



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

2025 MIDWEST 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.

CHUCK KORTE

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, MIDWEST REGION



An active member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul since 2000, Chuck Korte serves as National Vice President – Midwest Region.

Prior to joining the National Council's Board of Directors, Chuck served as Council President for the Des Moines District Council, and as Conference President of the Sacred Heart Parish. He is currently a member of the Des

Moines District Council Executive Board.

Chuck served as a physician for 34 years, including stints as Medical Consultant for the State of Iowa Department of Disability Service, and Residency Program Director for Mercy Family Medicine. In 2014, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians.

Chuck has been married for 45 years and is the proud father of two children and grandfather to two grandchildren.



RON SZEJNER

NASHVILLE DIOCESAN DISTRICT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ron is President of Nashville District SVDP Council. He received his BA from Providence College, JD from Georgetown University Law School, and MBA from the University of Chicago.

Ron is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran and has served as Senior Management of various financial institutions focusing on estate planning, investments and wealth management. Ron is a member of St. Henry in Nashville, the Diocese of Nashville. And served as Former Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving and Former Executive Director of Catholic Community Foundation.



FR. JOHN SIMS BAKER

PASTOR, HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Father Baker grew up in Ashland City and has degrees from the University of the South and Vanderbilt University. As a seminarian, he graduated from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

He was ordained by Bishop Edward Kmiec on March 25, 1994, and previously has served as associate pastor at Holy Rosary Church and St. Henry Church in Nashville, professor at Father Ryan High School, chaplain of the Vanderbilt University Campus Ministry, pastor of St. Patrick Church in McEwen and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Tennessee Ridge, St. Mary of the Seven Sorrows Church in downtown Nashville, and St. Rose of Lima Church in Murfreesboro. He also served on the staff at the Josephinum. You may remember Fr Baker as an associate pastor at Holy Rosary when he was first ordained and more recently he did our parish Lenten Mission in February.



JIM CONLEY

NATIONAL STORES SUPPORT MANAGER

Jim spent over 20 years with Home Depot holding multiple positions ranging from Assistant Manager to Store Manager. During my time in the St. Louis region, I was in 13 of the 26 stores making various impacts on sales, customer service scores and profit statements.

During my 3 years at Total Wine, I helped build a new store in O'Fallon Missouri from a white box and assisted with the hiring, training of all new associates. Was also involved in the development of associates throughout our region by hosting as well as conducting various training seminars covering merchandising, P&L statements, Business Acumen as well as various others.

I have been with SVDP USA for a year in a half and during that time oversaw the construction and set up of the new National Store in Fairview Heights, IL. Currently assisting with that store as well as beginning to complete assessments of the SVDP stores throughout the country.



FR. MICHAEL FYE

PASTOR, ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Michael Fye is the Pastor at St. Ann Catholic Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has a B.A., majoring in philosophy from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH. He has a S.T.B. in theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, Italy, and an S.T.L. in Moral Theology from the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Italy.

Fr. Michael Fye was ordained in 2014 and assigned to the Diocesan ministry to College Students in Nashville until 2019 and then became Pastor of St. Ann Church and School in 2019.



STEVE HAVEMANN

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
DES MOINES DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Steve Havemann is the Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul of Des Moines, and President of Ask, Listen, Hear training and development. Through this work, Steve aims to help others think, and act, more positively and productively. This work resulted in the publication of his first book, "*The Excellent Persuader*," and has been instrumental in the growth of St. Vincent de Paul in Des Moines. Steve has served as an officer for the Beaverdale

Neighborhood Association, the Young Non-Profit Network, the Harvest Academy, and is a graduate of Leadership Iowa.

With a background that includes working with individuals with barriers to success, Steve has worked to grow St. Vincent de Paul by over 600% in his first five years, raising over \$3,500,000 for the charity, while expanding their reach to a second human services campus. Additionally, SVdP Des Moines now serves more than 33,000 individuals and has locally developed the Immersion Prisoner-Reentry Program, and the Back2Work Workforce Development program, the first two nationally replicated programs for St. Vincent de Paul. Steve serves as co-chair of each of these programs on a national level and is integral in their growth and expansion.

A native of Des Moines, he graduated from Central College with a degree in Communications and Political Science and earned his MSED at Drake University. He loves spending time with his daughter, taking his daughter on adventures, golfing, tennis, writing, and landscaping. Steve believes that "Progress is not the advancement of technology, but rather the development and evolution of people."



BARB HOOPER

**DISASTER SERVICES &
YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS & EMERGING LEADERS**

Barbara Hooper is from McEwen, Tennessee where she has been involved with the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Patrick Church in McEwen since 2006, first taking over as president from 2014 and again from 2022 to present.

She has built up a legacy of service in that time, becoming founder and director of the St. Vincent de Paul Youth Society, the first of its kind in the Diocese of Nashville, in 2015. In the last 10 years, she's continuously engaged middle school students of the parish and its sister St. Patrick School in projects that promote the Vincentian qualities of service,

spirituality, and friendship. These have included regular trips to the Humphreys County Nursing Home in Waverly to visit the sick, annual Trunk or Treats events in October to bring the community together, and even a recent “One Night Without a Home” in an effort to learn what it feels like to be homeless. They have also learned what it means to serve leaders of the community, including Bishop J. Mark Spalding of Nashville, at multiple dinners where they prepared and served the meal.

Along with the youth society, Hooper was paramount in providing relief efforts to the Waverly community when devastating floods hit in August 2021, which displaced hundreds of families and killed 20. This included providing emergency assistance and helping more than 100 families get back into their homes through the House in a Box program, buying various supplies for construction work, or providing general support.

As a result, she, along with the late Eddie Bozman, were recognized with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's 2022 Disaster Services Corporation Emerging Leaders Award.

Hooper and her husband, Tommy, have been married for 53 years. Together, they share two sons, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



JOHN HOUGH

Vice President, District Council of Knoxville

John is a proud native of Biloxi, MS but has been in East Tennessee since December of 1987 when he graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in Computer Science.

His Professional Career began in 1988 as a Programmer/Analyst with Martin Marietta at Y-12. He left Lockheed Martin a few years later to begin a career as a Technical Instructor with Oracle Corporation Teaching Database Administration classes. At Oracle he eventually moved into a career as Sales Consultant supporting Sales Reps all over the United States, in Canada, India and Romania. John retired from Oracle in November of 2020.

John now focuses on supporting charities in East Tennessee. He is Currently President of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul at St Mary in Oak Ridge, Vice President of the District Council of Knoxville and Chairperson of the Ulster Project International committee in addition to serving as an active member of the Board of Directors for the Local Ulster Project. He is active at St. Mary Catholic Church serving as the head usher.

He and his wife of 30 years, Annette, live on 8 acres in Anderson County with three Kitty Cats. In his spare time John enjoys hiking (he has done the full Camino de Santiago French Way twice), traveling, genealogy research and all University of Tennessee sports.



SEAN MYERS

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBERSHIP & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Sean Myers serves as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's National Vice President of Membership and Leadership Development.

After graduating from Penn State, Sean sold CRM software and services to B2B companies in North America before striking out to form his own firm, Springhill Software. Since then, he has founded additional software firms and become a sought-after growth and exit investment banker who can identify key market opportunities and form teams that are ready for acceleration.

Sean first joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1998. Since then, he has served in every role a Conference has, including advocate, fundraiser, treasurer, and president. One of the founding members of the first SVdP Thrift Store in Dallas, Texas, he joined the Dallas Council Board in 2012 and served as a District President for four years.

Sean was elected President of the Dallas Diocesan Council in 2016, then re-elected in 2019. He currently serves as Vice President of the Thrift Store Board in Dallas and as President of the Dallas Council Charitable Pharmacy Board, which is the first and only Charitable Pharmacy in the state of Texas. Sean has been married to his wife Amy for 20 years. They have two daughters, Rowan and Reese.



KEVIN PEACH

COO, DISASTER SERVICES CORPORATION

Kevin Peach is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Disaster Services Corporation SVDP-USA, recognized for his ability to create public-private partnerships to drive cross-sector collaboration. He has served in various capacities to advise the United Nations (UN), the Executive Office of the President (White House), the National Security Council (NSC), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), and private industry. Kevin's background is in emergency management, leading programs that address preparedness, protection, security, response, recovery and mitigation. Having served in various capacities for various local, state, federal, and international agencies, Kevin possesses extensive and diverse professional experience managing multilateral disaster responses, government organizations, complex disaster projects and emergency management programs. He has experience managing emergency field response activities, and the formulation and development of policies addressing the mobilization of resources during emergencies, the preparation of emergency plans, and the coordination of emergency operations. He possesses comprehensive knowledge of the principles, practices and organizations that affect emergency management activities in the United States and internationally. Has a proven ability to exercise leadership and manage a diverse and complex organization to protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, terrorism, and other man-made disasters through a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, security, response, recovery, and mitigation.



Linda Roghair

National Vice President

Youth, Young Adults & Emerging Leaders

A Vincentian since 2012, Linda Roghair has been appointed as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA's National Vice President of Youth, Young Adults, and Emerging Leaders. Linda grew up in South Dakota and earned a B.S. in Physical Education Teacher Education, with minors in Public Recreation, Health, and Coaching from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. She lives a life of servant leadership, having taught in a variety of roles for several years before homeschooling her children. Linda was a PE teacher, preschool teacher, volleyball coach, an Academic Services EA at a Catholic Elementary School in her community, and has volunteer coached for Girls on the Run. Her organizational and communication skills also come in handy as she continues to help with leading and planning numerous community events.

Linda has held an assortment of roles in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, including Conference President, District Council Secretary, and District Council Vice President. She is currently the National Council Member and District Council President for Sioux Falls, SD, and is active in producing materials and training for SVdP's North Central Region. Linda also seeks out other local SVdP

Conferences during family travels and attends meetings with local Vincentians whenever possible. Leading spiritual formation, membership and leadership development, governance efforts, and promoting the District Council and SVdP Special Works with newsletters and media content, Linda has experience in many avenues within the Society. She is deeply committed to serving those in need, finding great fulfillment in conducting personal encounters and continually seeking ways to better support and assist those in need. Finding great interest and value in Poverty Education, she led the workshop “If Not Me, Then Who” by Donna Beegle for new Vincentians in her community.

Linda is also involved at her local Parish, where she administers Communion to the homebound and was a Religious Education teacher for several years. She also currently serves on the Service Committee and was also a part of the Social Concerns Committee and Parish Council. Married with two children (a daughter and son) and a beloved dog, Linda resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She enjoys Intelligentsia coffee, shades of green, the number 17, and volleyball. She may also be slightly competitive being the youngest of eight children.



Zoie Roghair

Youth, Young Adults & Emerging Leaders

Zoie Roghair grew up with St. Vincent de Paul – Sioux Falls. Since the tender age of five she has embodied the values and true essence of the Society in helping to lift our neighbors out of poverty. Zoie is an active member in the St. Michael Conference, Sioux Falls District Council.

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, helps organize events, coordinates informational presentations, and goes on personal encounters. Zoie understands the magnitude of personal encounters and understands how important these encounters are in aiding our brothers and sisters in need, seeing and being the Face of Christ.

Zoie's communication skills shine as a content creator; she promotes various materials, helping with Membership and Leadership development, Formation, and engagement for the Sioux Falls Council and special works. As a member of the Society's Youth, Young, and Adult Emerging Leaders team, her commitment and Christ-filled approach to helping others made her a standout nominee and winner of the 2024 Young Vincentian Excellence Award.

She will be attending Bellevue University this Fall while playing volleyball and majoring in Secondary Education, specializing in English, and minoring in Organizational Communications. With this transition to college, Zoie hopes to bring St. Vincent de Paul to her college campus and will continue to be involved with the Youth and Young Adult Emerging Leaders team.



Barb Slaven

Disaster Services Corporation

Barb Slaven has been a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul since 1989 and has served in numerous roles including, Conference President, District Council President, President of the Board of Directors for the SVdP Thrift Stores in Omaha, and National Vice President – Midwest Region. Barb has served on the National Voice of the Poor Committee and is a member of the Formation Team for the Midwest Region. She has been involved with

Ozanam Orientations, Invitation to Serve, Invitation for Renewal, USCCB Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, Region and National SVdP Meetings and many other SVdP activities. Barb is Secretary for the SVdP Disaster Services Corporation and is a member of the Omaha District Council's Disaster Services Committee. At St. Bernadette Parish, Barb serves as President of the SVdP

Conference, is an EMHC, member of Altar Society, and prepares and serves dinner monthly (along with her fellow Vincentians) at the Stephen Center homeless shelter. Barb grew up on a farm in Portsmouth, Iowa, where she attended St. Mary's Our Lady of Fatima Church and School.



BISHOP J. MARK SPALDING, J.C.L.

BISHOP, DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE

Bishop J. Mark Spalding, the oldest of three children, was born on January 13, 1965, in Lebanon, Kentucky, and was baptized at Holy Trinity Church in Fredericktown, Kentucky. His mother Mary Aileen Thompson grew up on a farm in Marion County and his father Joseph Lawrence Spalding was raised on a farm in Washington County. After their marriage, the Spalding's raised their children on a family farm in Washington County. Father Spalding attended Fredericktown Elementary School and Bethlehem High School in Bardstown.

After graduating in 1983 from Bethlehem High School, Bishop Spalding attended college at Saint Meinrad Seminary, graduating with a bachelor's degree in history in 1987. He attended major seminary at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium where he earned an M.A. and an S.T.B. in Religious Studies in 1990.

Bishop Spalding was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Louisville on August 3, 1991, by Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P. After ordination, he continued graduate studies at Louvain, earning his Licentiate in Canon Law in 1992. He returned to the Archdiocese in 1992 and served as associate pastor of the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral from 1992 to 1996. He was appointed part-time judge for the Metropolitan Tribunal in 1993, Adjutant Judicial Vicar in 1995, and Judicial Vicar and Director of the Metropolitan Tribunal from 1998 to 2011.

He was appointed the 12th Bishop of Nashville by Pope Francis on November 21, 2017. His episcopal ordination and installation as the Bishop of Nashville was on February 2, 2018.