



JUST Love

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

When Did We See You a Stranger and Take You In? The Vincentian Family and the Unhoused

Did you notice the use of the term “unhoused” rather than “homeless” in the title of this article? It is the preferred term for people who lack adequate housing. It points more directly to their main problem rather than placing them in a category. And many of the inadequately housed have a “home” – they have roots in the place where they live, they may belong to a community of faith, they have relationships with families and friends. And they are part of the estimated 500,000 people in the United States, a quarter of them children, who do not have adequate shelter.

As part of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian Charism the Vincentian Family began the [Vincentian Family Global Initiative on Homelessness](#). Our vision is that everyone has a place to call home and a stake in their community.

Our Project Aims:

- To make a real and sustainable difference to the lives of thousands of homeless people;
- To connect Vincentians working across the broad spectrum of homelessness;
- To support and develop existing and emerging leaders;
- To share best practice and research;
- To encourage and support the growth of new and innovative services;
- To support lobbying at a local, regional and global level in support of homelessness;
- To develop and make available formation materials in support of this initiative with respect to spirituality.

Vincentian Father John Freund offers us the following suggestions to change our relationship to our underhoused brothers and sisters:

🏠 Talk to God about the unhoused people you drive or walk past. Blessed Rosalie Rendu, DC said, “Never have I prayed so well as on the streets.”



🏠 Talk with an unhoused person. Often even when we give a handout we don’t really engage with the person. Ask their name. Tell them yours. Have a conversation.

🏠 Talk on behalf of an unhoused person. Speak up and advocate when you hear of a piece of legislation that will either hurt or help the unhoused. See your voting through their eyes and experiences.

For Further Reflection and Action:

🏠 Vincentian Global Initiative on Homelessness
<https://famvin.org/en/files/2017/06/ENGLISH-Famvin-Homeless-Alliance-Covering-Paper-June-2017.pdf>

🏠 Famvin Homeless Alliance
<http://vfhomelessalliance.org/about-the-alliance/>

🏠 The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless
<https://theelizabethcoalition.org/>

🏠 Read *Lost and Found: Faith and Spirituality in the Lives of the Homeless* <https://www.lemosandcrane.co.uk/resources/LostandFound.pdf>

🏠 Learn about “Sure We Can” a recycling center in Brooklyn founded by a Catholic sisters for unhoused people who make their living as “canners” – redeeming cans and bottles for money <http://www.surewecan.org/>



How will you celebrate the Season of Creation which Pope Francis has declared, beginning on September 1, the International Day of Prayer for Creation, and ending on the Feast of St. Francis on October 4?

☀ Find resources here for the Season of Creation <http://seasonofcreation.org/>

☀ Use the Sisters of Charity resource *6 Weeks with Laudato Si'* for a deep dive into the integral ecology of Pope Francis https://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/SIX_WEEKS_WITH_LAUDATO_SI_2.pdf

☀ Review the *Sisters of Charity Green Meeting Guidelines*. How do your gatherings measure up? https://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/Green_Meeting_Guidelines.pdf

☀ Read the latest issues of the *Charity Earth Network Newsletter*. Use the prayer service in the September 27, 2018 issue for the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul. <https://www.scnj.org/index.php/charity-earth-network-newsletter>



DATES IN SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1- Oct. 4 – The Season of Creation. “We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” ~ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* (#49).

3 Labor Day “No one may deny the right to organize without attacking human dignity itself. Therefore, we firmly oppose organized efforts, such as those regrettably now seen in this country, to break existing unions and prevent workers from organizing.” (*Economic Justice for All*, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1986)

8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary “We ask Mary, our tender mother, to point the whole world to the sure path of love and peace.”
~ Pope Francis

13 Feast of St. John Chrysostom who said “If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find him in the chalice.”

21 International Day of Peace “We oppose, moreover, preparedness for war, a preparedness which is going on now on an unprecedented scale and which will undoubtedly lead to war ...Why not prepare for peace?” ~ Dorothy Day

22 World Car Free Day Fast for 24 hours from the use of your car. Take a walk. Do you feel different?

27 Feast of St. Vincent de Paul “Go to the poor: you will find God.”