

# VINCENTIAN FAMILY GATHERING

## Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg

### Compassionate Hearts - Generous Hands

April 29, 2023  
Duquesne University

“We need a movement of people who know we need each other,  
who have a sense of responsibility to others and to the world.”

-Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream* (2020)



compassionate

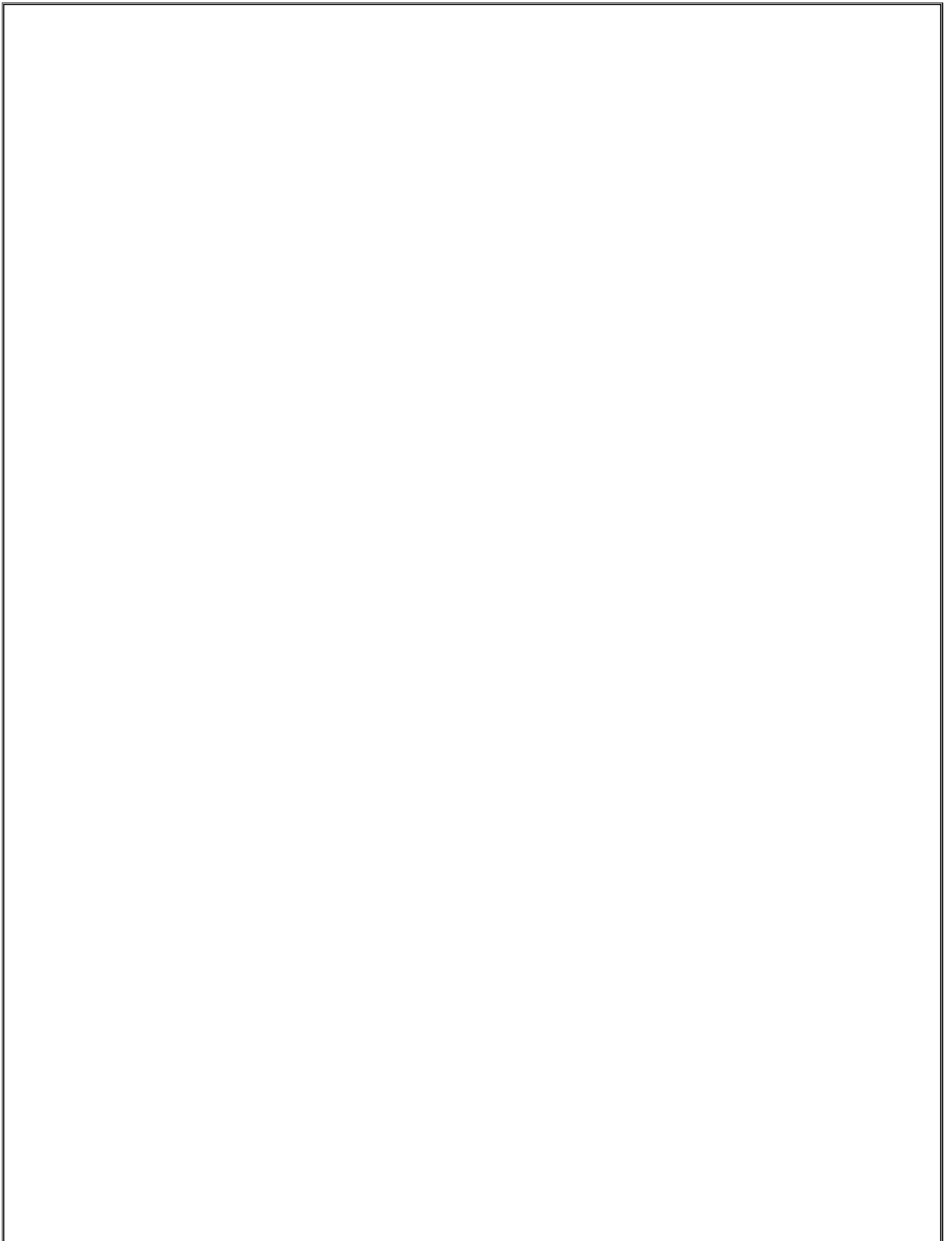


**HEARTS**

Generous



**HANDS**





**Vincentian Family Gathering**  
**Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg**  
**Compassionate Hearts – Generous Hands**  
**April 29, 2023 ~ Duquesne University, Power Center**

- 9:15 am** Gather
- 9:30 am** Opening Prayer and Welcome
- 9:40 am** ♦ Vincentian Formation I ~ Vincentian Table
- “Walk on Holy Ground” Music Video by Gen Verde
- ♦ Vincentian Formation II ~ Social Justice and Charitable Works
- 10:15 am** “Go to The People,” Dr. James Withers, MD - Operation Safety Net
- Presentations by Direct Service Ministries:**
- 11:00 am** Mary House, INC. A Transition House for Women
- 11:30 am** The Catholic Churches of Uniontown Ladies of Charity  
Children’s Closet and Penn State Ministry
- 12:00 noon** Break for Lunch
- 12:45 pm** St. Joseph House of Hospitality
- 1:15 pm** P.O.W.E.R. Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery
- 1:45 pm** The Red Door Ministry
- 2:15 pm** Collect / Bundle donations in support of various ministries  
This will be time for participants to divide up at each of six stations to prepare our gifts to be transported to the sites.
- 2:40 pm** Closing Reflection and Sharing at Tables
- 3:00 pm** Prayer of the Vincentian Family and Departure

## • Opening Prayer & Litany

### Leader:

We gather as members and friends of the Vincentian family. As we celebrate the effective and affective love of St. Vincent de Paul, we recall his call to charity, simplicity, and discovery of Christ in the face of those most in need. Our theme is Compassionate Hearts-Generous Hands. May we grow in the Vincentian Spirit, so we can live this day, and all days, as the heart and hands of Jesus Christ.

### ▪ Vincentian Litany

*Please respond to the Litany as marked All.*

And we pray...

God of peace and gentleness,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

God of generosity and compassion,

God of justice and freedom,

God of fellowship and equality,

God of comfort and healing,

God of outreach and restoration,

God of eternal life and resurrecting love,

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St. Vincent de Paul....

**All: Pray for us.**

St. Vincent de Paul, just and living by faith...

St. Vincent de Paul, ever burning with the fire of charity...

St. Vincent de Paul, truly simple, upright, loving God...

St. Vincent de Paul, meek and humble of heart, true disciple of Jesus Christ...

St. Vincent de Paul, ever animated by the spirit of Christ...

**All: Pray for us.**

St Vincent de Paul, who found in Christian poverty the rich treasure of the Gospel...

St. Vincent de Paul, most patient in the midst of adversity...

St. Vincent de Paul, destined by Providence to evangelize the poor...

St. Vincent de Paul, wise founder of the Congregation of the Mission...

St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, visionary founders of the Daughters of Charity...

St. Vincent de Paul, inspiration to Blessed Rosalie Rendu and Blessed Frederic Ozanam, full of tenderness and generosity towards those in need ...

St. Vincent de Paul whose Rule inspired and guided St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Mother Catherine Spalding ...

St. Vincent de Paul, advocate of justice and equity...

St. Vincent de Paul, perfect imitator of the life and virtues of Christ...

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Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**All: Graciously hear us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

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**Leader:** LET US PRAY:

**(All) Great God! Who, through your blessed servant Vincent de Paul, renewed the spirit of your beloved Son, in order to preach the Gospel to the poor, to console the afflicted, to assist those underserved and under-represented; grant us, through his intercession, the courage and grace to serve in the footsteps of your good and faithful servant. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Handout # 1**  
**Vincentian Table**



## Handout # 2

### Systemic Change in the Vincentian Charism



In our Vincentian charism we are called to both Charity AND Justice. Systemic Change among those living in poverty aims beyond providing food, clothing, shelter and alleviating immediate needs. It enables people themselves to engage in the identification of the root causes of their poverty and to create strategies, including advocacy, to change those structures which keep them in poverty. Systemic Change requires transforming attitudes and systems.

Fredrick Ozanam, the principal founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, made precisely the same point: “Charity is not sufficient. It treats the wounds but does not stop the blows that cause them ... Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the

wounds of the traveler who has been attacked. It is Justice’s role to prevent the attacks.”

In our efforts toward systemic change, we seek not only to assist the poor in their immediate needs by providing food, clothing and shelter, but to help them change the social system within which they live, so that they might emerge from poverty. That work carries forward the heart of Vincent’s direction for the Vincentian Family, changing the ‘hand-out’ to a ‘hand-up.’

We can turn to St. Vincent de Paul’s writings for guidance and examples that promote charity **AND** justice. 1) Our love is to be both “affective and effective” 2) We minister to the poor “spiritually and corporally” 3) We are to proclaim the good news “by word and work.”

- **End of Day Table Sharing:**

Take a few moments to share on our time together today as encounter with God: “Share briefly on one of these questions as we consider our experience today:”

1. **What did you see?**
2. **What did you hear?**
3. **What did you feel?**
4. **Where did you see the face of Christ?**

- **Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** As we transition to our closing prayer, let us keep in mind that today is one step of a journey. What we did today, in the Vincentian spirit, is a sacred encounter with Christ - with one another and with those we serve. We also bring to prayer the burning desire to do more, to address systems of injustice, and to continue to work with our Vincentian family in our shared commitment of love.  
**LET US CONCLUDE TOGETHER IN PRAYER:**

### **Prayer of the Vincentian Family**

Lord Jesus, You who willed to become poor,  
Give us eyes and a heart directed  
toward the poor,  
Help us to recognize You in them –  
In their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness  
and their misfortune.

Enkindle within our Vincentian Family  
unity, simplicity, humility and the fire of love  
that burned in St. Vincent DePaul.

Strengthen us, so that faithful to the practices  
of these virtues,  
we may Contemplate You, and serve You in  
the person of the poor, and may one day be  
united with You and them in Your Kingdom. Amen.





**2023  
NORTH  
AMERICAN  
VINCENTIAN  
FAMILY  
GATHERING**

**10.26-10.29  
DePaul University  
CHICAGO, IL**

*Featuring*



**Gen Verde**

**REGISTER NOW**

**[www.navincentianfamilygathering2023.com](http://www.navincentianfamilygathering2023.com)**



[jwalters@sistersofcharityfederation.org](mailto:jwalters@sistersofcharityfederation.org)



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