**Vincentian Best Practices During the Pandemic**

As Contributed by Our Wonderful Vincentians

* *“Because Friendship and connection are so important during times of isolation, we have been meeting regularly on Zoom.”* - Last week, the Council Office sent out a letter to Conference Presidents recommending Zoom and providing instructions on its use. Contact Jim Sigillito ([jims@svdpstl.org](mailto:jims@svdpstl.org)) or Andrew Kassebaum ([andrewk@svdpstl.org](mailto:andrewk@svdpstl.org)) for assistance in setting up your video conference meetings.
* “*We encourage our members to participate in our parish’s live-streamed Masses, especially when we can do so as a Conference. There is power in “joining together” for Mass, even if we are in our own homes.”* - Contact the priest who will celebrate the live-streamed Mass ahead of time and let him know you will be watching and praying as a group.
* *“We have been calling many of our Neighbors, as well as parishioners who are elderly or isolated, to find out their needs, and we ask to pray with them over the phone.” -* Talk about the difference between waiting for a phone request, and actually “seeking and serving” our Neighbors in need.
* *“When we have opportunities to assist Neighbors, especially with all the fear around, we try to find a way to yes!”* - Avoid the “scarcity mentality” of fearing not having enough material resources to meet impending needs. Focus on identifying the Neighbor’s needs and how we can assist.
* *“We have been starting to plan for how our Conference can flourish both in dealing with what we expect to be increased need and in the “new normal” of the post-pandemic world. -* Start planning now for how you can use the post-pandemic period to recruit and form new members.”
* *“We pass around enriching resources like emails from the Council Office, offerings from Word on Fire, and reflections from The Word Among Us.” -* Here are the links to the resources they’re referring to: <https://www.wordonfire.org/> and [https://wau.org/](https://wau.org/)). Also, try picking a book, article, or Church document to read between meetings.
* *“During our Zoom meeting, we prayed for those who have died or who are suffering from COVID-19 and those who have lost jobs as a result of the pandemic.” -* Keep a running list of “prayers needed” to share with each other.
* *“It has been fun to share stories about some of our more joyful or light-hearted moments with our fellow conference members. We’ve had some good laughs at some of the personal challenges we faced during the pandemic.”* - Start a journal, maybe even a Conference journal, reflecting on your experiences as a Vincentian that you found particularly memorable or formative.
* *“Our conference has been blessed with a lot of resources, so we are prayerfully reflecting on ways we might be able to help conferences in need of additional volunteers or financial support.*” - For more information on twinning Vincentians as well as money, contact Steve Rupp at [stever@svdpstl.org](mailto:stever@svdpstl.org).
* *“We recognize the pandemic presents both opportunities and challenges to our parish, and quite frankly, the Catholic Church. We’ve begun planning on how we can help the parish “re-open” and celebrate.” -* Consider using this time to refocus on the Universal Call to Holiness and Mission, so your parish and the Church can grow from this experience.
* *“It is tough for some of our neighbors to come to the food pantry, so we have been creative in making sure we can provide what they need, even if we have to drop the food off on the porch*.” - Get creative and find ways to maintain social distancing, while still meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our Neighbors.