

From Your Servant Leader

August 17, 2017

Of our 95,000 Vincentians and thousands of others who support our work, fewer than 1,000 will attend the National Assembly on August 30 - September 2. While we continue to attract more people to this event each year, I doubt we'll ever get more than, say 5,000, to attend!

What about everyone else?

We have always asked those attending to share the best practices, news of resolutions debated and adopted, knowledge and insights gained from keynote speakers and other great materials to folks back home. One of the reasons for attending is to represent your Society friends back home!



But this year, Vincentians will be able to watch selected highlights from Tampa while at home in their pajamas! Actually you can wear whatever you want; you don't need to wear pajamas. Please, don't share...

New this year will be "livestreaming" of some of our major addresses and some of the closing banquet where we say goodbye to one board of directors and welcome the next president and board. Livestreaming is basically video that you can access on your computer. Maybe you have tried this for sporting events. We won't have any ringside announcers but "you'll be looking live" as Brent Musburger says, at our National Assembly right along with those in the audience!

You'll need to know when to plug in to watch, how to access the live feed, and what kind of computer and data access you'll need. I promise that it's nothing special. We'll cover this elsewhere in the E-Gazette and through other emails between now and the event dates.

The events will also be recorded and will be available for viewing access later, such as at a Conference meeting where you want to be inspired!

Okay, here's the catch. This livestreaming, at least for this year, is at no charge to you. But this is a trial for us, and if not many people watch, we may not be able to do this in the future. It's pretty expensive to livestream, but if thousands watch it's not a cost but a great investment. If my family members are the only viewers, well then, next year it would cost less to fly them to the meeting!

Make no mistake; we all want this to work. If we can reach thousands of our members, we improve both communications and understanding. Hopefully too, those who watch this year might get more excited about attending next year in San Diego.

So set your calendar – and your clock – to be a part of this year's National Assembly right from your home, the corner diner or wherever you might be with your computer. Sit in a comfy chair, bring along a beverage and some chips, and join us in Tampa. You won't even need the sunscreen!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Dave