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## Opening Our Eyes

One of the recurrent messages in the Gospels is the blindness of the world, perhaps even the unwillingness of the worldly to open their eyes and truly see. Echoing the prophets, Jesus cries out against those who have closed their eyes. Jesus tells us that this kind of blindness is a choice—a choice to close our eyes and avoid seeing reality: the truth of pain, hunger, indifference, loneliness around us, or even the beauty and wonder. Take a moment and ponder: Where and when are you closing your eyes? What are you trying to avoid? What are you missing? Is there someone in your life who simply hungers to be seen?

Franciscan Pause and Pray  
Lord, make me an instrument of your love for everyone I see, and hear, and touch this day.  
Amen

## Pope Francis Prayer Intentions

### For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

## Calendar Dates

### Ozanam Orientation Schedule

April 8, 2024 – Tucumcari -rescheduled due to weather  
June 1, 2024 - St. Francis Xavier, Albuquerque  
June 22, 2024 - Abiquiu

To register, please go to our website

[www.stvincentdepaulsantafe.org](http://www.stvincentdepaulsantafe.org)

If your conference would like to host an Ozanam, please contact Linda Stubbs at [lindalstubbs@comcast.net](mailto:lindalstubbs@comcast.net)

## SVDP E-Gazette

Frederic's E-Gazette is a weekly newsletter from the National Office to Vincentians. It includes registrations for various webinars, trainings, and a weekly Servant Leader column. Please subscribe to the e-Gazette. email [jpioter@svdpusa.org](mailto:jpioter@svdpusa.org).

## The Rule

### Statute 9: Festival Meetings and Conference Masses

Conferences and Councils celebrate liturgical ceremonies, particularly Vincentian ceremonies. Six days have been designated for religious observance:  
Ozanam Sunday – last Sunday of April  
Feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam – September 9  
Feast of St. Vincent de Paul – September 27  
The Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Society – December 8  
Another feast day of local custom.

A Conference Mass should be celebrated once a year for all members and their families and to recommission members.



## Lunch with Archbishop Wester

**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

**Where:** Incarnation Parish, Rio Rancho

**When:** Registration – 8:30 AM

A morning of informational breakout sessions

**Lunch:** Noon – Donations appreciated

**Mass:** 1:00 pm

Please contact your District Council President to volunteer organizing this event.

**Registration information sent to all Conference Presidents — registration deadline - April 15**

**We hope you will join us.**

## Musings from a First-time Attendee at a National Meeting

Within the first 60 minutes of my first attendance at a SVDP National meeting, my impression was: **THIS IS WHY** we are part of this international society! We are not a bunch of disconnected councils and conferences struggling to perform their ministries on islands by themselves. We are led by highly capable and competent leaders who are focused on us and the people we serve. They have vision and a solid grasp of our issues and challenges, and **THEY WANT TO HELP US SOLVE THEM!** I firmly believe every single Vincentian should attend a National meeting because it will light a fire in your heart and help you appreciate what we, as a society, are. Belonging to this Society is a massive benefit and not a hassle just because we have to send reports. I believe it should be the goal of our Council Board to make sure every board member attends a National meeting early in their tenure on the board.

Thank You Larry Gonzales for sharing your insights.

## ServWare

**ServWare** – Please contact David at [depaul505@gmail.com](mailto:depaul505@gmail.com) with questions and comments.