



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

St. Vincent Times SVDP Archdiocese Galveston-Houston Council

November 1, 2025 Issue

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

4.1.2 Vincentians' personal commitment

The Society urges the Vincentians to consider undertaking a personal commitment for a particular period of time to work with Vincentians in other countries or to spread Conferences.



Calling All Gardeners - All Saints Conference Cultivates Community ☐

A special shoutout to our All Saints Conference for their thriving community garden! Their dedication to serving others and nurturing both people and the earth reminds us that growth happens when we care—together. Thank you for sowing seeds of hope and nourishment in your community!



Leadership Training Continues - Growing in Leadership Together ☐

We're excited to showcase the ongoing leadership trainings held at St. Martha-Kingwood and Holy Family-Missouri City! These sessions empowered Vincentians to strengthen their skills, share best practices, and continue serving their communities with excellence and compassion. Thank you to all who continue to grow in faith, fellowship, and leadership.



Council staff recently collaborated to ensure the ONE Society letter was delivered to each Vincentian's mailbox! That's right—the U.S. Postal Service will soon be bringing you some good mail ☐. Teamwork truly makes the dream work!

In 1 Corinthians 12:12–27, St. Paul reminds the believers in Corinth about unity in the Body of Christ. His metaphor of the human body to describe the Church mirrors our view of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. We are ONE Society with many members, many Conferences, and a Council working together to function as a whole. Just as the body has many parts—hands, feet, eyes, and more—the Society has many members with different roles

serving different communities. No part is more important than another; all are essential for the Society to thrive.

We are ONE body, one voice, and one sound ☐.

Year-End Giving Made Simple

Vincentians have the power to create lasting change in the lives of those in need throughout our Galveston-Houston communities.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Galveston-Houston now welcomes a variety of giving options — including noncash contributions — that can further extend your impact. Learn more by visiting our new giving webpage [HERE](#).



As 2025 draws to a close, there are many ways to make a meaningful impact through your generosity — while also maximizing your tax benefits. Consider these giving options before December 31, 2025:

☐ **Mail a Check or Donate Stock**

Donating stocks or other noncash investments can help you avoid capital gains taxes while still receiving a fair market value deduction.

☐ **Send a Wire Transfer**

Instruct your financial institution to wire funds to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Galveston-Houston.

For security purposes, please contact us at 832-538-0327 before submitting your wire transfer, as instructions cannot be emailed.

☐ **Consider Bunching Gifts**

If you itemize deductions in some years but not others, combining donations into a single year (“bunching”) may increase your overall tax savings.

☐ **Use a Donor-Advised Fund**

Make a tax-deductible contribution now and recommend grants to your favorite nonprofits over time.

☐ **Make the Most of IRA Gifts**

If you’re age 70½ or older, you can give up to \$105,000 directly from your IRA to a qualified charity—meeting your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) while reducing taxable income.

☐ **Think About Your Legacy**

Including the Society in your will, trust, or beneficiary designations ensures your impact continues for generations to come.

☐ **Plan Ahead**

Gifts such as business interests or real estate may require additional time for valuations, legal review, and processing—so be sure to start early.

Please note: Upcoming changes in tax law may affect your charitable giving benefits beginning in 2026.

[Read more: [Understanding the New Tax Law—Impacts on Philanthropy](#)]

Call to Action

Before we begin the holiday season, I encourage you to examine your view of God. How you see Him shapes your experience of Him—when you see Him as a generous Father rather than a distant being, you open yourself to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught that true spiritual growth begins with a shift in perspective, not practice. The Spirit’s work is formation, producing real fruit like love, joy, and peace. Try placing God on the throne of your heart this season. Embrace His character and start mirroring His ways. Then watch your faith grow bold, your prayers deepen, and your life overflow with His goodness.

Let’s invite others into our ministry to experience true spiritual growth. We are a group of friends united as ONE Society. ☐

Your gal pal,

Val Senegal



NEW



"Basics of Home Visits Training"

Join us to explore and learn key guidelines for
conducting positive and effective Home Visits.



When: Wed.11/05/2025

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Where: **Virtual!**



Scan to Register





Advent Retreat 2025

ONENESS in LOVE

LOVE became flesh...

to order ourselves to Christ – SPIRITUALITY;

to strengthen our interconnectedness with others –

FRIENDSHIP;

to be stewards of God's treasure (the poor, lame, & suffering) –

SERVICE

Retreat includes Adoration and Benediction

When: Saturday 11/15

Time: 8:30am to 12:30pm

Where: 2 Locations!

St. Jerome

8825 Kempwood Dr,
Houston, TX 77080

Guardian Angel

5610 Demel St,
Wallis, TX 77485



Scan to Register



Additional Formation Opportunities

NOVEMBER 2025

Leadership Training

Saturday

11/01/2025

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Holy Family Church -
Galveston-Bolivar
(DiNardo Hall)
1525 25th Street
Galveston, TX 77550

NEW! Basics of Home Visits (Virtual)

Wednesday

11/05/2025

DECEMBER 2025

getFED (Virtual)

*"Advent: Active Waiting
and Christian Hope"*

**2nd Tuesday of the
Month**

12/09/2025

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

JANUARY 2026

getFED (Virtual)

*"Poverty Awareness
Month"*

**2nd Tuesday of the
Month**

01/13/2026

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

General Assembly

Saturday

01/24/2026

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

St. Jerome
Catholic Church

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

2749 Hollister Road
Houston, TX 77080

getFED (Virtual)

*"Practicing Key Elements
of Vincentian Gratitude"*

**2nd Tuesday of the
Month**

11/11/2025

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Advent Retreat

*"Oneness in Love"
presented by the
Spirituality Retreats
Subcommittee. (two
different locations)*

Saturday

11/15/2025

8:30 am – 1:00 pm

St. Jerome
Catholic Church
2749 Hollister Road
Houston, TX 77080

Advent Retreat

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Saturday

11/15/2025

8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Guardian Angel
Catholic Church
5610 Demel Street
Wallis, TX 77485

[REGISTER](#)

**SVDP Galveston-Houston
Getting Ahead Program Graduation**

November 8, 2025
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
(Servants Hall)
10330 Hillcroft St,
Houston, TX 77096

[RSVP HERE](#)

Phase I: Getting Ahead Program

The Getting Ahead Program is now accepting [applications](#) for Cohort 10, beginning in January

We're looking for neighbors who have received assistance and are ready to take steps towards building a better future.

Potential participants should not currently be facing an immediate life crisis, such as an eviction.

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World is a 16-week series for motivated people ready to change their lives by acquiring the tools and support necessary to "get ahead" in today's world.

Getting Ahead takes participants on a step-by-step journey to discover resources and build the resiliency necessary to overcome life's obstacles. This program helps participants build the life they want.



Memorandum

TO: United Way Funded Partner Executives

FROM: Margaret Oser, Vice President, Mission & Strategy

DATE: October 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Supporting Our Neighbors Through Food Assistance

Dear Agency Partner,

United Way of Greater Houston is partnering with Houston Food Bank to help meet increased food needs due to the temporary suspension of SNAP benefits.

Beginning October 29, the Houston Food Bank will be holding several large-scale distributions across Harris County, providing approximately 15,000 households per week – specifically federal workers and SNAP recipients – with nutritious foods including protein, produce, dairy and carbohydrates.

For these special distributions, federal employees and SNAP recipients must register in advance.

Distribution locations and a registration form can be found at HoustonFoodBank.org/crisisresponse or call 211 for more information.

211 will be available to help direct people to these large-scale distributions along with pantries across our region 24/7.

Nathan Hsu
Executive Coordinator to:
Margaret Oser, VP of Mission and Strategy
Mary Vazquez, VP of Community Outreach

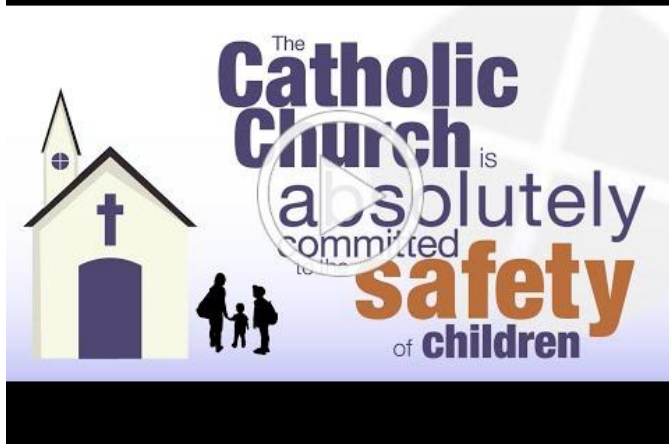


UNITED WAY
Greater Houston

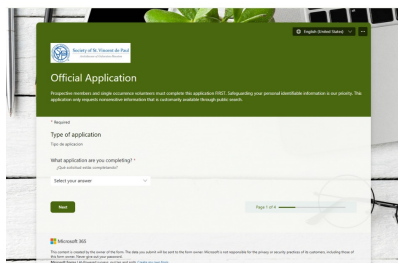
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO POSSIBILITY

Catholic Mutual Group (CMG)
WILL NOT notify the Society's
Council office once a person's
training is **100% complete**.
Contact your parish's
Safe Environment Coordinator
or iguerraarchgh.org if you need
to immediately check on the

status.



New Member Process:



[New Member Application Form](#)



[Catholic Mutual Group: Safe Haven Instructional Flyer](#)



[National Society of St. Vincent de Paul Member Database](#)



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