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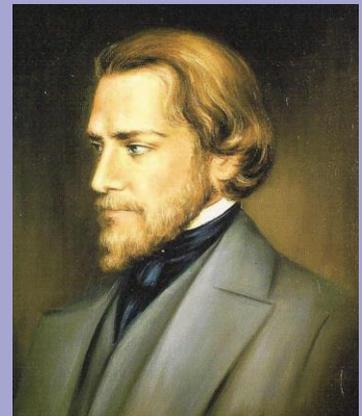
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## **Frederic's E-Gazette**

An e-newsletter from the National Council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul®

January 5, 2017



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#### **Disclaimer:**

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## From your Servant Leader:

### January 5, 2017

Many people view New Year's as a time of goal-setting and renewal of promises from weight loss to church attendance to other personal and professional objectives. Within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, however, we are already in our fourth month of the year! So how are we doing on our goals?

In your Conference and Council, have you held those leadership elections that were due months ago? I know that some may have been delayed, but it's not fair either to existing leaders or those called to serve to extend the terms of office. Call for the election, and people will be called to serve.



**David W. Barringer, CEO**

How are we doing with systemic change? In some Councils this has caught fire, with Bridges Out of Poverty classes, programs on financial literacy and alternatives to predatory lending taking off. Others are building mentoring systems that integrate with our traditional home visits.

[Read more](#)

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dave

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## SVdP Television Special Available Online! Download a Copy from Vimeo

The SVdP television special "Our Faith in Action" Today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul" is now available online for all Councils and Conferences to use to help tell our story.

The half-hour program shows Society of St. Vincent de Paul members on their spiritual growth journey through service to people in need. This special shows Vincentians on a home visit with a family in need, helping the homeless in a downtown shelter and working with returning citizens through prison ministry. This program provides an excellent overview of who we are and what we do.

**The episode is available 24/7 at the locations below.**

**Click here to watch the video from Vimeo:** <https://vimeo.com/195329687>

**-You can download a copy of the program directly from Vimeo.**

**Click here to watch on YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPWp8Hvloss>

If you have any questions, please contact:

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# QUESTIONS And Answers

**Q: Are two members of the same family (such as husband and wife) allowed to serve as officers in a Conference?**

A: In the Rule, Part III, Statute 12, the last sentence reads: "To safeguard the good reputation of the Conference or Council, and therefore that of the Society itself, appointees should not be relatives of the person empowered to make the appointments."

**Q: Does a family receiving long-term assistance from a Conference have to report it as income on their taxes?**

A: No. SVdP does not provide IRS forms to those whom we serve for tax reporting purpose, so there is no income filing required.

[Click here to download this week's Spanish version of the Q&A](#)

[Click here to download this week's Q&A](#)

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Submit your questions to:  
Pam Hudson  
National Director of Governance & Membership Services  
[phudson@svdpusa.org](mailto:phudson@svdpusa.org)

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## Vincentian Formation

**"I was a stranger and you welcomed me ..."**

**A Global Initiative of the Vincentian Family to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism in 2017**

In 2017 we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism. It was in 1617, while preaching in the parish church of Chatillon, that Vincent exhorted his congregation to take responsibility for a poor family from the parish that had taken seriously ill and were in need of food and comfort. The family was saved by the overwhelming response to this call to action and Vincent as a result had his great realization that for charity to be effective it must be properly organized - an event which has changed the world for the last 400 years.

[Click here to read more about the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism.](#)

**For further information contact:**

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[kkneaves@svdpusa.org](mailto:kkneaves@svdpusa.org)

**National Formation Director**

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## Christmas: 'It Is Personal'



**\*As we welcome the New Year, please take a moment to read Cardinal Dolan's, Archbishop of New York, story of one Christmas from his childhood where he learned the true meaning of charity and compassion and learned of the good that the Society of St. Vincent can do for families both during the holidays and throughout the year.**

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I guess I was ten years old, Christmas Eve, 1960. Dad asked me to go with him to deliver some Christmas gifts. At the time, I did not realize that he was on a "St. Vincent de Paul Society" call, since members did not talk about the nature of their work, but when we went up the hill to an area of town we all knew was "rough," "scary," with quite a few poor families there, I knew right away this was hardly a visit to one of my aunts.

We went into the shack carrying boxes of food, clothing, and wrapped gifts. About four kids, all under six or so, hurried around us, happy at the delivery. The mom, obviously pregnant, seemed delighted. Only the dad, who had come in from the backyard carrying firewood, seemed somewhat confused, embarrassed, and nervous.

At the time, I couldn't figure out why the father of that poor family seemed unhappy to see my dad and me. Now I sure know why! The father of that needy family did not want to "accept charity," and was self-conscious that his wife and children might conclude that their husband and dad was unable to "provide" for them.

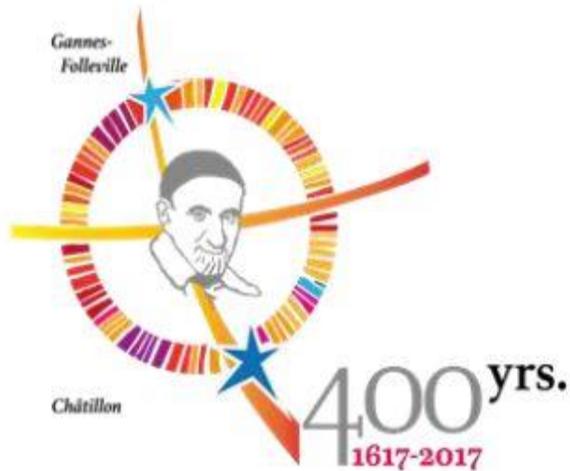
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**NORTH AMERICAN  
VINCENTIAN FAMILY GATHERING**

**PLAN TO ATTEND!**

**WELCOMING THE STRANGER**



**WHEN**

**June 9-11, 2017**

**WHERE**

**Doubletree by Hilton  
San Antonio Airport, TX**

**REGISTRATION FLYER COMES  
IN JANUARY!**

12.2.16

**COST**

**Registration Fee  
\$220:  
Includes 5 meals  
and materials**

**Hotel**

**Vin Fam Rate \$127  
per night  
for 1 - 4 persons.**

**New Participants  
Orientation -  
June 9 at 2:30 pm CST**

**Conference Begins  
June 9 at 4pm CST**

**Ends June 11 at 11:30 am**

National Council of the United States-Society of Saint Vincent de Paul,  
58 Progress Parkway, Maryland Heights, MO 63043-3706