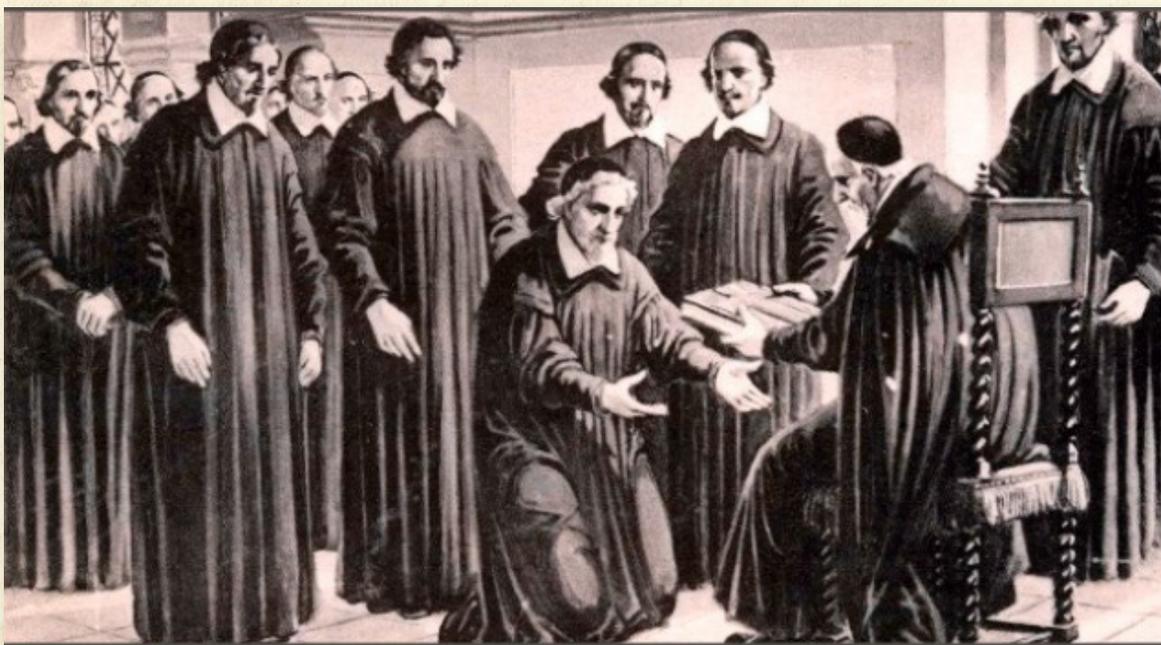
From the time of its founder, the members of the Congregation of the Mission recognized that they had been called by God to continue the mission of evangelizing those persons who are poor.

Click here to read more about “The Congregation of the Mission.” :

<https://www.svdp-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/congregation.pdf>

Click Here for Suggested Readings and Hightlighted topics:

<https://www.svdp-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/syllabusmay.pdf>



May 17, 1658

**St. Vincent de Paul gives the Rules  
to the Congregation of the Mission**



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.  
Council 9206 - St. Joan of Arc Parish - San Ramon, California



*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
of Contra Costa County*

**15th Annual  
Knights of Columbus  
Golf Tournament**



**Swing For Charity**

**Monday, July 19, 2021**  
Crow Canyon Country Club  
711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville, CA 94526

Join the Knights of Columbus #9206 &  
St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County  
for a day of golf, friendship, and charity!

The "Swing for Charity" Golf Tournament supports the  
RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul.

**For Registration and Sponsorship information, please visit**  
<http://knights-golf-tournament.eventbrite.com/>

**Platinum Sponsors:**



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## Free Dental Clinic Scheduled to Open in June

The Dentist on Wheels Pittsburg Free Dental Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul is scheduled to open this June – offering free dental care for Contra Costa residents without dental insurance. The clinic is a collaboration between Dentists on Wheels (DOW) and St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County (SVdP), the free dental clinic aims to address the problem of extreme dental pain experienced by residents in Contra Costa County who have no dental insurance. The 3-chair free dental clinic will soon be ready to start treating patients and helping people in need in the county to resolve their dental pain. All the dental equipment and furnishings have been donated to the free clinic. Shab Farzaneh, founder of Dentists on Wheels saw a community need and was moved to provide a solution.

The clinic, staffed by volunteer dentists, will be able to treat most patients' needs, everything from screenings, cleanings and check-ups to fillings, crowns, extractions and dentures.

For many patients, there is a direct link between poverty and a lack of dental insurance. Receiving dental care would normally be out of reach for low-income residents. Tooth pain and other dental issues can cause a massive drop in quality of life for those suffering. A broadening problem in low-income communities is the usage of extraction to solve tooth pain, as it is an inexpensive means of addressing the pain. This can create many long-term issues that can profoundly impact the patient's quality of life. By providing accessible preventative care and restorative procedures, the free dental clinic will lessen the number of extractions happening in Contra Costa County and keep the county smiling.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

# Links

## First Tuesdays with Vincent:

June 1, 2021 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83218451763>

## Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yfj70vzjy3bj5ky/AADDxY9E5ywnpl0DarZEVMrTa>

## St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County:

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org>

## National Site for Vincentians:

<https://www.svdpusa.org/members/>

## St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMKjgpCZOYqdmXRF0kn0tUg>

## Formation & Training Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9254395060?pwd=N3BxU0w4RjFiUnlQZ1BYWGJVcHRUT09>

Meeting ID: 925 439 5060 Passcode: Ozanam

## California Tenant and Landlord Housing Resources:

[https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/tenant/protection\\_guidelines.html](https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/tenant/protection_guidelines.html)

<https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/landlord/resources.html>

**St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa**

# **FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**Saturday, June 5th  
9 AM – 1 PM  
or until supplies last**

## **WHERE**

**St. Paul's Catholic Church**

1845 Church Ln., San Pablo, CA 94806

**St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa in partnership with the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano.**



**FIRST COME  
FIRST SERVED**

**DRIVE UP OR  
WALK UP**



**St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa**

# **FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**



**Tuesday, June 8th  
10 AM – 1 PM  
or until supplies last**

**FIRST COME  
FIRST SERVED**

## **WHERE**

**Catholic Charities East Bay**

**217 Harbour Way, Richmond, CA 92801**

**DRIVE UP OR  
WALK UP**

**St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa in partnership with The Catholic Charities East Bay, the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano.**



# Join us!

To hear from the leadership and staff of  
St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County.

**Saturday, June 12, 2021**

**10:00 to 11:30 am**



## LEARN ABOUT:

- The vital services we provide
- How our work is guided by deep spirituality
- How the community can access our services
- How you can get involved



## Register today at:

[oakdiocese.org/parishes-in-action](https://oakdiocese.org/parishes-in-action)

(Zoom link to follow).

Sponsored by the Diocese of Oakland and  
Parishes In Action

## About The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County:

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County is a non-profit located in Contra Costa County. We provide direct, meaningful, and impactful aid to those in need.

## SERVICES:

- Free Medical Clinic for the uninsured
- Free Dental Clinic for the uninsured
- Paid Jobs Training and Work Experience to those with barriers to employment
- 18 emergency food pantries located throughout Contra Costa County
- Free clothing to the homeless through SVdP's 3 Thrift Stores in Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, and Brentwood
- Emergency Rental Assistance to help keep families in their homes
- Day-time Homeless shelter at the St. Vincent de Paul Family Resource Center in Pittsburg (in partnership with Winter Nights Family Shelter)
- Free hot lunch served 7 days per week from our dining room at the St. Vincent de Paul Family Resource Center in Pittsburg (in partnership with Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa)

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was established in 1833 to bring concrete aid to those in need through friendship, service, and charity. Today, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a network of charity organizations in 150 countries with over 800,000 members.

