



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

St. Vincent Times

SVDP Archdiocese

Galveston-Houston Council

February 15, 2025 Issue



Archdiocesan Council President Election Timeline:

- Deadline to submit nominations to our Council Office is **April 15, 2025**.
- Names of persons nominated, who agree to serve if elected and meet the requirements of this position, will be submitted to all District Presidents by **May 1, 2025**. All nominees will complete an autobiographical statement and a platform statement, which will be distributed.
- District Presidents will share candidate information within their District Conferences and ask each Conference to prayerfully discern their choice and communicate their vote by secret ballot at the **July 14, 2025**, Council Board meeting.

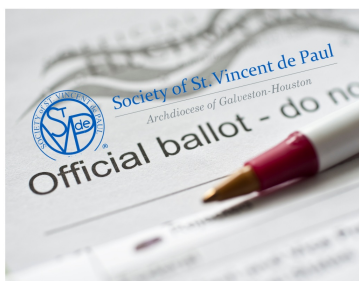
- The person having the majority of the votes will be duly elected; Conferences will be notified by **July 18, 2025**.

This timeline will allow the newly elected Council President to “shadow” the incumbent President for a couple of months so that there is a smooth transition of responsibilities. It will allow the new President to attend the National SVDP meeting in late August.

Full Archdiocesan Council Election Letter

Nominee Autobiographical Statement

District 4 & 6 Elections



The election of Conference Presidents will take place no later than **March 31st**. This may be a normally scheduled meeting or a special meeting. A process for breaking a tie must be established before the vote occurs. Voting is done in the form of a secret written ballot. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee will present the candidates, distribute the ballots to the Conference Presidents (within that District), and collect the filled in ballots. If established in advance, mail-in votes may be acceptable and would be included.

Members of the committee will count the ballots and report results to the Committee Chairperson. The Committee Chairperson will then reveal the name of the person elected to the office of Archdiocesan Council President. At no time will the ballot count be revealed to the members or the candidates. If there are more than two candidates, the candidate who receives more than 50% of the total ballots cast becomes the President-Elect. If none of the candidates receives this simple majority, the Committee Chairperson will announce the two candidates with the most votes and there will then be a runoff election held as soon as possible. There are times when only a single candidate comes forward and when this this occurs, the election process must still be followed and must still be a secret ballot. A “yes” or “no” vote must be cast; only the votes cast are counted. If the single candidate does not receive a simple majority of approval, then the Nominating Committee must find other candidates.

Should there be no qualified candidates interested in the role of District Council President by **January 1st** when the Nominating Committee has to submit the names of candidates to the Conferences, then the Archdiocesan Council President is to be notified; the District will need to be disbanded and the Conferences report to other District Councils. The Archdiocesan Council President will be responsible for working with the District Conferences to discuss options for the District and will need the months of January through May to explore options.



Rule 3.1 Membership

The Society is open to all those who seek to live their faith loving and committing themselves to their neighbor in need.

Be the face of Christ. See the face of Christ.

Significant progress has been made towards the accomplishment of our current strategic plan.

To build capacity, ensure consistency, and achieve sustainability, our 7 districts were grouped into 3 areas:

Districts 1, 4, and 6: **North.**

Districts 2 and 7: **South.**

Districts 3 and 5: **Central.**



Each area has a **District Associate** to assist leadership with building the capacity to create healthy, vibrant Conferences and recruit new members.

The membership application process is managed by the **Program Coordinator** who works alongside parish Safe Environment Coordinators to ensure compliance with the Archdiocesan *CMG: Safe Haven Policy*.

Formation and Conference revitalization is led by the **Director of Membership Engagement**.

Systemic Change Initiative: Getting Ahead Programs have a part-time **Program Facilitator** for program implementation so that the **Program Manager** can focus on the programs' growth and

Strategic Plan



Upcoming getFED:

FEBRUARY 27, 2025
12:15PM-1:00PM
 COLLABORATIONS ACROSS THE
 ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON.

[Click Here](#) to register for the next Formation Events.

Upcoming sessions:

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<p>February 15, 2025 Ozanam Orientation (District 7) St. Michael Lake Jackson 100 Oak Drive. S. Lake Jackson, TX 77566 8:30AM-2:30PM</p> <p>February 22, 2025 Ozanam Orientation (District 1) St. Rose of Lima- Parish Hall 3600 Brinkman St, Houston, TX 77018 8:30AM-2:30PM</p>	<p>March 8, 2025 Ozanam, Orientation (District 5) St. Anne 2140 Westheimer Rd. Houston, TX 77098 8:30AM-2:30PM</p> <p>March 29, 2025 Lenten Retreat St. Anne 2140 Westheimer Rd. Houston, TX 77098</p>	<p>April 5, 2025 Basics of the Home Visit Workshop: "The Encounter" TBD 8:30AM-11:30AM</p> <p>April 12, 2025 Ozanam Orientation (District 3) St. Frances de Sales 8200 Roos Rd. Houston, TX 77036 8:30AM-2:30PM</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY
TBD	<p>June 7, 2025 Ozanam Orientation (District 6) St. Anthony of Padua 7801 Bay Branch Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77382 8:30AM-2:30PM</p>	<p>VIRTUAL Ozanam Orientations: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 6:30PM-8:30 PM & Thursday, July 17, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM</p>

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
TBD	TBD	Leadership training begins!

View the new [Formation](#) page on the Council website.

Additional Leadership Training Opportunities via Zoom:

February 18, 19 & 20- For Spiritual Advisors, Associate Spiritual Advisors, or those thinking of becoming Spiritual Advisors, join us for this three-part training and formation program. New or experienced? Please register to attend. Led by Tim Williams, Sr. Director for Formation and Leadership Development, and James Davis, South Central Region Spiritual Advisor.

Spiritual Advisor Formation & Training

February 26, 2025 from 7:00PM-8:15PM CT-Leadership Training: Do you feel swamped by the administrative work involved in running your Conference? This workshop can help! Learn how to define your Conference's key responsibilities and gain practical tools to simplify planning and fulfilling responsibilities. You'll have opportunities to interact and ask questions!

Survival Kit for Conference Presidents

USCCB Addresses Critical Immigration Concerns



"Human Dignity is Not Dependent on a Person's Citizenship or Immigration Status"

Bishop Mark J. Seitz (USCCB), Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM (CHA), and Kerry Alys Robinson (CCUSA) have issued a statement in response to "protected areas" in immigration enforcement.

"Our organizations stand ready to work on a better path forward that protects the dignity of all those we serve, upholds the sacred duty of our providers, and ensures our borders and immigration system are governed with mercy and justice."

To read the full article, click the button below:

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



Click [HERE](#) to access the official flyer for parish activity centers, restrooms, and information boards.

Know Your Rights Spanish-English Cards

CONOCE SUS DERECHOS

- **NO ABRA LA PUERTA** si un agente de inmigración está tocando la puerta. Si está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.
- **NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA** de un agente de inmigración si trata de hablar con usted. Usted tiene el derecho de mantenerse callado.
- **NO FIRME NADA** sin antes hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.
- Si usted está afuera de su casa, **ENTREGUE ESTA TARJETA AL AGENTE**. Pregúntale al agente si puede irse y si dice que sí, váyase con calma.



LA CONGRESISTA
SYLVIA GARCIA
Representando al Distrito 29 de TEXAS

Número de Oficina: 832-325-3150

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights. I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

"Getting Ahead" Featured in Texas Catholic Herald

We are excited to share that our "Getting Ahead" program was recently featured in the *Texas Catholic Herald*. This recognition highlights the incredible impact of this program in helping individuals break the cycle of poverty and build a brighter future.

We are grateful to the Herald for highlighting this transformative program and the work of our Vincentian family! 😊

JANUARY 28, 2025 • ARCHDIOCESE OF HOUSTON LOCAL TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD 7

Graduates take steps toward stability through SVdP Houston's 'Getting Ahead' program

Special to the Herald

HOUSTON — The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Houston (SVdP Houston) recently celebrated the accomplishments of 21 graduates from its Getting Ahead in a Just-Gottin'-by World program.

This milestone marks the seventh cohort since the program's introduction in 2017. To date, 100 individuals have completed the program, taking significant steps toward breaking the cycle of poverty and building more stable futures for themselves and their families.

The 16-week program equips participants with practical tools, essential knowledge and a supportive community. Weekly virtual sessions create a collaborative environment for sharing experiences, navigating challenges and celebrating successes. This supportive network fosters a sense of mutual encouragement, empowering participants to transition from crisis to sustainability.

One highlight of the program is the "Main Business" project, where participants creatively map out their goals and aspirations. "I've never done this before," said a graduate during the graduation ceremony. "These boards serve as tangible reminders of each participant's dreams, helping them clarify their direction and sustain motivation."

"This program gave me the confidence to set goals I never thought were possible," shared one graduate. "The support and encouragement from the group made me feel like I wasn't alone in this journey."

Graduates receive ongoing support from SVdP Houston, reflecting the program's commitment to their long-term success. This includes regular check-ins, access to resources, mentorship and a strong community network. Such continued guidance is vital for helping participants overcome challenges and implement the strategies they've learned to achieve lasting stability.

"Our goal is to empower participants to envision and build a better future for themselves and their families," said Michelle Gonzalez, program manager. "It's inspiring to witness the transformations and hope this program fosters."

Since its launch, the Getting Ahead program has become a cornerstone of SVdP Houston's mission to address systemic poverty through education, empowerment and community support. Sessions are offered twice a year, in January and July. To learn more about the program and other services, visit [svdphouston.org/impact](#).

MICHELLE GONZALEZ
Program Manager, Society of St. Vincent de Paul



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY HOUSTON

[Read the full article](#)

BEWARE OF CYBER-FRAUD

Before wiring any funds, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions. Be very wary of any request to change wire instructions you already received.

UNLOCK MY BENEFITS TEXAS

A pilot program aiming to build and test the initial technical infrastructure for the Public Benefits Hub in partnership with select social service agencies. This pilot will increase access to public benefits in targeted areas and build housing and economic stability for participating families. This nonprofit collaborative is committed to serving struggling families of Harris County.

[Get Started Here](#)



**SVDP Archdiocese
Galveston Houston Council**

[Member Portal](#)



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



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