



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL®, INC.

2025 NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING SPEAKER BIOS

MICHAEL ACALDO

**CEO, NATIONAL COUNCIL SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



Michael Acaldo began his role October 1, 2024, as National Chief Executive Officer of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA. He supports more than 90,000 Vincentian members in 4,000+ parish-based Conferences across the country, helping them to grow spiritually, serve the poor, and help people out of poverty. A native of Baton Rouge, Michael received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and his Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University.

He has been a member of the Vincentian Family since 1990 when he began serving as the CEO of the SVdP Diocesan Council of Baton Rouge. In his tenure in Baton Rouge, Michael led the St. Vincent de Paul Council to incredible growth. In 1991, he oversaw the founding of the Bishop Ott Shelter Program, which has since grown to five emergency shelters serving men, women, children, and families, and which provided more than 31,000 guest nights of shelter in 2023. In 1995, he helped establish the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy, the first SVdP Charitable Pharmacy in the nation. The Baton Rouge St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room served over 300,000 meals to neighbors in need in 2023. And if that weren't enough, he's also the creator, host, and executive producer of the SVdP Beacons of Light television show, which has been on the air since 2006.

Michael and Paula, his wife of 32 years, are the proud parents of adult twin daughters, and grandparents to their first granddaughter.

SUSAN WILAND

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH CENTRAL REGION



As the Society's national vice president for the North Central Region, Susan combines her professional skills with her Vincentian vocation in guiding the region, and its more than 500 Conferences, in areas of governance, accountability and best practices. In the second year of her six-year commitment in this role, she works diligently to support Vincentians across the six states of the region as well as lend her expertise and insights to the National Council.

During her 14-year journey as a Vincentian, Susan's leadership resume includes Conference and Diocesan Council president, the region's Growth & Revitalization lead and member of the Disaster Service Operations Committee. Susan retired after 36 years as an executive with Motorola, where she led customer advocacy for the company's strategic accounts. As director of Asia Pacific Operations, she led diverse teams in China, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and India supporting forecast and demand planning, contract management and distribution.

Susan graduated from Roosevelt University with a BS in Business Administration and Marketing



JULIE BENNETT

CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MADISON

After more than 20 years working in non-profits and a graduate degree in Servant Leadership, Julie took the helm of the Madison, WI, Council and its 19 Conferences in 2022. In her role as CEO and executive director, she leads one of the most robust Councils in the NCR; operating the only freestanding charitable pharmacy in Wisconsin and one of the largest food pantries in Dane County, home to nearly 600,000. The Council's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Program supports families headed by single parents and SVdP volunteer case managers work with its microlending program to help neighbors avoid or repay predatory debt. St. Vincent de Paul - Madison is home to seven thrift stores and a central processing center that funds its person-to-person care to neighbors in need.

Julie holds a graduate degree in Servant Leadership from Viterbo University and a BA in Business Administration from UW-Madison. Outside of work, she is busy with family and friends, traveling, hiking, cooking and reading among a list of other activities.



MONSIGNOR MICHAEL BOLAND

EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT, CATHOLIC CHARITIES, USA

Monsignor Boland's illustrious career is based on love of Christ and love for the poor. Since 1997, he's been at the forefront in leading Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. For nearly 24 years he served *concurrently* as the organization's President & CEO, chairman of its Housing Development Board and director of Archdiocesan Human Services, where he oversaw the affairs of Catholic Charities, schools and healthcare facilities across the Archdiocese.

Well-known to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Monsignor served as the Archdiocesan spiritual advisor for 30 years and the North Central Region's spiritual advisor for nine. He has been a member of the Spirituality Committee for St. Vincent de Paul USA.

Today Msgr. Boland serves as an executive consultant to Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, VA, working with its presidents and Diocesan directors across the country and five territories. Last year, Catholic Charities agencies nationwide served more than 15 million of our at-risk neighbors.



CONNOR FLANAGAN

EVANGELIST, MOTIVATIONAL SINGER/SONGWRITER, YOUTH SPEAKER

Connor Flanagan is a professional pop and hip-hop artist passionate about encouraging others to step into God's dream for their lives. In a world where people are crippled by fear, scared of the unknown, and longing for purpose, his career serves as a witness of what can happen when you don't settle for what the world offers, and instead allow God to breathe life into your gifts. A founding member of Dayton Avenue Music Group, Connor launched his first music festival

in the Twin Cities in 2024 with headliner Grammy-nominated artist Britt Nicole. Look for his music on all streaming sites; his next album is set to release late 2025.

Prior to becoming a full-time musician and Catholic speaker, Connor served more than four years as director of marketing & creative at Saint Paul's Outreach and for five years as the director of Youth Ministry at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Wayzata, MN.

Connor holds a BA in Marketing from Franciscan University of Steubenville.



MARY BETH FULLER

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR, CATHOLIC CHARITIES

As the Mental Health Ministry Coordinator for Catholic Charities in the Rockford Diocese, Mary introduces, educates and sustains mental health ministries across 104 parishes. She serves as a prayerful companion for parishioners facing life's challenges, affirming their dignity and value by allowing their stories to unfold at their own pace in a welcoming, confidential and safe environment.

Offering spiritual companionship through prayer and respect for each individual, Mary provides guidance on treatment processes and refers parishes to professional mental health resources. She and her team encourage a true human connection through Christian love and the mutual journey toward a fuller Catholic faith life.

Mary's work with Catholic Charities aligns well with her work as a Vincentian, where home visits touch many who are suffering, often in silence. She believes strongly that education, conversation and faith can break stigmas and put those in pain on the path to mental well-being.



DAVID & JEANNE HARPER

This dynamic duo hail from Marinette, WI, and are 25-year veterans of home visits with the St. Joseph Conference, Council of Marinette.

A retired psychotherapist, Jeanne is national chair of Getting Ahead – Shared Interest Group and a member of the Poverty Action Committee and NCR spiritual advisor. She is past region vice president and member of the National Board of Directors, the

National Youth Committee and chair of the National Membership - Extension committee.

After 32 years of employment with Marinette County Health and Human Services, David is quite familiar with the impact of poverty on families. His service to SVdP began in 2000 as both president and spiritual advisor of St. Joseph Conference. David is also past-president and spiritual advisor of the Marinette District Council. He returned to lead his Conference in October 2024.

Jeanne and David lend their expertise to larger audiences leading spiritual education sessions and retreats.

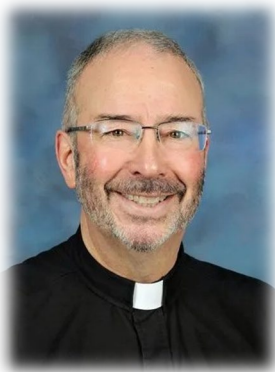


PAUL IHLENFELDT

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

Paul joined SVdP as a volunteer board member and business operations consultant in 2019 and was promoted to full-time director of operations three years later. His role includes collaborating with business and store teams to identify obstacles and create solutions that improve efficiencies, productivity and profitability. With strong leadership abilities, he enjoys mentoring and developing store management skills with the goal of creating and sustaining a progressive and vibrant store culture.

His work developing and managing operations across three Green Bay thrift stores and resource center draws on the expertise he gained during his 35 years at Shopko corporate headquarters in Green Bay. There he served as merchandise process and segmentation analyst, operations planner, director of space management and multiple stores' manager. Paul holds a BA in Marketing from the University of St. Thomas (MN), and for 25 years has been an NFL TV Timeout Field Manager for Green Bay Packer's home games.



REV. MARK INNOCENTI

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ordained in 1999, Father Mark has served parishes in the St. Cloud Diocese (MN) for more than 25 years. His current assignment at St. Andrew's in Elk River, launched its St. Vincent de Paul Conference in 2023.

Nearly seven years ago, Fr. Mark called on a neighboring SVdP Conference at St. Michael Catholic Church to request Vincentians from that Conference visit a family who had just joined his parish and were in need. Upon seeing the spiritual and tangible assistance provided, the seed was planted and he began work to foster a Conference at his own parish. Today he credits his St. Andrew SVdP Conference as an indispensable partner, lightening the load of his own parish staff and uniquely serving the needs of his parish and greater community. As the first SVdP Conference in the St. Cloud Diocese, Fr. Mark is thrilled at what St. Andrew's has accomplished to help those in need and is eager to see it grow.



EDWARD KOERNER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TWIN CITIES

Ed Koerner joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as a volunteer in 1994 at his home parish of The Church of the Assumption in Richfield, MN. Graduating from the College of St. Thomas with a degree in business administration, he spent the next 25 years in the paint and industrial coatings business. After serving two terms as president of the conference, then Council President Daryl Bach talked him into applying for the Executive Director position which had become available. He accepted the role of Executive Director for the Archdiocesan Council of St. Paul and Minneapolis in October of 2001. Now in 2024 he is the Executive

Director Emeritus of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Twin Cities and has handed the reins to his successor Wayne Bugg. His areas of expertise included creating partnerships with other non-profits, helping those who need it, and developing conferences. He has started over 20 new conferences in Minnesota and Wisconsin, many in areas where the Society had no presence whatsoever. He and his wife Mary reside in Bloomington, MN and their three boys... Ean, Griffin and Will who live in St. Paul, Chicago, and Denver. Upon his retirement in June of 2025, he plans to spend more time with his grandchildren Easton and Lucy. He also looks forward to seeing more of this great country and the world.



HOLLY MAES

PRESIDENT, ST. AGNES CONFERENCE

After more than 30 years caring for our littlest neighbors, Holly retired as a pediatrician in 2020 and began looking for a new vocation: She found it tagging along on an SVdP Home Visit where she "was hooked!" Today she is *all-in*, serving as St. Agnes Conference president, Green Bay District Council secretary and sits on the Green Bay District Advisory Board.

Holly notes a lot of blessings are coming through the stores. As a result of process changes, including the hire of a new operations manager and opening a new location, the Council increased its ability to help neighbors in need by 50% in the last two years.

When Holly arrived at one of her first Conference meetings, she found stairs but no elevator, making the meeting inaccessible to her. With tenacity and help from others, *disability* was added to race, gender, creed and other facets that lead to discrimination, and a sub-committee was added to the National Committee on Equity and Inclusion. For six months she has served as the committee's disability co-chair.



CHRISTINE MCCARTHY

PRESIDENT, LIGHTHOUSE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WISCONSIN

One of the founding members of St. Francis Xavier Conference in Merrill, WI, Christine has served as a Vincentian for 22 years. During her time there she worked as Conference secretary, Superior Diocese District Council VP and in 2018, District Council president. In 2019 she and her husband Denis moved to Sturgeon Bay, and later formed, and continue to serve the St. Joseph Parish Conference.

Christine sat on the Green Bay District Council board of directors until she was elected Council president in 2022. Today, Christine manages the new Lighthouse District Council of Wisconsin located in Sturgeon Bay. She is also the representative for Growth and Revitalization in the North Central Conference and national chair of the SVdP Subcommittee on Membership.



CATHY MIDDLECAMP, PH.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITA, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Having taught at the university level for more than 40 years, Cathy has expertise in both chemistry and environmental science. Her scholarship lies at the intersection of science, people and the planet. For her teaching and work bringing science to the general public, she has received awards at the campus, state and national levels. Her presentation on environmental justice and sustainability includes questions that we as Christians may not think to ask.

Cathy has both a long- and short-term affiliation with the Society. Although for decades her husband held many different roles in the Society, she only recently joined Madison's Voice of the Poor Committee that focuses on issues critical to those living in poverty. This advocacy group works to bring attention to concerns such as human trafficking, immigration and climate change, so communities and elected officials can better understand and address them.



RALPH MIDDLECAMP

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, SSVP GENERAL INTERNATIONAL

When Ralph Middlecamp began his career as a store manager in Madison in 1987, he couldn't have envisioned that his leadership and communication skills, combined with a deep faith and responsibility to serve the poor, would lead him to the highest positions in the Society. After 18 years as CEO & executive director of the District Council of Madison, Ralph was elected National Council president in 2017, a post he held for six years.

During that time, he navigated many roles including membership on the board of directors of the SVdP Disaster Services Corporation and the Foundation of the National Council. He received an invitation to serve on SVdP's International board of directors as the VP for Solidarity and Special Projects, and to sit on the International Executive Committee. A tribute video presented upon Ralph's departure as National Council president features his closest colleagues from Madison to St. Louis to Paris. In their own words, they spoke his bio. "Ralph is organized, meticulous and focused on the mission. He is determined, thoughtful, wise, inclusive, visionary, enthusiastic and the epitome of what being a Vincentian should be.

"He's given us a foundation to stand on, is a virtual encyclopedia of the history of the Society, a humble, loving servant leader who is faithful, consistent and someone you want to do a good job for and ... very much a store-guy." In 2023 Ralph was named vice president of the International Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul where his "international approach" is being well-received.



MICHAEL OROSZ-FAGAN

MADISON SVdP YOUTH SERVICE COUNCIL ALUMNI LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Orosz-Fagan, a recent graduate of St. Louis University, is co-founder of the mobile app Mesh, designed to help small groups of people meet each other in a friendly environment over coffee. Michael began his involvement with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as a high school junior when he joined the Society's Madison Youth Service Council (YSC) and became co-president his senior year. An experienced videographer, Michael helped the YSC create its own recruitment video and a promotional video for SVdP Madison's thrift

stores. With a degree in Entrepreneurship and a minor in Catholic Studies, Michael currently serves as leader of Youth Service Council Alumni efforts, keeping alumni of the Youth Service Council connected to each other, the Society and God. Naturally curious, Michael's other interests include music, soccer and good conversation.



AMY OVERBY

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MADISON

Amy joined SVdP-Madison in 2022 with a proven background in nonprofit management and philanthropy. Her strong record of successful leadership and financial acumen serves the Council well as she supports the inclusive, enriching and healthy culture within, and outside the organization. In addition to managing fundraising and communications, Amy supports her expert colleagues in retail operations, housing, accounting, human services and volunteer management. As she supports and collaborates with the CEO/executive director, she works to

promote the Society through comprehensive community relations activities.

Prior to joining St. Vincent de Paul, Amy worked as director of Advancement & Grants for the Society for Public Health Education and for more than 20 years, served the Madison Community Foundation where she focused donor development, grantmaking and evaluation. As its VP of Donor Engagement, Amy led philanthropic activities, including counseling, planning and building relationships with prospects interested in contributing to the foundation. Amy holds a Master's degree in Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.



ARCHBISHOP MARIANO JOSE PARRA SANDOVAL

Bishop Mariano José Parra Sandoval was born in Maracaibo, Zulia on April 25, 1947. He graduated in Theology from the Seminary of San Bernardo and University College of the Diocese of Rochester, New York. He was ordained a Priest in Maracaibo on August 14, 1971 for the Diocese of Cumana. He was President of the Organization of Seminaries of Venezuela (1979-1981) and of the Venezuelan Association for Catholic Education (AVEC) (1981-1985-1986-1991).

He was conferred the title of Chaplain to His Holiness on January 15, 1985.

He is Director of the Department for Vocations and Ministries. He is also Undersecretary General of the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference. His Holiness John Paul II appointed him Bishop of the Diocese of San Fernando de Apure on July 12, 1994. He is Secretary General of the Plenary Council of Venezuela. On July 10, 2001, he was appointed Bishop of Ciudad Guayana.

In the presence of the highest regional authorities—the President of CVG, the governor, and the mayor—who offered their support for the Church's work, but especially in the company of the Catholic people who filled the San Buenaventura Church in El Roble, Monsignor Mariano Parra reaffirmed that, in addition to his willingness to become "one more Guyanese," his fundamental commitment is to accompany the people, the humble, in their faith and in their struggles. "To try to be with my people and my people, serving in any way I can."



ZOIE ROGHAI

YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS & EMERGING LEADERS

Zoie Roghair grew up with St. Vincent de Paul – Sioux Falls. Since age five she has embodied the values of the Society that help to lift our neighbors out of poverty. Zoie is an active member of the St. Michael Conference in Sioux Falls.

Known for her warm smile and peaceful spirit, this 18-year-old's Vincentian's zeal for service is extraordinary: She participates in Conference meetings, organizes events, coordinates presentations, and joins in Home Visits. Zoie understands the magnitude of these encounters in helping neighbors in need. Her communication skills shine across social media promoting the Sioux Falls Council and its stores. As a member of the Society's YYAEL team, her commitment and Christ-filled approach to helping others won her the 2024 Young Vincentian Excellence Award.

Zoie will attend Bellevue University this fall and major in secondary education. She plans on bringing St. Vincent de Paul to her college campus and continue her involvement with the YYAEL team.



REVEREND GREG SCHAFER

PASTOR, JESUCRISTO-RESUCITADO PARISH

As the mission parish of the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis, Father Greg serves in one of the poorest countries in the world. After 28 years, he remains the parish's only clergy; ministering to 55,000 and performing all of the demands of a parish priest. In addition, he serves as Bishop Carlos Cabezas' right-hand man in the diocese.

Fr. Greg's relationship with St. Vincent de Paul-Twin Cities has remained strong for more than 25 years. In addition to financial contributions, the Council has shipped ocean-going containers of food, clothing and medical equipment, including hospital beds, an ultra-sound machine and medical instruments -- all vital for the sustained operation of the clinic, school and three soup kitchens run by the parish. Since 2015 more than 25% of Venezuelans have escaped the violence, hyperinflation, rampant corruption, and extreme poverty to seek a better life. This exodus has seen millions of elderly abandoned and without hope.



ZACK SCHMIDT

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FAITH ENGAGEMENT, BREAD FOR THE WORLD

An SVdP partner organization, Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy non-profit that urges US decision makers to pursue a world without hunger. Through nonpartisan political engagement, Bread for the World helps strengthen national nutrition programs and works to improve US international assistance, thus supporting the dramatic progress against hunger that many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America have achieved.

This progress shows that it is possible to end hunger in our lifetime, in the US and abroad. Since 1975, the policies and programs Bread fights for have impacted 320 million Americans and more than 7 billion people around the world.

A 16-year veteran in this calling, today Zack is an advocacy team leader traveling the country to help build and mobilize a national grassroots network of individuals and congregations to persuade Congress and other officials to understand hunger and resolve to end it.



REVEREND LARRY SNYDER

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

Father Snyder, a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, has served as the president of CCUSA since 2005. He was selected by the CCUSA Board of Trustees for the award, which is a rare honor presented to individuals whose extraordinary body of work personifies CCUSA's vision and mission of serving those in need. The award was presented by Sister Linda Yankoski, CSFN, chair of the Catholic Charities USA Board of Trustees.

During his tenure at CCUSA, Father Larry led the organization in shaping the national conversation on bringing systemic change to the way our nation addresses poverty. His leadership following both natural and man-made disasters helped create a network of first responders within the Catholic Charities network, ready to help communities in their time of greatest need. And his vision and guidance led to the creation of a ground-breaking alliance with the University of Notre Dame, which will harness the power of academic research and business best practices to develop the next generation of anti-poverty initiatives.



MARK & CATHY STINE

CO-FOUNDERS, SERVWARE

Mark Stine and his wife Cathy are Vincentians from the Dayton, OH area. Mark has more than 35 years of enterprise software design and development experience with a background in software architecture and standards. His corporate career was primarily in the healthcare industry but also included experience with financial, insurance and retail

companies. Cathy has more than 30 years of information technology experience, with a focus on product management and technical communications.

Mark and Cathy founded ServWare in 2013, with a passion to solve specific problems for a specific group of people – the Vincentians with whom they volunteered at their home parish. Since 2013, Mark, Cathy and the ServWare team have grown the company to serve more than 1300 Conferences across 37 states. Their passion for Saint Vincent de Paul continues to drive the future enhancement roadmap to impact Vincentians and the work that they do every day at the Conference, District and Council levels.



MICHAEL SYLVESTER

VOICE FOR THE POOR COMMITTEE

North Central Region Representative for Voice for the Poor. Michael has been a member of SVdP conferences at two separate parishes and is currently active in the SVdP Conference at St. Anthony Church in Frankfort, Illinois. Before moving back to Illinois from California two years ago, he was the co-leader of the San Pedro Region Chapter of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Los Angeles where he coordinated CRS' first ever Town Hall meeting with a U.S. Representative.

He is a lector at his parish, and in previous parishes has been involved in religious education, RCIA, and bible studies. In his secular life, he was an International Tax Services partner for the public accounting firm, PwC, and was the first Tax Director at SpaceX Corporation.



BROOKE TRICK

SR. DIRECTOR RETAIL OPERATIONS, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MADISON

Senior Director of Retail Operations, District Council of Madison, Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Brooke began working for Vincent de Paul in 2002, she managed three stores and then opened two more.

In 2019, Brooke was promoted to senior director of Retail Operations and today oversees more than 250 employees across seven thrift stores and a processing center that supports them. Her variety of responsibilities includes a keen eye on financial performance, personnel supervision, merchandising, promotion, facilities and equipment management and distribution to those in need. Her position also covers the implementation of policies established by the CEO and board of directors.

The revenue generated by the stores helps fund the St. Vincent de Paul Service Center and Charitable Pharmacy. In 2024, the Madison Council assisted 37,000 families by providing food, personal care items and household supplies, in addition to filling 7,600 prescriptions. The stores issued more than 4,800 clothing- and 2,700 furniture-vouchers.



GAYLE WESTFAUL

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MADISON

Supporting the District, its Conferences and members, Gayle coordinates district events and acts as a liaison between the Conferences and the larger structure of the Society. In addition, she serves as coordinator for Mission & Identity for the North Central Region. Gayle supports youth and young adult efforts in the Madison District Council, including hosting the first National Assembly that enjoyed significant youth presence, launching the Madison SVdP Youth Service Council and planning SVdP Madison service/social events attended by more than 50 young adults. Gayle's prior work included building relationships with youth in one

of Madison's more challenging neighborhoods and moonlighting on weekends as a liturgical musician at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish.

Gayle joined the Society in 2011 and continues to enjoy the privilege of growing in friendship with Vincentians across the country through memberships of the National Youth and Young Adult Committee, Ozanam Orientation Committee and the Governance Subcommittee for Promotion.



TIM WILLIAMS

SENIOR DIRECTOR, FORMATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In his leadership role, Tim works closely with national committees to develop spirituality and formation training, publications and resources on Vincentian heritage. He presents talks, retreats and workshops for Vincentian-family organizations and other Catholic groups. In addition to authoring daily prayers, weekly contemplations and Fred Talks, Tim is also Chancellor of the Ozanam Institute.

Before joining the National Council in 2020, Tim served as officers of his Conference, District and Diocesan Councils leading formation and training for the Society in North Texas. He also served as chairman of the board for a national veteran's organization and a member of the Charter School Review Committee for the Texas State Board of Education.

Tim holds a Bachelor's degree in history from Marquette University, an MA in Vincentian Studies from the College of Theology at the University of Deusto, and certificates in Catholic Theology and Sacred Scripture from the Augustine Institute.