



175
YEARS of
NEIGHBORS
HELPING
NEIGHBORS

The Society Scoop



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

December 9, 2020

Program Updates

Housing Pilot Program

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is collaborating with St. Patrick Center to pilot a Rapid Rehousing program. The pilot program is scheduled to begin in January and will be available to help Neighbors in St. Louis City and St. Louis County with plans for expansion to additional counties at a later date. The program will provide housing assistance to our Neighbors who are at imminent risk of homelessness or who have been homeless for 30 days or less.

In order for your Conference to participate in the pilot and refer Neighbors, a representative from your Conference must attend one of the three upcoming Zoom trainings.

What:SVDP Rapid Rehousing Pilot Training

Who: Conference Vincentians in St. Louis City and County

When: Attend one of three sessions (*see links to the right*)

For questions, please email Julie Komanetsky:
Juliek@svdpstl.org

Session 1:
Thurs., Dec. 10
10 AM

[Click to join on
12/10 at 10 am](#)

Session 2:
Thurs., Dec. 10
6 PM

[Click to join on
12/10 at 6 pm](#)

Session 3:
Thurs., Dec. 17
10 AM

[Click to join on
12/17 at 10 am](#)

The St. Louis Crisis Nursery

Family Empowerment Program



[For more information on the all-area Family Empowerment Program, click here](#)

St. Louis Crisis Nursery: A Resource for our Neighbors in Need

St. Louis Crisis Nursery provides crisis shelter and respite care to children when their families are struggling. Often children stay at crisis nursery when the household utilities have been disconnected or when the parent is overwhelmed by stress.

But, the Crisis Nursery also offers another program called **Family Empowerment**. This program provides help to families who have at least one child under the age of 13. They focus on minimizing stress, reducing isolation, ensuring family stability, achieving goals, and meeting basic needs. Crisis Nursery meets with families twice a month and works with them for up to one year.

[Click here to complete a referral form for a Neighbor in Need](#)

From Father Jim

Are you open to the transforming grace of God?

On my best days, on my most vulnerable days, on my brightest days the answer is not just “yes,” but rather: “Oh God, please come, and by your joining in yourself humanity and divinity, transform me, that I might become more and more what I am made and destined to be.”

The mystery of the Incarnation, God with us Emmanuel, invites us to embrace transformation grounded in God’s wisdom and love.

Did you notice I did not confess to an openness to transformation always? Truth be told, I belong to the church of earning and deserving fullness of life. Let God work with those who are really off the rails, whose life choices are disordered and dysfunctional. If I get in a jam, I’ll then call on God’s transforming love, but after all I’m one of the good ones.

What if I bring that attitude to a home visit? (Lord let that be soon.) Will the transformational power of compassion be compromised? Most certainly, yes, if what I am giving and doing is only from me and in the end only about me. But I would rarely notice this, after all I’m doing God a favor by being good.

Jesus weeps. “Let me in, as you serve, then your service will not be just helpful, it will be Godly, full of transforming power and wisdom. Let me in, and then all will be transformed.”



Help us to pray: Come Lord Jesus.

Fr. Jim

From the Voice of the Poor...

VOICE
of the POOR

Time well spent?

More than 140 million Americans across our country voted for

candidates to serve our government. In preparation, we studied the candidate's positions on issues of importance to us, our community and the Church. It was a proud day for America to show the world how we cherish democracy with our vote.

The time that we spent evaluating candidates, issues and following the process of the election was significant. Was our focus wrong to be consumed by the election? Should the time have been spent advocating for the poor?

The answer is that God wants us to develop our heart, mind and good judgement that will serve Him. He cares about us deeply and wants us to be engaged in life to better develop ourselves as persons who serve others and ultimately Him.

The activities that we partake in, like advocating for the poor, help us to build a better relationship with God. When using our talents and abilities, we come to know and understand Him better.

The Voice of the Poor Committee



Let Sandi Bohnert tell how ServWare allowed her to be the Face of Christ to a Neighbor

Click the image above to listen to Vincentian Sandi Bohnert from Our Lady Queen of Peace Conference talk about how ServWare has helped relationship building with a Neighbor in Need.

ServWare

Tidbits from Elizabeth Barbieri

Sharing and Giving, it's the heart of Christmas. I live in Brentwood - I grew up in Clayton. Clayton is literally 10 houses from my home.

That's the way our Parishes and Conferences are in the Archdiocese. Your Parish Conference probably is very close to another Parish Conference and sometimes, just 1 mile away - the other Conference has serious need and not a lot of donations. I ask you as Conferences to *reach across the street* in your Districts and twin/share with



another Conference that has a greater need than yours. Don't wait to be asked - it is a time of need, we need to give.

Merry Christmas to my fellow Vincentians.

Elizabeth Barbieri
Board President

John Heithaus to retire at SVdP

John Heithaus to retire at SVdP

Director of Vincentian Services, John Heithaus will retire at the end of 2020. John has served at the Society for five years.

John has played a major role to the growth of SVdP including a focus on spirituality and formation, Vincentian growth, activity and engagement. SVdP will always remember John's service of spreading the joy in being the face of Christ to others and especially seeing it in our Neighbors in Need.

There are many highlights to John's career at SVdP including the 2019 Spring Assembly attended by more than 600 Vincentians and last month's 175th Anniversary Mass at the Old Cathedral viewed by more than 2,500 across the world.

What's the next chapter for John? This we know — wherever he goes, with whomever he meets, and in his role as a Deacon at Sacred Heart in Florissant, he will be continue to be a witness of Christ's love for all of us. John also looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Eleanor, his three children and his 11 grandchildren.

Thank you, John, for your dedication to and betterment of the Society.



Upcoming Formation Opportunities

Ozanam Orientations

Ozanam Orientation Wednesday, December 9

9 am - 12 pm
*Virtual Orientation over
Zoom*

Ozanam Orientation Sat., January 30, 2021

9 am - 2 pm
Immaculate Conception-

Other Opportunities

Servant Leadership and our Vincentian Vocation

Tonight -- Wednesday, December 9

6:30 pm
Register to attend the virtual event:
<https://meetingssvdpusa.regfox.com/servant-leadership-and-our-vincentian-vocation>

Living Catholic Social Teaching Monday, December 14

Dardenne Prairie, 7701
Highway N, Dardenne
Prairie, MO 63368

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Virtual Event over Zoom

Click here to
register



Did you miss the live stream of the 175th Anniversary Mass?

A mass was held on November 20 at the Old Cathedral to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States. You can watch the mass by clicking on the photo to the left.

Keep in Your Prayers

Please Pray For The Sick:

Mike Goering
Council Office

Please Pray For The Deceased:

Bill Donnelly
Former North District President

To add a name to the list contact Steve Rupp at steve@svdpstl.org or (314) 881-6018



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
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