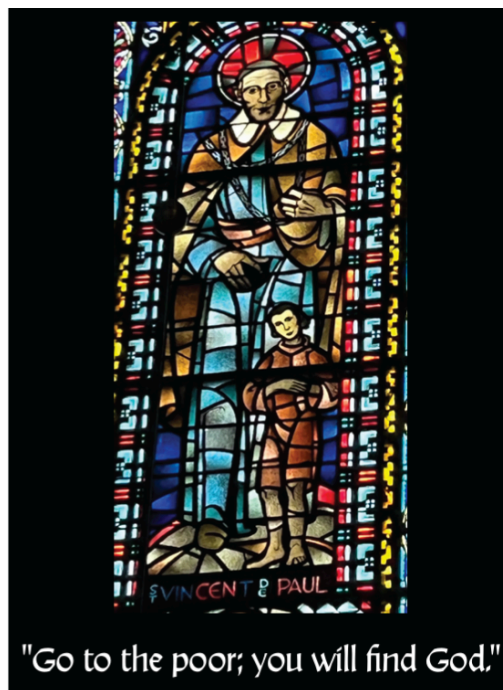


## Sioux Falls District Council December 2025 Newsletter



"Go to the poor; you will find God."

(Picture of the stained glass window of SVdP at the Cathedral of St. Joseph)

Bah, humbug! One of my favorite Christmas stories—both in print and on screen—is Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Did you know that Charles Dickens and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul share remarkable common ground? In the mid-19th century, London was a city of striking contrasts—great wealth standing beside profound poverty. Charles Dickens captured this reality in 1843 with the publication of *A Christmas Carol*, a story meant to stir the conscience of a nation. "Charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence," Dickens wrote, naming the virtues that could transform both individuals and society. Just one year later, in 1844, the Society of St.

Vincent de Paul expanded its mission to London, living out these very principles through personal service to families struggling under the weight of industrial-era hardship.

Dickens' tale of Ebenezer Scrooge learning to see the poor with compassion closely aligns with the mission embraced by the early Vincentians. St. Vincent de Paul himself had taught more than a century earlier, *"Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity."* (Epistle 2546) This spirit guided Vincentians as they entered homes, offered support, and affirmed the dignity of every neighbor they encountered—embodying the very change of heart Dickens hoped his readers would embrace through story.

Together, *A Christmas Carol* and the establishment of St. Vincent de Paul's mission in London reflect two powerful movements toward social renewal—one through literature that awakened moral responsibility, and the other through direct service rooted in faith. Both continue to remind us that compassion is not seasonal and that every act of kindness can transform not only the lives of the poor but the hearts of those who serve. "Our vocation as Vincentians is to continue learning the language of love, not only at Christmas but throughout our lives" (McCullen, *Deep Down Things*, p.509)

If you haven't visited the story in a while, I encourage you to read or reread this timeless classic, or enjoy George C. Scott's unforgettable portrayal of Scrooge in film.


Merry Christmas and "God bless us, every one!"



# FORMATION



## Summary

<b>Dates:</b>	All Ozanam Orientations will take place in the Conference Room at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store at 3000 S. Ellis Rd.
Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025 	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Saturday, Feb., 21, 2026	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday & Tuesday April 13 - 14, 2026	5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Saturday, August 8, 2026	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

\*Aberdeen, Watertown, and Yankton may receive personal scheduled dates at their location for their Conference if unable to attend in Sioux Falls.

Ozanam Training- [RSVP Link](#)

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## FORMATION


**Do you need help with SERVWARE?**

**Dorothy Garcia will be hosting SerVWare Q & A**

**Sessions on ZOOM every first Thursday of the month. Email Dorothy to register. She will send you the ZOOM link.**

**Thursday, Jan. 8th. 7:00- 9:00 PM**

**[executivedirector@svdpsd.org](mailto:executivedirector@svdpsd.org)**

 **SerVWare**® Charitable Assistance Software

SerVWare Login

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

Sign Up to Join the SVdP Mailing List

[Click Here to join the mailing list](#)

- [Rule](#)
- [Teaching the Home Visit & resources](#)
- Advocacy: [Voice for the Poor](#); [Voter Voice](#)
- [International SSVp](#)
- Vincentian Family: <https://famvin.org/en/>
- SVdP USA: [Vincentian Pathway](#)-develop a richer understanding of our [One Society](#)

## FORMATION

- *Spirituality:* [Bulletin Announcements](#), [Vincentian Reflections](#) & [Contemplations](#)
- *Friendship:* [Feast Days & Celebrations](#)

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### Survival Kit for Conference Presidents

Date & Time: Jan 28, 2026 07:00 PM in [Central Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

Do you feel swamped by the administrative work involved in running your Conference? This workshop can help! We'll show you how to define your Conference's key responsibilities and introduce practical tools to simplify planning and fulfilling those responsibilities. You'll have opportunities to interact and ask questions during this live session!

[Click Here to Register](#)

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*Teaching of Pope Leo on the Care for the Poor*  
Jan. 13, 2026 with Fr. Tschakert

[Click Here to Register](#)

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## FORMATION

### Upcoming Vincentian Feast Days:

\*Jan. 1st- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

[Jeff Cavins- Reflection video](#)

\*Jan. 4th- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Vincentian branch founder, DC nun

<https://ssvpusa.org/tag/st-elizabeth-ann-seton/>

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SVdP USA Events Calendar

<https://members.ssvpusa.org/events-calendar/>



Holy Innocents Ministry (HIM)

# Holy Innocents Ministry (HIM)

Holy Innocents Ministry (HIM)

**2025 FYE**

**2,981 neighbors served**

**\$109,370 value of direct services**



Given weekly- Free diapers, wipes, and formula vouchers- a Special Work of SVdP District Council of SF



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Why is our Diaper Ministry also called Holy Innocents Ministry or (HIM)?

The Feast of the Holy Innocents (Dec. 28th) commemorates the death of male children in Bethlehem who were two years of age or under. King Herod had ordered this, in order to ensure that the infant Messiah sought by the Magi would be unable to displace him on his throne. This is why St. Joseph was told in a dream to take the Child and the Blessed Virgin and flee to Egypt to escape the persecution of King Herod.

<https://missions.ewtn.com/seasonsandfeastdays/holyinnocents/>

DEC  
**28**

**Holy Innocents**

**Patron Saints of Babies, Children, Foundlings, the pro-life movement, and Children's choirs**

# Holy Innocents Ministry (HIM)

Vincentian volunteer sign up slots open! **WE NEED YOUR HELP FILLING IN OPEN TIMESLOTS!**

Ways you can sign up: 1. [HIM Signup Genius](#)  
2. Email Dorothy [executivedirector@svdpsd.org](mailto:executivedirector@svdpsd.org)  
or Deb [debfsiouxfallsSVdP@gmail.com](mailto:debfsiouxfallsSVdP@gmail.com)

## Need Diapers?

Provided by Holy Innocents Ministry a  
Special Work of SVdP District Council of Sioux Falls

### FREE Diapers, Wipes, & Formula Vouchers

9 am to 11 am

Wednesdays: January 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup>  
Saturdays: January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup>

Wednesdays: February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>  
Saturdays: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup>

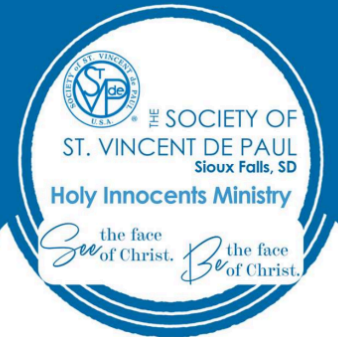
at  
**St Vincent de Paul**  
Thrift Store  
431 N Cliff Ave

Evening Hours:

5pm to 7pm

Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

at  
**St Vincent de Paul**  
Thrift Store  
3000 S Ellis Road



To receive Diapers, Wipes & Formula Vouchers, you must present:

1. Child's SD Medicaid Card or
2. Child's Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, or Passport and
3. Proof of SD residency and Parent Drivers License or ID

Frequency to Receive:  
Every 30 days

THANK YOU TO OGJH, St. Michael Parish, and St. Mary Parish for sponsoring HIM for their Advent Service projects!

# Holy Innocents Ministry (HIM)



## DISTRICT COUNCIL

### UPCOMING DATES:

**\*No District Council Meeting in December.**

**Next DC Meeting: Tuesday, January 27th @ 6:30**

### Is your Conference low on funds?

**The Neighbors' Fund-** Conference Presidents may email a request to Dorothy about receiving additional funds from the District Council for our Neighbors in Need.

# DISTRICT COUNCIL



## 2025 FYE Breakdown



Housing Assistance- \$209,868



Non-Housing Assistance- \$103,530



Neighbors Served- 1,467



Home Visits- 350

Thank you for being a Vincentian!

We are one Society! Every Conference and every Vincentian matters. Together, we are called to care for one another, support every Conference, and strengthen our shared mission.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL



- Feel Free to email Susan to include your Conference news/updates to be included in our monthly newsletter.  
[vincentianservices@svdpsd.org](mailto:vincentianservices@svdpsd.org)

## Home Visits

### Topic: Home Visit Review Training

Training for existing members- Home Visitation Training is highly recommended to Vincentians every three years.

Whether you have been a Vincentian for three years or ten and plus years, continued Formation and learning is essential!

Where: SVdP Thrift Store Conference Room: 3000 South Ellis Road  
Sioux Falls, SD

## Home Visits

Time: January 18, 2026 01:00 PM- 3:00 PM

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

OR Join Zoom Meeting:

[Click Here to join the Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 923 8532 7557

Passcode: 734056

"Vincentian Formation is the initial and ongoing process of growing and developing in the tradition, charism, and spirituality of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Vincentian formation means being shaped through the Holy Spirit, for and by our Vincentian work, into useful vessels God needs for the poor" (<https://members.ssvpusa.org/formation>).

- 
- Sioux Falls Conference Presidents and Officers can pick up copies of SVdP materials needed for Home Visits and PR materials at the Ellis Store Conference Room.**

# Home Visits



**All Vincentians can also download brochures, Conference flyers for Assistance and donations with other PR materials from our website under the tab "Members-Vincentian Services." <https://svdpsd.com/other-resources>**

# Home Visits



Check out the new features of our Svdp Website!

<https://svdpsd.com/>

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## **Financial Workshops with Chase Bank**

Vincentians can now refer to free banking and budgeting workshops to our Neighbors in Need.

Here is the link to include anyone and any Neighbor in Need who is interested in the Chase financial classes with Dan Mueller. Dorothy will forward the contacts to Dan for scheduling.

[Financial Classes Signup](#)

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- Attention Vincentians!** Are you in need of a new Home Visit Binder? Maybe yours is lost, broken, or just outdated...Open to anyone Vincentian who wants one. Complete the Google Form- or email Susan- [vincentianservices@svdpsd.org](mailto:vincentianservices@svdpsd.org)

[Google Form for Binder](#)

# Home Visits



*Example:*

**Binders will include the following items:**

- \*Personalize Conference title cover**
- \*Section Tabs with binder pouch**
- \*Release Forms**
- \*Home Visit Guidelines**
- \*Home Visit Prayers, Meditations, and Reflections**
- \*Our SVdP Home Visit Brochure**
- \*Prayer magnets to give to our Neighbors in Need**
- \*Some Outreach Resources along with 211 info**

# Home Visits



Hear what our dedicated Vincentians have to say

**“Our mission is to serve those in need – people without jobs or without money, people who are hungry, people sitting in darkness because their electricity has been cut off, people who are losing hope. We go to them in a Home Visit, we listen to them, we pray with them, and we provide whatever help we can to meet their needs. We show them that even in their darkest hours, God has not abandoned them.”**

**Tim Williams, Senior Director of Formation and Leadership Development**