

A. Ozanam

# V E T E R A MONIMENTA

*"A Newsletter for Vincentians, by Vincentians"*

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

## Calendar

## Bob Liles' Corner

**Tuesdays with Vincent**  
Tuesday, August 3rd  
6 PM - 8 PM on Zoom

**Ozanam Orientation in Two Parts**  
Thursday, August 12th - Part 1  
Thursday, August 19th - Part 2  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM on Zoom

**SVdP National Assembly**  
August 25th-28th, Houston, TX  
In Person and on Zoom

**SVdP Bocce Ball Tournament**  
September 11th, Martinez, CA  
Martinez Bocce Ball Courts  
10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Ozanam Orientation**  
September 16th, on Zoom  
6 PM - 9 PM

**All Links to Above Sessions on  
Page 8**

### How to Best Help The Poor: I Have Answers

Are certain neighbors coming to your conference repeatedly for help?

Have people been asking for rent assistance money after they spent it foolishly on silly things?

I'm an engineer. I solve problems. I have a solution for every problem that you have. Unfortunately, people don't behave like machines. God gave them free will and they love using it. They don't like following my advice. Makes me want to grab them by the shoulders and shake some sense into them. But then I think about all of the times our Lord has grabbed me and I just told him that I know what I am doing and have it all figured out. Of course I didn't. So let's show a little empathy, but not be afraid to show tough love when it is called for.

"Charity is to be measured, not by what one has given away, but by what one has left," - Bishop Fulton Sheen.

### Safety Volunteer Needed

The District Council needs someone to do oversight on the safety program of the District Council. This would include attending quarterly safety meetings. Doing quarterly safety inspections and reviewing safety incidents. The District Council does not have a safety problem, but we just want someone to make sure that we are doing what needs to be done to keep it that way. For more information contact Bob Liles at [b.liles@svdp-cc.org](mailto:b.liles@svdp-cc.org).



# The Cost of a Stamp

by Steve Krank



"Vincetians become Vincetians because they want to do something good. Sometimes it is a lot of work, occasionally thankless, and sometimes we feel so much joy in our vocation that our closeness to God makes us want to weep with Joy".

I want to report to you that we have come to a resolution on an issue of fraud that came up for a Conference. The name of the Conference does not matter. Three meetings with myself

and the Conference President, one meeting at the Bank with the Bank Manager, and Bill Hurley's willingness to go back to the beginning of FY 2020-21 and start over; otherwise, it would have cost the Conference \$2,700.00.

It started with our Vincentian Brothers and Sisters wanting to help. Our Neighbor was behind on PG&E and wanted to continue to keep her lights on and cook for her kids. It was a busy day, she had her PG&E bill with her, and she persuaded the SVdP Conference to let her take possession of the physical check as she said she would drop it directly off at PG&E. The neighbor-in-need indeed did drop the check off at PG&E and was able to keep her power and lights on, however, she took the routing and account information off of the check and used this information to fraudulently access the SVdP Conference's funds. Now, months later, we were able to track the last of the fraudulent charges.

After much discussion and time following each transaction, we finally received credit from Wells Fargo, who reimbursed the Conference over the fraudulent charges.

It will always be worth the cost of a stamp and envelope to mail the check directly to the debtor. We have lived through a very troubling time. Some of our friends in need have not worked, paid rent, or their PG&E bill for a year. In this context and the tyranny of the moment, our neighbor knowingly made a decision that impacted the Conference, our work and their ability to get help again.

Let us be smart in loving our neighbors.



# The Vincentian Toolbox - Your Free Medical Clinic

by Brian Boyle

As Vincentians, the work you do to help your neighbors in need can be life changing and truly transformative. The tools in the Vincentian toolbox allow you to help your neighbors deal with rental issues, utility problems, hunger, stress, anxiety, and a plethora of tyrannies of the moment. As Vincentians, you also have tools in your belt that can, quite literally, be life-saving.

The RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul – a partnership with RotaCare Bay Area was opened thanks to the generosity, compassion and dedication of the Vincentians in our local Conferences. This free medical clinic, your free medical clinic, has been able to provide over 13,500 medical visits to those without insurance and no means of affording healthcare. The free medical clinic has truly changed the lives of its patients. The timely intervention of the clinic's volunteer medical professionals has helped people deal with previously undiagnosed diabetes, hypertension, and even heart disease.

The clinic is located at the District Council Offices at 2210 Gladstone Drive in Pittsburg, and is open on Wednesdays, 5- 8 pm. For some Conferences and neighbors in need, this may have been too far away in the past. This year, however, the free medical clinic has implemented an electronic medical records system and telehealth. Telehealth enables the clinic to provide free medical care via telephone or video conference.

The free medical clinic is one more tool in the Vincentian toolbox that allows you to help your neighbors in need meet whatever crisis is dominating their life at the moment. It is open every Wednesday evening to see patients. Please direct your neighbors-in-need to call the clinic on Wednesdays, 1-3 pm, to make a same-day appointment, [\(925\)439-2009](tel:9254392009).

## State Provides Rent Assistance Resource

by Brian Boyle

Recent developments in the State Capitol have slightly changed the flow of helping a neighbor with rental assistance. For qualified landlords and renters, the State is offering to pay 100 percent of owed back rent and utilities. California COVID-19 Rent Relief is offering this service through a program called "Housing Is Key", [www.housing.ca.gov](http://www.housing.ca.gov).

Vincentians should first look toward referring neighbors in need to this State resource for rental assistance. If your neighbor in need qualifies, all back rent will be covered without any cost to the Conference. The next step, if the neighbor in need is unable to qualify for the State's Housing is Key program is to look toward Conference resources. Finally, attached to this newsletter is the application for Hope Conference Funding for our neighbors in need. The Hope Conference is a by-referral only Conference that is able to help with housing and utility needs that are beyond the scope of your Conference. Several grants are being distributed by the Hope Conference to assist neighbors in need with rental assistance or water bills. With all of these resources at our disposal, we hopefully can help our neighbors in need that come to our Conferences.

# BRICKS Spirituality

By Steven Krank

I found this in our BRICKS (Lessons learned from Vincentians) and thought it was an appropriate time to share it.

The primary purpose of the Society is NOT to serve the poor. It is NOT our works that are of highest importance. The poor are always with us. We will never eliminate poverty. The work and the opportunity to do the work will always be with us. It is not the work that is important; it is what is behind the work that is important. We recognize what a difficult year it has been for those we serve and for you as Vincentians. Focusing on the spiritual nourishment that is offered at each Conference meeting is a vitally important part of being a Vincentian and can help support us as we move forward in our mission to serve neighbors in need. Nourishment of your Vincentian soul may be needed now more than ever before, many Vincentians are worn out, tired and in need of inspiration.

“To bear witness to Christ and to His Church by showing that the faith of Christians inspires them...” (Chapter 3, Page 50 of the Manual). Our spirituality is the first and most important aspect of being Vincentians. It is our motivation and our Vincentian Spirituality is our guide. Our growth as Vincentians will not automatically happen by simply going to church on Sunday. It takes effort, it takes emphasis, it takes focus, and it takes regular and frequent reminders, and the place to get this is in Conference meetings.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



# Ozanam Orientation

August 12th & 19th

Ozanam Orientations are the perfect opportunity to learn all about who we are as Vincentians, and the work we do as we live our mission of growing in Spirituality, Friendship and Service.

There will be two Ozanam Orientation sessions, part one on August 12th and part two on August 19th. The sessions will be on Zoom and will be from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM both days.

New Vincentians benefit tremendously from this program because it gives an overview of history, spirituality, organization, and current endeavors of the Society, as well as in-depth home visit information segment. However, even the most experienced Vincentians have gained new insights by attending the Ozanam

Orientation. Everyone is invited to attend!

For information please contact Joyce Ohanesian at [joyce1936@comcast.net](mailto:joyce1936@comcast.net).

## Reminder: Ozanam Orientation Workshop on Sept. 16, 2021

Spirituality & Formation

Rule 3.12: It is essential that the Society promote the formation and training of its members and Officers, in order to deepen their knowledge of the Society and their spirituality...

Just a quick reminder: reservations are to be sent to Joyce Ohanesian, [joy1936@comcast.net](mailto:joy1936@comcast.net).

It is strongly recommended that Vincentians attend an Ozanam Orientation be on a regular basis, preferably once a year. This is a very easy Zoom link-up and will be over in a few hours. Then your obligation will be satisfied.



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

-St. Vincent de Paul

# Tuesdays with Vincent Bl. Rosalie Rendu

On August 3rd at 6PM, Tuesdays with Vincent will focus on the topic “Blessed Rosalie Rendu,” and how she helped form and define what it means to be a Vincentian..

In this session you will learn:

**All about Blessed Rosalie Rendu**

Sr. Lousie Sullivan, DC, PHD, will be our guest host to follow up on our study for the August 3rd, Workshop from 6 PM - 8PM on Blessed Rosalie Rendu.

The link to attend is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87034403349?pwd=bjJJdHlMVG44RFZ2L2s5bGtKNzZCdz09>

## Presenter Bio: Louise Sullivan, DC, PHD



Louise Sullivan, DC is a Daughter of Charity of the Province of Saint Louise USA. She has spent her professional life and ministry mostly in education: elementary, secondary and university. She has a BS in French Education from St. Joseph College, a Masters in French Language and Literature from the Catholic University of America and a PhD from L'Université de Paris IV: Sorbonne. She was Professor of French Language and Literature and Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages at Niagara University.

During her 23 years there, in addition to teaching, she was closely involved with the NY State Association for Foreign Languages and the formation of future language teachers, giving papers and workshops with the group.

During her time living in Paris, while studying at the Sorbonne, she became a translator for the international Company of the Daughters of Charity. From that grew her passion for Vincentian Studies. She would go on to edit, translate and write numerous Vincentian works, such as “The Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac (the definitive English Language translation),” and “The Core Values of Vincentian Education,” and she wrote the definitive biography of Blessed Rosalie Rendu, “Sister Rosalie Rendu: A Daughter of Charity on Fire with Love for the Poor,” in The Vincentian Studies Institute monograph series.

In recognition of her work in Vincentian Studies, she was a recipient of The Perboyre Medal from Niagara University, The Pierre Coste Prize from De Paul University and an Honorary Doctorate from Saint John's University

## Sr. Rosalie Rendu

Sister Rosalie Rendu, a seventy-year-old Daughter of Charity who worked within the confines of perhaps the poorest area of Paris, was buried with all the trappings of a state funeral from the church of Saint-Medard on 9 February 1856. The rich and the poor all joined the procession behind the crucifix leading her to her final resting place. Religious and government partisans forgot their differences for a few hours to pay tribute to this humble, yet remarkable woman. The mighty and the downtrodden wept together. The following day Parisian newspapers described the singular event and paid tribute to Sister Rosalie.

To this day, a steady flow of pilgrims visits her grave. Many leave flowers or small marble plaques expressing gratitude. These outpourings testify to the truth of the inscription on the tomb, "To our good mother Rosalie, her grateful friends, the poor and the rich." An avenue in Paris where she labored bears her name. Newspaper articles still recall her accomplishments.

On 21 August 1997, Pope John Paul II beatified Frederic Ozanam, the principal founder of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. In his homily, the Holy Father evoked Sister Rosalie's name. He stated, "The bonds among the members of the Vincentian Family have been strong since the origin of the Society because it was a Daughter of Charity, Sister Rosalie Rendu, who guided Frederic Ozanam and his companions toward persons who were poor in the Mouffetard section of Paris."

But who exactly is this woman who was herself beatified on 9 November 2003?

What does her life have to say to men and women of our era who seek to reach out to those in need?

Join Tuesdays with Vincent in July to study Sr. Rosalee Rendu (Blessed) followed by a presentation on August 3rd, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM PT where you will get a chance to meet and talk to Sr. Louise Sullivan who wrote the book on Blessed Rosalee Rendu.

[Click Here to Download Sr. Sullivan's Book](#)



# The 2021 SVdP Friends of the Poor Walk is Saturday, September 25, 2021

By Barb Hunt, SVdP Development Director

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, (SVdP), will be hosting Friends of the Poor Walks across the county this year, on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

This is the 14th year that SVdP National has sponsored this program in order to support local Conferences. Any SVdP Conference can conduct their own local Walk, intended to raise funds and awareness within the parish and the local community about the work that St. Vincent de Paul does to support neighbors-in-need.

If your Conference is interested in hosting a FOP Walk, please register your Walk at the SVdP FOP Walk national website, [www.fopwalk.org](http://www.fopwalk.org). The SVdP National FOP website has a toolbox for Walk Coordinators to use including tips on hosting a fun and successful Walk. The \$150 Walk registration fee will be reimbursed by the District Council. Most Conference FOP Walks are held on the church grounds, with permission of the local pastor.

The District Council and SVdP National will be publicizing the FOP Walks through social media, flyers, the SVdP Contra Costa County website, press releases, national radio and more. If you need help registering your Conference Friends of the Poor Walk, please reach out to Barb Hunt, [b.hunt@svdp-cc.org](mailto:b.hunt@svdp-cc.org).

100% of all proceeds from your local SVdP Conference FOP Walk goes toward funding your local Conference programs.



# Free Medical Clinic Meals Needed 4th Wednesday of Each Month – Can You Help?

A little over ten years and 13,500 patients visits ago, St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County responded to the need for medical care for the uninsured. Vincentians from Conferences in Contra Costa, the SVdP District Council staff, and a volunteer team - the “Medical Clinic Steering Committee,” partnered with RotaCare Bay Area and local Rotary Clubs to open the RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul.

Each night the Clinic has been open, SVdP Conferences, Rotary Clubs, the National Charity League, and generous individual volunteers, have been providing meals for the approximately 20 clinic volunteers who staff the clinic. During the pandemic, the clinic implemented telehealth, so that both in-person and video medical visits are now offered.

Beginning in July 2021, The National Charity League has generously agreed to provide meals for the first three weeks each month, leaving the 4th Wednesday available for SVdP Conferences to provide meals for the volunteers. In June, The SVDP Conference from Immaculate Heart of Mary in Brentwood provided meals for the volunteer personnel staffing the Free Medical Clinic.

The clinic volunteers share that one of the highlights of volunteering at the clinic are the delicious meals that are lovingly prepared and presented to them so they won't go hungry during their “shift” at the clinic. Many of the clinic volunteers arrive in Pittsburg after a long day at their “real job”, and are so grateful for the meal that is offered.

The clinic needs your help! Can your Conference sign up to provide one or two meals this year? Please contact Steve Krank, [s.krank@svdp-cc.org](mailto:s.krank@svdp-cc.org) to learn how.

**What:** SVdP Conferences provide meals for 20 clinic volunteers

**When:** Deliver at 5 pm on the fourth WEDNESDAY of each month

**Where:** Deliver to the SVdP Family Resource Center, 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, CA 94565

**How:** Contact Steve Krank, [s.krank@svdp-cc.org](mailto:s.krank@svdp-cc.org) to reserve your date!

There are a couple of ways to participate.

1. Make it a Pot-Luck Event! Have your Conference members each make a dish, then bring them to Pittsburg with utensils on the day you selected.
2. Have your Vincentians buy a dinner meal for 20 people and deliver to Pittsburg to see what your Clinic does in real-time.
3. Don't Cook? Sponsor a meal by providing the date & funding \$ 8.00 to \$10.00 per person, (\$150.00 to \$200.00 to feed all clinic volunteers for one night).

The best part of our Free Medical Clinic is the care our volunteers provide to our neighbors in need. On the attached spreadsheet, please pick a date for your Conference to provide meals for the volunteers and email to [s.krank@svdp-cc.org](mailto:s.krank@svdp-cc.org). I will confirm the dates and return them to you.

*Save the Date*  
**THE BIG  
LA BOCCCE 2021**

**September 11, 2021  
10:30am - 2:00pm**

**100 Joe DiMaggio Drive,  
Martinez CA**

Benefiting both  
**Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa and St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County**



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

The "Big La Bocce" Bocce Ball Tournament is back!

On September 11, 2021, you can once again play Bocce Ball while supporting St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa!

Your support helps both organizations aid thousands of our neighbors in need in Contra Costa County.

**[Click here to register today!](#)**

## **Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Grants Are Open!**

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl Grant program has funds available for organizations, projects and churches in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties that are working to alleviate hunger and food insecurity through direct services and advocacy.

Proposals will be accepted for up to \$1,000, however the amounts of the grants are anticipated to be lower this year due to a smaller than usual Rice Bowl collection caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, September 15, 2021

**[Click Here if Your Conference Did Not  
Receive a 2020 Grant](#)**

**[Click Here if Your Conference  
Received a 2020 Grant](#)**

# Links

## First Tuesdays with Vincent

August 3rd, 2021 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87034403349?pwd=bjJjdHlMMSG44RFZ2L2s5bGtKNzZCdz09>

## 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=N3BxU0w4RjFiUnlQZ1BYWGVVcHIRUT09>

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>

## Hope Conference Documents:

### Applications in English and Spanish:

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/1.-SVdP-Hope-Application-PRINTABLE.pdf>

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/3.-SVdP-Hope-Application-SPANISH-PRINTABLE.pdf>

## Important Tenant-Landlord Information Documents:

<https://www.svdpc-cc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Tenant-Landlord-Information.pdf>

**SVDP Free Medical Clinic Conference Meal Support**  
**Preference A through C; (A) being 1st choice (B) being 2nd choice.. etc.**

	Date	Conference	Contact	Phone	Email
1	8/25/2021				
2	9/22/2021				
3	10/27/2021				
4	11/24/2021				
5	12/22/2021				
6	1/26/2022				
7	2/23/2022				
8	3/23/2022				
9	4/27/2022				
10	5/25/2022				
11	6/22/2022				
12	7/27/2022				
13	8/24/2022				
14	9/28/2022				