



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

St. Vincent Times SVDP Archdiocese Galveston-Houston Council

April 1, 2025 Issue



Rule 3.3.1 Frequency of Meetings

The Conferences meet regularly and consistently, usually weekly, but at least every fortnight (twice a month).

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



Council's New Executive Leader

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston Houston is excited to announce Val Senegal has officially begun her role as the organization's new Executive Director.

With over 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience, Val steps into this position ready to lead the Society into the future as it expands efforts to honor the National SVdP premise of "Adapting to a Changing World."

Val ended her tenure as Chief Program Officer on **March 31, 2025**, and brings a proven impact history to strengthen services and opportunities for underserved communities across Greater Houston.

Her vision and dedication to empowering others make her an outstanding choice to lead the Society's mission of serving vulnerable populations throughout the Galveston Houston areas while fostering environments to synergistically collaborate across communities.

"Today marks the start of an incredible journey for the Society," said Val Senegal. "We will work to ensure the legacy of the Society continues and is perceived as a multi-cultural, multi-generational organization that transforms the lives of those we touch. I look forward to building bridges and connecting people in the spaces and places that welcome Christianity."

Archdiocesan Council President Election Nomination Deadline

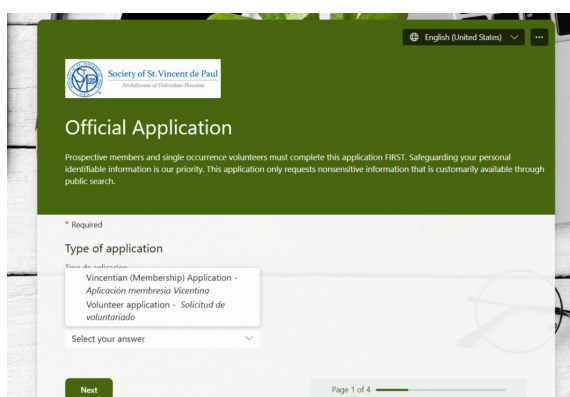
The deadline to submit nominations to our Council Office is **April 15, 2025**.

Names of persons nominated, who agree to serve if elected and meet the requirements of this position, and their autobiographical statement and a platform will then be submitted to all District Presidents before **May 1, 2025**.

District Presidents will share candidates' information within their District Conferences and ask each Conference to prayerfully discern their choice. Voting will take place via 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**.

Submit nominations to [Vincenian Services Email](#)

A screenshot of a web application form titled "Official Application" for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The form is in English (United States) and includes a "Next" button and a "Page 1 of 4" indicator. The form content includes a "Type of application" dropdown menu with options: "Vincenian (Membership) Application - Aplicación membresía Vicentina" and "Volunteer application - Solicitud de voluntariado".

Membership/ Volunteer Application Has A New Look!

On April 1, 2025, the membership/volunteer application will have a different feel that is more user-friendly. Click below:

[MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEER APPLICATION](#)

Friends of the Poor Grants



Hello South Central, West, and Northeast Region Vincentians!

I'm pleased to announce that Friends of the Poor Grant applications are now open in your regions.

Grant applications for your regions will open on **March 20, 2025**, and close on **April 12, 2025**.

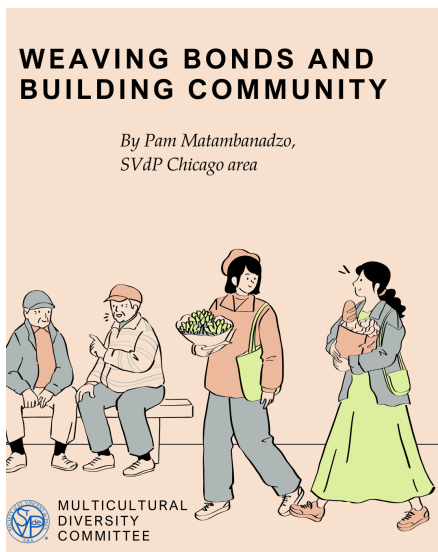
- Download and read through the [fillable application form](#).
- Download and read the [Tips Sheet](#), which describes the grant process and will help you understand what's being asked in the form.

- When your grant application is filled out, email it to grants@svdpusa.org.
- Your fellow Vincentians who serve on the national Grants Committee will read your application with empathy, then rank and fund as many grant requests as they can with the funds available at the time.
- You'll be notified of the grant decision by email by **May 23, 2025**.

Please Note: Unlike previous years, only SVdP Conferences are eligible to apply for the Friends of the Poor grant program.

To learn more about the new process, please [visit our website](#).

Yours in Christ,
Kevin Miller
Chief Advancement Officer
National SVdP Office
St. Louis, MO



We follow in the footsteps set by Blessed Frederic so many years ago, journeying towards holiness and building on generations before us. Now that we have accepted the baton, we need to pass it on to others so that we can reinforce the strength of the baton. Our challenge is that the world has changed and evolved but our ways have lagged. Our parish communities no longer look like they did 20 or 40 years ago. We hold on to the ways we have been operating even when our efforts are not bearing fruit. Change is hard. How do we make sure that as we journey together our legacy, like Blessed Frederic, will inspire diverse Vincentians for generations to come?

[READ MORE HERE](#)



Upcoming getFED Topics:

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

7:00PM-7:45PM

"Celebrating Essential Elements"

Thursday, April 24, 2025

12:15PM-1:00PM

"Celebrating Essential Elements"

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

Calendar of Events:

April	May	June
<p>April 5, 2025 Basics of the Home Visit Workshop: "The Encounter" St. Dominic Archdiocesan Center Morkovsky Hall 2022401 Holcombe Blvd. Houston, TX 77021 Space Limited 9:00AM-12:30PM</p> <p>April 12, 2025 Ozanam Orientation (District 3) St. Frances de Sales 8200 Roos Rd., Houston TX 77036 8:30AM-2:30PM</p>	<p>Guidance on Enforcement Agencies</p>	<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>June 28, 2025 Advance Home Visit Training St. Cecilia 11720 Joan of Arc Drive Houston, Tx 77024 8:30am -1:00pm</p>
July	August	September
<p>VIRTUAL Ozanam Orientations: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 6:30PM-8:30 PM & Thursday, July 17, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>
October	November	December
<p>Leadership Training Begins!</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>

View the Formation page on the Council website.

Members of District 4 Get-Together

St. Jerome's pantry volunteers celebrating Fat Tuesday before Lent season.



The conference is in need of men's clothing; items can be dropped off **Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9Am-12PM** at **8825 Kempwood Dr., Houston, TX 77080**.

Encounters with Immigration Agents

Dear Vincentians,

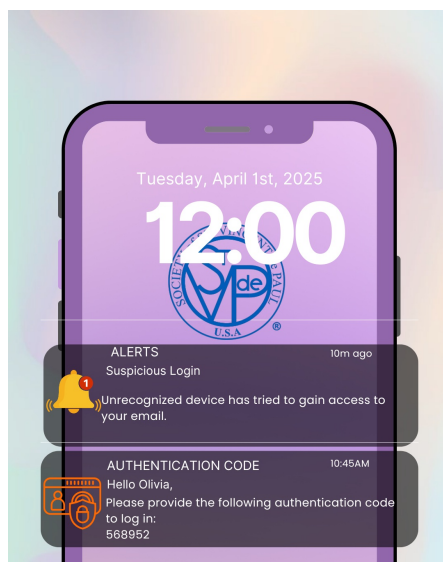
You can reference this information in the event of an encounter with immigration agents. This includes talking points, best practices and guidance on human rights to ensure everyone is informed and prepared.

[Neighbor Talking Points](#)

Keeping Data Safe

Learn what email encryption is, when to use encryption, and how to encrypt emails in Outlook / Microsoft 365.





Common Scam Types

Check cashing: Scammers approach people outside a bank branch and ask them to cash a check claiming they don't have an account or left their ID home. The bad check will be held against your account when it doesn't clear.

Romance scams: Financial support requested from a new partner that's exclusively online but it's an elaborate scheme.

Charity scams: You receive a request to donate to a fake SVdP; this is our official [website: www.svdphouston.org](http://www.svdphouston.org).

Debt relief: Request for payment in order to establish a service relationship to pay, settle or get rid of debt.

IRS scams: Scam artists are pretending to be IRS officials to get money. They'll call, email, or text claiming you owe back taxes or there's a problem with your tax return. They even rig caller ID to make their call look official. They play on your fears. The real IRS sends official communication through mail.

Investment scams: A request to invest in a business opportunity with promises of high returns and/or getting rich quickly.

Lottery scams: Request to prepay fees or taxes in order to receive a large prize you supposedly won.

Grandparent scam: You receive a call or text message from someone claiming to be a grandchild or loved one asking for money to help with an emergency, plus instructions on where to send the funds. Set up family "passwords" to prevent this.

Puppy scam: Scammers post fake litters online or pretend to be someone they're not (usually an existing breeder) to take advantage of puppy sales (sans the puppies.)

Online Merchant/Marketplace Scams: When responding to ads or interacting in marketplaces on social media, research sellers and products independently to ensure legitimacy. Notice the red flags like a high-ticket item for a price too-good-to-be-true or a buyer who "accidentally" overpaid you for an item or someone asking for personal information or redirecting to an unfamiliar/strange looking URL.

Mortgage closing: You receive an email or text message that looks similar to your real estate agent's contact info that indicates there is a last minute change to the wiring instructions, and tells you to wire closing costs to a different account.

Suspect a neighbor in need has been a victim of a scam? Report the scam to the [BBB Scam Tracker](#) and the government via the [FTC ReportFraud site](#) and directly to the [FBI](#).

Community Resources Portal

Check out these community events & workshops happening near you.



SVDP Archdiocese Galveston Houston Council

[Member Portal](#)



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



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