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January is National Poverty Awareness Month

The United States is considered the richest country in the world, and yet 37.9 million (11.5%) of its residents live in poverty. Poverty is measured in two ways – absolute poverty and relative poverty. Absolute poverty looks at the goods and services someone (or a family) cannot obtain. Relative poverty looks at the context of the need, how one social group compares to others.

Among the most impoverished are:

- Those living in female-headed households with no husband present (23%).
- Young adults without a high school diploma (25.2%).
- Those living in a family whose head of household is unemployed (30%).
- Minorities (19.5% for Black people). The state with the highest poverty rate (based on a three-year average, 2020-22):
 1. New Mexico (18.2% of population living below the poverty line)

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions

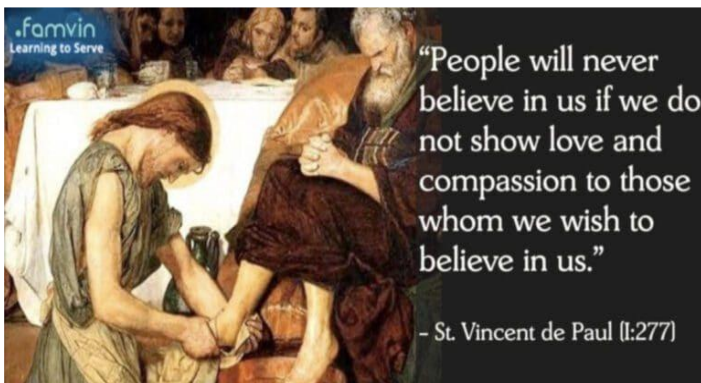
For the Right to an Education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

The Manual

2.1 – The Conference

The Conference is the basic unit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the center of our friendship, spirituality, and service. In the Church today, many people recognize the call of the Gospel of Jesus and the need to serve others. The Society strives to be creative and discover opportunities for meaningful charitable work. It seeks to enlarge the scope of its concern by reaching the hidden and new poor, and to match the skills and interests of all its members with the needs of people. The Conference must create awareness for itself in the parish community, finding ways to keep parishioners informed about its charitable works and inviting them to become part of this special ministry. Its President is responsible for maintaining communication with the parish staff,



parish council, and other parish social ministry programs.

ServWare

Please contact David at depaul505@gmail.com with questions and comments.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/abqsvdpthriftstore>

Our Facebook Page is once again active. Please like the page and encourage your friends to like us also. This is a direct way to increase our media presence.

Am I Really ONLY a Volunteer?

As Vincentians, we call ourselves volunteers. What we should understand is that, yes, we do volunteer our time, talents and treasures, but only within the parameters of a ministry.

Many of our Conferences struggle to find “ministers” for this work. Let’s look at what makes a good Vincentian Minister, aka volunteer.

#1 Passion – passion for our organization’s values, goals and mission. The first rule of being a minister is – don’t commit unless you can complete.

#2 Reliability – a commitment to complete the mundane and not so mundane works on time, with diligence for accurate and precise work and the willingness to learn due to the necessary changes.

#3 Teamwork – working well with others and reaching out when the answers aren’t easy to find. Understanding the ministry’s culture and why it’s necessary for meet the goals and objectives of the work.

#4 Patience – an endless reservoir of patience. Accepting deadlines, changes, and new ideas.

#5 Creativity – maintain an open-mindedness to build on the current culture for the betterment of the future.

#6 Energetic – Sometimes it’s the physical energy, but many times it’s the mental and emotional energy that we need to persevere through the exhaustion.

#7 Positive Attitude – leaving our comfort zone to learn new skills and face new challenges. An attitude

of gratitude for the opportunity to change the lives of the less fortunate.

#8 Willingness to Help – stepping up regardless of the task, answering emails promptly, complete training for new endeavors, and not be the grumbler of the group.

#9 Compassion – Volunteering is a selfless gesture; The Golden Rule: practicing the principle of treating others as one wants to be treated. We give our time, our skills and our resources not because we need to, but to give thanks for our many and continued blessings. We make the home visit with a smile after an awful workday. We attend meetings and trainings when other tasks are more exciting. We share our resources because all of us have much more than we truly need.

#10 Organized – being on time, prepared and ready for what is asked of us. Understand time-sensitive issues: assistance to those we serve is provided promptly, filing reports on time, complete and accurate Think of this as a good work ethic to stay motivated and focused and supporting the work and policies.

<https://www.rosterfy.com/blog/what-makes-a-good-volunteer-the-10-qualities-to-look-out-for-when-recruiting>

A lot of the above characteristics of a good minister, aka volunteer, appear to deal with matters that seem to be not at all spiritual. How can this be if our spirituality is the main focus of this ministry?

The Society is enabled in our work because we have nonprofit status with all government entities; the IRS when we file our 990, file our 1099s, register with the NM Attorney General’s office and complete the annual required audit. All of these filings require paperwork provided on time, valid and truthful and in compliance with their requirements. All of the great work that we as Vincentians do would disappear if we lost this nonprofit status due to noncompliance. Our political spirituality looks at our style of existence and the self-discipline to “repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God.” Matthew 22:21 Our priorities and values cannot be compromised so we recognize both the secular and religious authorities. Catholic Social Teaching tells us the common good is reached when we work together to improve the well-being of all people. As I was writing this, I noticed some areas that are ripe for improvement in my personal ministry. Maybe some

Archdiocese of Santa Fe

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are apparent for you also. Could this be our New Year's Resolution?

Frederic's E-Gazette

If you are not receiving Frederic's E-Gazette by email every Thursday, please click on this link and sign up to be included. Information every week with registration for webinars, including Voice for the Poor, annual reports, Getting Ahead and many more.

<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/opin?v=001OSVZXasZuMqwY5RmJuD7wV7eGedsYiQCq9K83oLI8JXw7qcRZKcNbd-P50ePEuq0tnj70Uc8MNXATTb4Q-DtP1-VCXWsRSxdckrxHibgCpg%3D>

Status of Aggregation

Every Conference that is aggregated should have a certificate of aggregation from the International Council in Paris, France to be framed and hung in the conference meeting room. If you are unable to find this certificate, please let me know in January so I can request a duplicate copy for you. I now have requests for San Martin de Porres, San Felipe de Neri and Queen of Heaven.

FY24/25 Calendar

Board Meetings (3rd Friday of month)

January 17, 2025

March 21, 2025

May 16, 2025

July 18, 2025

September 19, 2025

November 21, 2025

Jan. 11 – Ozanam Training at Holy Child in Tijeras

Jan. 15 - Albuquerque Thrift Store re-opening celebration – 1:00 PM

March 6-8 – Midyear meeting in St. Louis

March 29 – Ozanam Training at St. Thomas Aquinas

April 26 - All Conference Annual Meeting–Venue and program TBD

Please send your DC President a note

if you would like to participate in organizing this event.

May 30 – June 1 – Mountain Region Meeting, Boise, ID

August 27-30 - Annual meeting Louisville

If your District Council or Conference has special event dates, please send them to Linda so we can include them on our calendar.

Forbes Top Charities List

St. Vincent de Paul has moved up from #75 last year to #59 this year.

<https://www.forbes.com/lists/top-charities/>

<https://www.forbes.com/companies/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul/?list=top-charities>

“This is an amazing accomplishment and is a testament to the incredible dedication and work of you and every Vincentian in the United States. Our impact on those we serve is important and life changing. It matters. Thank you for all you do!

Peace and God's blessings,

John Berry, National President”

Please share this with your members and parishioners in your weekly bulletin.

<https://ssvpusa.org/vincentians/a-homelessness-agenda-for-the-incoming-administration/>

ASF Council Thrift Store

The Albuquerque Thrift Store Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month to assist the Senior

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Operations Manager in making the store a more integral part of the Council. Members of this committee come from District Councils A, B and C and help with grant writing, improvements and events. There is a need for more members from each of these District Councils. This volunteer position would take approximately 4-5 hrs/month. Please let your DC President know if you would like to join this committee.

We would like to invite volunteers/employees from the other thrift stores to join us for these meetings. It is our hope that we can learn from each other and share needs, policies, systems in order to help each other. Please reach out to Timm Stubbs at rsppsvdptres@gmail.com, chair of the ABQ committee, if you would like to join us. We can arrange a zoom so travel won't be necessary.

Help Needed!!

In order to sort and prepare donated clothing for sale, we are asking volunteers to join us. Please contact Luana at svdpchmgr@yahoo.com to volunteer at times listed below.

Wednesday, January 8 – 11:00-12:00, 12:00-1:00

Wednesday, January 22 - 11:00-12:00, 12:00-1:00

Wednesday, January 29 - 11:00-12:00, 12:00-1:00

Lunch will be provided for those working a 2-hour shift.



The CFPB launched a new tool, [Explore Credit Cards](#), to help consumers find the best credit card rates across both rewards cards and traditional cards. This first-of-its-kind tool enables consumers to compare more than 500 credit cards using unbiased, comprehensive data. CFPB is a U.S. government agency that makes sure banks, lenders, and other financial companies treat you fairly.

When you visit a family with excessive debt, please refer them to this site so they might find a better credit card for their individual situation.

ABQ FLOWER MARKET



They are located at 3119 San Mateo NE so please visit them and thank them for this opportunity to increase our ability to help those in need. In January they will collect animal welfare items; food, toys, leashes, water bowls, etc. Can you help? <https://www.abqflowermarket.com/>
Instagram: [@abqflowermarket](#)

Tax Help NM

United Way of Central New Mexico provides this **free tax-filing resource** for people whose household income is less than \$67,000. Please share the document at the end of this newsletter with your neighbors and any other organization you work with.



Tax Help NM

Do I Qualify? – Single, Head of Household, qualifying Widow(er), Married Filing Jointly
Types of Income – wages, salaries, tips; scholarships & Pell grants; interest income & tax-exempt interest; dividends; taxable state refunds; self-employment income; stock transactions or capital gains & losses; IRA distributions; pensions & annuities; royalty income; unemployment compensation; SS, SSI or SSDI; veterans income; other such as tribal distributions, jury duty pay & winnings from gambling.

What to bring with you!

In order to have your taxes prepared at a Tax Help New Mexico location, you must have the following documents:

- **Original** Social Security cards or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) for yourself, your spouse and your dependents or anyone else on your return
- Tax payer(s) must have a **current photo ID** (driver license, state issued ID, passport, military ID, tribal ID)
- Birth dates for all persons listed on the return
- Married filing joint: both spouses must be present with proper documentation to complete tax return or power of attorney for absent spouse

In addition to the documents listed above, you must bring any of the following documents that are applicable to your situation: *Income of \$67,000 or less*

- Form 1095-A, B and C (or Health Insurance Exemption Certificate)
- All W-2 Forms
- All W-2G Forms (Gambling)
- All 1099 Forms (Miscellaneous, Interest, Dividends, etc.)
- All 1098 Forms (Mortgage and Tuition Statements)
- All K-1 Forms
- Prior year tax return
- Statement from your daycare provider with the amount paid, address and tax number if claiming child and dependent care expenses. If you may be eligible for the state daycare credit, you will need to bring a NM PIT CG from your daycare provider.
- List and total of all itemized deductible expenses such as medical expenses, charitable deductions, real estate taxes, etc.
- List and total of all business expenses, including mileage records, if you are self-employed. Also bring

amounts paid for gross receipts taxes.

- SSA-1099 Social Security benefits statement
- If you are required to repay the first time homebuyer credit, a record of the amount of the credit you received
- If you purchased a home in the last year, bring your closing documents
- Records of all other income received
- If you would like your refund deposited directly into a bank account, bring your bank's routing number and your account number
- If you sold stock we would need purchase date, how much was it purchased for, date sold, how much it was sold for, records of any fees paid
- If you had college educational expenses, bring book and tuition costs.

All other tax-related documents

Schedule Your Tax Appointment

<https://uwncnm.org/tax-help-new-mexico/>

Tax Help New Mexico appointment booking will return on Monday, January 13, 2025.

This upcoming tax season, taxpayers may choose to either call-in for assistance with scheduling or use the online scheduling tool.

The official start date of the Tax Help New Mexico tax season is Monday, February 3, 2025.

We encourage those interested in scheduling an appointment to book early, as spots fill up quickly. Our volunteers will work with each individual to ensure they receive the necessary support and guidance needed to complete the tax filing process accurately and efficiently.

Outside of Albuquerque -

<https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>