



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

St. Vincent Times

SVDP Archdiocese

Galveston-Houston Council

February 1, 2025 Issue



Announcement from Board President Gerardo Rivera

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, it is my distinct honor to announce the appointment of **Val Senegal** as our new Executive Director, effective April 1, 2025.

Val will step into the new role after serving as our chief program officer. She succeeds Ann Schorno, who has served as SVdP Houston's executive director for 15 years.

[Read Full Announcement](#)



Val Senegal to become the new Executive Director on April 1, 2025

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston Houston (SVdP) is pleased to announce Val Senegal will become its Executive Director on April 1st. After a six-month national search, the committee and board of directors selected her to lead the Society into the future under the national theme "Adapting to a changing world." Val will step into the role after serving as SVdP's Chief Program Officer. Her guidance enabled the organization to successfully expand the Underserved Communities Initiative as well as enhance the Systemic Change Initiative: Getting Ahead Programs. Before joining the Society, she spent 20 years improving the lives of vulnerable populations in at-risk and distressed communities by addressing education, health, and social disparities.

Val assumes leadership from Ann Schorno who has served as SVdP's top executive for 15 years. Ann will remain with SVdP until May 31, 2025 to support Val during this transition. "I cannot thank Ann enough for her 15 years of tireless leadership and dedication to the Society. Under her guidance, the impact of SVdP in the Archdiocese more than doubled. While we will certainly miss her, we wish her the best as she embarks on the next chapter of her life," says Gerardo Rivera, Board President of SVdP. "I am excited that Val has accepted the opportunity to continue her service to the Society. Val exemplifies leadership, empowerment, and a commitment to positive change. The Board looks forward to working with Val and supporting her in this new role."

Val's career began with two years of service in AmeriCorps, and she brings two decades of experience working with local and national nonprofit organizations that address disparities and serve vulnerable populations, namely the University of Houston: Research Centers in Minority Institutions, Hearts of Hope: Sexual Trauma Center, United Way, National Area Health Education Centers, Junior League and Jack & Jill of America, Inc. Her determination and persistence have illuminated countless communities and secured the help for several families to overcome disasters across east Harris County. Her outlook on leadership draws inspiration because of her strong values and ethical beliefs. She believes success is embodied by a life aligned with one's purpose, commitment to excellence and rendering high-quality services to those in need. Her new leadership role will symbolize the exercising of innate talents to impact the lives of others. Val graduated with a bachelors degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and obtained a Masters in Adult Education from Northwestern. In 2024, she received her executive leadership certification from Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. She and her husband have three children, three godchildren, and a German Shepherd fur baby.

The Spirituality of St. Vincent



Rule 2.6 Vocation for every moment of our lives

...affects all aspects of members' daily lives, making them more sensitive and caring in their family, work, and leisure activities. Vincentians are available for work in Conferences only after fulfilling family and professional duties.

Be the face of Christ. See the face of Christ.

Let's Stay InFORMED.



Upcoming getFED Topics:

FEBRUARY 11, 2025

7:00PM-7:45PM

COLLABORATIONS ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON.

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

12:15PM-1:00PM

COLLABORATIONS ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON.

Upcoming Opportunities:

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
February 15, 2025 Ozanam Orientation	March 8, 2025 Ozanam, Orientation	April 5, 2025 Basics of the Home Visit

<p>(District 7) St. Michael Lake Jackson 100 Oak Dr. South, Lake Jackson, TX 77566 8:30AM-2:30PM</p> <p>February 22, 2025 Ozanam Orientation (District 1) St. Rose of Lima 3600 Brinkman St. Houston, TX 77018 8:30AM-2:30PM</p>	<p>(District 5) St. Anne 2140 Westheimer Rd. Houston, TX 77098 8:30AM-2:30PM</p> <p>March 29, 2025 Lenten Retreat St. Anne Catholic Community 2140 Westheimer Road Houston, TX 77098</p>	<p>Workshop: "The Encounter" TBD 8:30AM-12:00PM</p> <p>April 12, 2025 Ozanam Orientation (District 3) St. Frances de Sales 8200 Roos Rd Houston, TX 77036 8:30AM-2:30PM</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY
N/A	<p>June 7, 2025 Ozanam Orientation (District 6) St. Anthony of Padua 7801 Bay Branch Dr. The Woodlands, TX 77382 8:30AM-2:30PM</p> <p>June 28, 2025 Advance Home Visit Workshop: (Focus on "Adaptation"- Systemic Change) (District 4) St. Cecilia 11720 Joan of Arc Dr Houston, TX 77024 8:30AM-1:00PM</p>	<p>VIRTUAL Ozanam Orientations: TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM & THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM</p>
AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
TBD	TBD	Leadership training begins!

[Click Here](#) to view more details on the Council website.

[Register Here](#)



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Thank you! Learn more: svdphouston.org/impact



GAP ENROLLMENT UPDATE

We are excited to announce that we have started the **8th** cohort of the program! Here are some key details:

- **Sessions Offered:** 4 sessions were available for candidates to choose from.
- **Enrollment:** A total of 43 participants have enrolled.
- **Program Duration:** The program will run for 16 weeks, with weekly meetings focused on:
 - Understanding the causes of instability.
 - Researching available resources.
 - Building a supportive network.

Important Notes:

- **Enrollment Period:** The enrollment period for this cohort has now ended.
- **Next Opportunity:** Interested individuals can apply for the **July sessions**.
- **Application Information:** All necessary information, including the application process, can be found on our website: [SVDP Houston](https://svdp-houston.org).

Desirable Characteristics for Program Candidates:

When referring neighbors into the program candidates for the program, prioritize the following characteristics:

- **Need:** Candidates should have a genuine need for support and improvement in their lives, but not in immediate crisis.
- **Motivation:** A strong desire to enhance their situation is essential.
- **Desire for Improvement:** Candidates must show a commitment to making positive changes.
- **Ability to Utilize the Program:** They should be capable of effectively using the resources and support provided by the program to create sustainable improvements.

Remember: Candidates choose the program; we do not choose for them.

[View 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY Photos on the website](#)

Houston Winter Weather Safety

During freezing temperatures, remember to protect the four P's:

- People: Dress warmly, in layers, to avoid hypothermia.
- Pets: Bring them indoors or provide a warm place to sleep.
- Pipes: Wrap pipes running outside or under the house in insulation to prevent freezing and cracking.
- Plants: Cover or bring inside to protect from frost damage.

Stay updated by signing up for [AlertHouston](#); trusted sources:

- [Houston Office of Emergency Management](#)
- [Houston TranStar](#)

Want to know more about privacy settings? Learn from our friends at [National Cybersecurity Alliance](#) by clicking [HERE](#)

Announcement to Conference Treasurers: BEWARE OF CYBER-FRAUD

Before wiring any funds, call the intended recipient at a number **you know is valid** to confirm the instructions. Be very wary of any request to change wire instructions you already received.



**SVDP Archdiocese
Galveston Houston Council**

[Member Portal](#)



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



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