

**NEW HORIZONS
OF HOPE & SERVICE**
Houston • August 25-28, 2021



**2021 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSTON, TEXAS
AUGUST 25 – AUGUST 28
MEETING AGENDA**

Pre-Meeting Tuesday, August 24

- 4:00pm – 6:00pm Special Exhibitor Trade Show Preview for Thrift Stores
5:00pm – 6:30pm Disaster Board Meeting
6:00pm – 7:30pm Stores Committee Meeting

Pre-Meeting Wednesday, August 25

- 8:00am – 9:00am Morning Mass
9:00am – 9:30am AM Hospitality Break
9:30am – 3:45pm **National Stores Meeting & Exhibitor Showcase** *“In It To Win It!” – John Walters & Jeff Beamguard*
National Stores Story with Q&A. Exhibitor Showcase to help Stores be successful.
National Disaster Preparedness Workshop – *Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, Kevin Peach, & Anthony Pluchino*
Disaster Preparation and Response for Councils and Conferences.
12:00pm – 1:00pm Exhibitor Showcase Lunch – *Bento Boxes*
1:00pm – 5:00pm Executive Directors Meeting
1:10pm – 4:10pm *Houston Astros vs. Kansas City Royals*
2:00pm – 3:45pm Governance Committee Meeting
4:00pm – 6:00pm National Council Board of Directors Meeting
6:00pm – 7:00pm *Welcome Reception – Stations; pre-purchase Drink Tickets*
7:00pm – 9:00pm Attendees Dinner – on your own

Thursday, August 26

- 8:00am – 8:30am Morning Prayer & Rosary
8:30am – 9:30am Daily Mass
9:30am – 10:00am AM Hospitality Break

10:00am – 11:00am **WORKSHOP BLOCK #1**

1. Resolving Conflicts in Conferences and Councils: Skills & Strategies – Ray Sickinger and Members of the Leadership Task Force

Although the Society of St. Vincent de Paul encourages friendship as one of its essential elements, nevertheless conflicts can and do arise from time to time in our Conferences and Councils. This workshop will provide insights on how to deal with such conflicts, strategies for negotiating resolution, and skills necessary for success. It will also present a specific process to follow to resolve any conflicts that arise and suggestions on how to prevent conflicts from happening in the first place.

2. What is Vincentian Formation? – Marge McGinley & Pura Santangelo

Formation...you keep using that word. But does it mean what you think it means? Take a deep dive into the Society's Foundation Document on Vincentian Formation. Join us to learn how we grow together in four dimensions of formation on our path together towards holiness. It's the most important thing we do! *(Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available)*

3. How to Get A Systemic Change Grant in 7 (not so) Easy Steps- Linda Strasburg & Jack Murphy

Two of the evaluators for the last Systemic Change Grant cycle will review the criteria for an ideal program and answer questions from the participants.

4. How to Market and Ask for Planned Gifts – Ryan Carney & Dennis Kempf

The largest transfer of wealth in history has begun, but many organizations feel they don't have the time, money, or expertise to ask for planned gifts. In this workshop we will share simple steps you can take to invite your donors to give transformational gifts and leave a legacy of charity.

10:00am – 12:00pm **National Committee Meetings**

11:15am – 12:15pm **WORKSHOP BLOCK #2**

1. All About Jobs - Steve Havemann & Jack Murphy

Practical tips from two Vincentians leading SVDP workforce efforts. This will not be a "how to start a program" session. We'll be talking about lessons learned.

2. The DOs and DON'Ts of Collaborations: Shirley Smalley & Mike Syslo

In this workshop, Vincentians who have experience with collaborative activity will present the considerations for Vincentians who are interested in developing collaborative relationships with other organizations. Presented will be criteria to watch for, both PROs and CONs, Dos and DON'Ts. There will be time for Q&A after the topic is presented. *(Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available)*

11:15am – 12:15pm **WORKSHOP BLOCK #2 (CONT.)**

3. Ozanam and the Apostolate of the Laity – Ray Sickinger & Tim Williams

Long before Pope Saint Paul VI issued the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, Bl. Frederic Ozanam discerned his own call to vocation as a layman. He even went so far as to say that “to be a martyr is possible for every Christian.” In our own Vincentian vocation, Frederic is our primary role model. Join us to learn more about how we can better fulfill our call to holiness from the words and example of our founder!

4. CARS – National Vehicle Donation Program – Heidi Artiga

5. Introduction to Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World for community members and Getting Ahead While Getting Out for returning citizens - Phil DeVol, Aha! Process

The Getting Ahead workbooks are based on the premise that people in poverty are problem solvers who do not need to be told what to do. What they respond to is a learning process that allows them to explore the impact of poverty on them and their community. What they do need from the community is support in overcoming barriers that are beyond their immediate control.

12:15pm – 1:30pm Lunch

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Presidential Welcome – Ralph Middlecamp & Keynote Presentation: “Building on Strong Foundations: How Biblical and Vincentian Traditions Inspire Future Work”– Jaime Waters, Ph.D.

This presentation will explore Scriptures and Vincentian history to reflect on the principles of hope and service that are at the center of this year's National Assembly. In light of the complex challenges of the past year, this will offer insights for responding to and persevering through difficult circumstances, revealing ways that tradition can inspire and inform future work. *(Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available)*

3:30pm – 4:00pm

PM Hospitality Break

4:00pm – 5:00pm

WORKSHOP BLOCK #3

1. Growth & Revitalization: Encouraging Change in Conferences, “Stuck in Their Ways” – Jeanne Harper
(Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available)

This Vincentian panel of Growth & Revitalization Regional Reps will share stories, examples, handouts, prayers, etc. as they discuss various ways of encouraging change in Conferences that are “stuck”. “Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change.” Attendees will also learn how to find new leaders and plan for succession in order to keep their conferences full of vitality, holiness and growth. Remembering, “When in doubt, choose change. we cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what we can say is they **must change** if they are to **get better**.”

4:00pm – 5:00pm **WORKSHOP BLOCK #3 (CONT.)**

2. Formation Planning for Conferences & Councils – Tim Williams

Retreats, reflections, and training, oh my! You need a Formation Plan for your Conference or Council, but where to start? Learn how and when to use the many resources available, and how to put them together into a *simple* plan. You will also be introduced to a new planning tool for Conferences and Councils!

3. Amplifying Unheard Voices - Bertha De Alegria, Pam Matambanadzo, & Deb Zabloudil

This panel of experienced Vincentians will discuss how they solicit voices from the unheard in their communities and how it forms their work.

(Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available)

4. Housing Task Force – Joe Sabatino

Our emphasis will be on latest Housing initiatives with a special emphasis on Cares both Fed. & State housing programs. This will be a big aid to our fellow Vincentians to assist them in providing hands on help in completing necessary paperwork to receive Cares funding. Additionally, we would like to share 2019-20 existing housing programs that are operated by various Councils across the country, and look for Councils who may want to participate in best practices poster sessions.

5. Stores – Store Leases/Building Plans – John Walters/Jeff Beamguard

6:30pm – 9:00pm Host City Night

Friday, August 27

7:00am – 7:30am Morning Prayer & Rosary

7:30am – 8:30am Vincentian Group Breakfast

9:00am – 10:30am Spiritual Retreat “Called to Communion: Embracing Our Vincentian Vocation as a Sacred Calling” – *Bishop Donald J. Hying*

11:00am – 12:30pm Daily Mass & Recommitment – *Bishop Donald J. Hying*

12:30pm – 1:30pm Vincentian Group Lunch

1:30pm – 2:30pm **WORKSHOP BLOCK #4**

New NCM/Proxy Orientation (*New NCM's & Proxies Only*)

Best Practices Poster Session

OFIA – Producers will preview this special episode of Our Faith in Action, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, airing on EWTN this summer.

Youth/Young Adults Workshop: “Virgin Mary Hope of the Youth” – *Gabriel Castillo*

2:30pm – 3:00pm PM Hospitality Break

3:00pm – 4:00pm	General Session – Strategic Planning <i>(Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available)</i> Youth/Young Adult Workshop Activity
4:30pm – 6:30pm	Regional Meetings
6:30pm – 8:30pm	Dinner on your own (Regional Dinner Option)
8:00pm – 9:00pm	International Video Call (Youth/Young Adult)

Saturday, August 28

7:00am – 7:30am	Morning Prayer & Rosary
7:30am – 8:30am	AM Hospitality Break
8:30am - 9:30am	General Session Presentation – Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, CM <i>(Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available)</i>
9:00am – 4:00pm	Youth Activity (Off-Site)
10:00am – 1:00pm	National Council Business Meeting
10:00am – 11:00am	WORKSHOP BLOCK #5 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Social Teaching, Advocacy, & Returning Citizens- <i>Anthony Bosnick, Marian Lamoureux, & Heather Fullerton</i> Learn about the principals of Catholic Social Teaching and explore how these important themes provide the foundation to SVDP advocacy particularly in helping returning citizens get back on their feet. Predatory Lending: “Starting and Maintaining a Microloan/Mini-Loan Program – <i>Judith Coleman & Deb Zabloudil</i> Formation: Planning Spiritual Retreats – Terri Zenobio I know our Conference or Council should be gathering regularly to pray and reflect together on spiritual retreats, but I just don’t know where to begin. How do I choose a topic? What resources do I need? Who should be part of the planning? Get these answers and more in this workshop! <i>(Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available)</i> Stewardship & Membership Retention – Ryan Carney & Dennis Kempf Learn how to efficiently generate revenue and improve on the resources you already have. Determining the current status of your donor retention. What donors want and what keeps them coming back. Mapping out a timeline for donor engagement.
11:30am – 12:30pm	WORKSHOP BLOCK #6 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discernment & Consensus – Marge McGinley Our Rule teaches that in our Conferences, “<i>All decisions are made by consensus after the necessary prayer, reflection and consultation.</i>” Vincentians can be awfully independent thinkers, so how do we manage to come together on everything? Consensus is not just a practical goal, but a spiritual one. It begins with discernment, and it begins with you!

11:30am – 12:30pm **WORKSHOP BLOCK #6 (CONT.)**

2. Hoarding and Other Vincentian Malpractices – Shirley Smalley & Mike Syslo

This workshop is going to focus on two or three topics for discussion. Beginning with a discussion of **Hoarding**, there will be a formal description of what hoarding means in a SVdP environment and then Q&A regarding this topic. Following that, there will be a discussion of **Donations to Outside Organizations**, what this means and then Q&A regarding this topic. If time permits, we will present the topic of **Frequency of Conference Meetings** and address Q&A. If time permits, we will open the discussion to any Q&A.

3. Telling a Great Story to Attract New Members & Donors – Ryan Carney & Jill Pioter

Learn how to use the art of storytelling to raise more money and members for your conference and become a source of hope and inspiration in your parish.

4. Discovering and Nurturing our value as future Servant Leaders – Multicultural/Diversity Team

As we strive to grow both conferences and members are we nourishing and nurturing the leaders we need. *(This program will be in Spanish)*

1:00pm – 2:00pm Vincentian Group Lunch

2:30pm – 3:30pm **WORKSHOP BLOCK #7**

1. Unite in head and heart: A Conversation on Diversity and Difference - Fr. Clarence Williams

How do differences and diversity – among our members and among the neighbors we serve - impact our lives and the life of the Society? Explore and discuss issues such as race, class, and gender, learning from your experiences and the experiences of others in a conversation led by Fr. Clarence Williams. *(Simultaneous Spanish Translation Available)*

2. The Role of Language & Culture in How We See the Vulnerable Among Us – Sr. Norma Pimentel

Presenting the plight of the refugees, how Vincentians can assist, and our hope that using Catholic Social Teaching can teach us to view the needs of others through the love of Christ.

3. Neighbor Management & Financial Report – Mark & Cathy Stine, ServWare

Many SVdP Conferences are still using paper, Excel spreadsheets, or homegrown applications to manage Neighbor information and communicate assistance requests details. Learn how ServWare can streamline the day-to-day Neighbor management, assistance, and reporting needs for a Conference in a secure, easy to use application, and how Conference Presidents and treasurers can easily track Conference assistance and finances, and generate reports.

Rosary

Vigil Mass

Cocktail Reception (*sponsored by the National Foundation Board*)
– *pre-purchased drink tickets?*

Closing Banquet – *Cash Bars Only*

Sunday, August 29

7:00am Breakfast on Your Own