

IN *Charity* AND TRUTH

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2015



DEAR FELLOW VINCENTIANS AND FRIENDS,

As we continue to deal with the repercussions of Ferguson, I find myself comforted and inspired to action by the words of Mother Teresa: “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” Moments like these test us. Ferguson impacts us all, and all of us are called to do something and be something better. As Christ said, “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

The Vincentians of Mary Queen of Peace in Webster Groves are doing their part to help bring peace to the region. Over the last 15 years, they have founded one of the strongest twin relationships in the region with the conference of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** in Ferguson (see sidebar).

Donors **Jack and Robin Hake** are also excellent examples of peacemakers. They live in Illinois, but Jack never forgot his roots in Florissant. Read about how they are focusing their giving this year on the Society’s North County outreach (page 3).

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has a long history of outreach and support in North County, and we will continue to be there long after the media has left. We are needed there more than ever. When the National Guard shuts down a major commercial thoroughfare, businesses can’t open (as happened to our **Dellwood store**; see back page). Shoppers can’t shop; workers can’t work. What if you’re depending on that paycheck to make your rent? Or need to buy food for your children? What if your bus has to take a circuitous route that causes you to be 30 minutes late to your job in another part of town? When school is closed for a week, how do you afford childcare if you’re living near the poverty line?

We are excited about the establishment of the fund for North County and hope it will help bring peace to the region. We hope many of you will make a contribution with the enclosed envelope.

Most humbly and gratefully yours,

John P. Foppe, Ph.D. (h.c.)
Executive Director



Vincentian volunteers working together at Our Lady of Guadalupe food pantry.

Webster and Ferguson: Two Communities, One Mission

AT THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, we believe that *helping neighbors starts at home*. Every conference has resources to offer their communities, but some have more funding than others. In keeping with the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam to create a “network of charity,” the Society’s twinning program matches conferences with unmet needs with other conferences that can offer greater financial and spiritual support. For the last 15 years, the parishes of Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) in Ferguson and Mary Queen of Peace (MQP) in Webster Groves have worked together. The relationship is one of love, respect, and prayerful sharing – and has created some powerful success stories.

The Need

Located in Ferguson, Our Lady of Guadalupe draws parishioners from the entire metro area, but the need in the immediate neighborhood is substantial. The Vincentians at OLG focus on organizing and running the food pantry. In the last 12 months, they have served more than 2,300 families –

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Webster and Ferguson from page 1

close to 10,000 people. “But whenever people in the neighborhood need help with medical, rent, water, or utilities, we refer them to Mary Queen of Peace,” says Joe Orlando, president of the OLG Vincentians.

“Without our friends at Mary Queen of Peace,” adds Cathy Dahmer, vice president of the OLG Vincentians, “a lot of people in this neighborhood wouldn’t have their heat on this winter.”

One such case is Justin, who was in dire need of utility assistance after he lost his job. The Vincentian volunteers who arranged for utility assistance for Justin also helped him in his job search until Justin found a new job and eventually began his own business (see box below).

The conference at MQP raises nearly \$90,000 per year for utility, rent, and medical assistance for neighbors of OLG and organize several yearly food drives at the school and parish. MQP Vincentians also make around 250 home visits here each year. “We’re a very active group with nearly 30 Vincentians,” says MQP Vincentian and Southwest District president Roy Maurer. “When the relationship with Our Lady of Guadalupe got started, we were looking for a parish where we could make a difference.”

Even during the unrest in Ferguson this fall, the MQP Vincentians never stopped making home visits. “Everyone hears depressing stories on the news,” says Tom Andrew, president of the MQP Vincentians. “Being a Vincentian means you’re able to do something. You get in your car, make a visit, and actually do something. It might be something small, but you learn quickly that it really matters in the lives of the neighbors we visit.”

Helping Real Lives in Ferguson

For the Keys family, the trouble started when Justin got sick.

“I just couldn’t work my usual schedule, so they let me go.”

Justin, 26, and Heather had been raising their three little girls (ages 8, 6, and 2) in a quiet middle-class neighborhood in their hometown of Ferguson, Missouri. Justin’s job at FedEx was dependable with good benefits—until he fell ill and they laid him off.

“I just couldn’t land another solid job, and the bills started to pile up. Christmas was coming. It was a real rough patch.”

Around Thanksgiving, they were about to have their power disconnected and lose their heat when Justin’s neighbor gave him the number for the Society of

St. Vincent de Paul. He left a message, and within just a few days, Vincentians were responding.

“We showed up early at the house,” says Valerie Fitzpatrick, who often makes home visits with her husband Don, a fellow Vincentian. “We met Justin in the driveway, and he asked us to wait a few minutes while he picked up the kids’ toys before we came in. It was clear that he was proud of his home.”

“Val and Don, they brought a bunch of bags of food and a grocery store voucher,” says Justin. “But I’ll tell you, it was more than that. They were just so friendly, so compassionate, so encouraging. It was truly God working in our life.”

The couple arranged for their conference to help to pay the family’s outstanding utility bills and to establish a payment plan. During follow-up visits, they helped Justin rewrite and update his resume as he continued to look for a better job so that he could pay his bills and support his young family.

Drawing on his eight years of experience in the industry, Justin decided to launch his own moving and delivery business, Just In Delivery Service, LLC. Today, business is taking off: he has four full-time employees and plans to hire four more this year. If revenues continue to rise, he hopes to purchase his own trucks soon (he currently operates with leased vehicles).

What do his girls think of his success?

“I like the trucks!” says Taniyah, age 6.

“Daddy is the boss,” adds her big sister Takiyah proudly.



Vincentian Volunteers visit with Justin, Ferguson resident, at Our Lady of Guadalupe food pantry

Editor’s Note: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul respects our neighbors’ confidentiality. If you would like information about Justin’s business or to contact him, call the manager of membership support, Steve Rupp, at (314) 881-6018.

Donor Spotlight

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Hakes Establish North County Fund

GROWING UP IN NEARBY FLORISSANT,

Jack Hake has many happy childhood memories of Ferguson. “We’d ride the bus to downtown Ferguson, buy some candy at King’s Drug and watch a movie at the Savoy Theater. We went ice-skating at Wabash Park all the time in the winter. It was a wonderful place.”

That’s why Jack and his wife Robin decided to focus on Ferguson this year. Long-time supporters of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Hakes have used their annual gift to establish a fund dedicated to targeting poverty in north St. Louis city and county.

The North County Fund will allow Vincentian volunteers from the 14 conferences in the Society’s North District to provide utility assistance, prescription drug assistance and thrift store vouchers to people in need in the region.

“The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an organization really focused on helping the poor, and we think they do a great job,” says Jack. “This year, with the news from Ferguson, we wanted to provide even more support.”

Jack graduated from McBride High School (followed by a BS at Dayton University and an MBA at SIU). Today, he is Chairman and CEO of Duke Manufacturing, a privately held company that makes food service equipment on a global scale. The company headquarters and manufacturing facility are located downtown on North Broadway.

“I grew up in North County and our factory is in north city,” says Jack. “I feel called to help there—and to be part of the solution. People need a way out of poverty, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul can help.”

The Hakes live in Edwardsville, Illinois, and worship at St. Boniface where they were married. Robin (née Werner) was formerly vice president of Administration at Duke, and now serves as business manager at the parish. When asked about the inspiration for their giving, Jack cites Luke 12:48



Robin and Jack Hake

“Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required.” “Robin and I feel very blessed and want to give back to the community. We like to think we are stewards of the good Lord’s money.”

We hope you will consider joining Jack and Robin by assisting the efforts of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in our north district, please note “North County” on your check, or call development officer Anne Kirwan at (314) 881-6024 to make a donation over the phone.



Emerson Continues to Support SVdP

Company’s support aids North County residents

HEADQUARTERED IN FERGUSON, MO.,

Emerson has long maintained a steadfast commitment to its North County neighbors. One of the ways Emerson supports the region is by regularly donating to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which directly impacts locals in need.

“We are proud to contribute to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul because of its unique network of person-to-person services,” said Pat Sly, Emerson Executive Vice President and member of the Ferguson Commission, an independent group working toward healing and positive change for the St. Louis area. “Ferguson is our home, and Emerson is committed to supporting the Society and other organizations that help build up our region, especially during this time of increased need.”

Between the Dellwood thrift store and partnering with local parishes, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will continue to be there for its North County neighbors, and across the St. Louis area, for years to come.

Emerson, a global manufacturing and technology company and leader in corporate citizenship, contributes more than \$20,000 per year to the Society.

“In-kind donations and financial backing from companies like Emerson help us continue to make a tangible difference to North Country residents through these difficult times,” said John Foppe, Council Executive Director. “We are extremely grateful for Emerson’s generosity.”



EMERSON

Memorial and Honor Gifts

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY in remembrance and honor of your friends and family. The following gifts were received between October 31, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

In Memory

In Memory of Mary Rodden
Gregory and Barbara Abraham

In Memory of Joseph Chiecsek
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In Memory of Christopher Lammert
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Gary Ayres

In Memory of Scott Scheiner
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Robert Wacker

We've Moved!

THE COUNCIL OFFICE of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis has moved. As of November, our headquarters is now on the ground floor of the historic Blanke Building, located south of Interstate 64 and immediately west of the Ralston Purina Company headquarters. Constructed in 1888, the building has been owned by the T. T. Haydock Carriage Company, Blanke Tea and Coffee Company, and others over the years.

We would love for you to come visit us at our new home at **1310 Papin St., St. Louis, Mo., 63103.**



2014 Apostles of Charity

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS who have made donations of \$500 or more this calendar year.



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SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS

Our Mission

A Catholic lay organization, joining women and men together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering.

Please Remember Us

We pray that you remember the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis in your estate planning. Your legacy will continue and strengthen one of the first charitable missions in St. Louis... since 1845.

Thrift Store Locations

Dellwood

10052 W. Florissant Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63136
(314) 881-6000

St. Charles

1069 Regency Parkway
St. Charles, MO 63303
(314) 881-6000

West County

14660 Manchester Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63011
(314) 881-6000

South City

4928 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116
(314) 881-6000

Lemay Ferry

3924 Lemay Ferry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125
(314) 881-6000





SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis
1310 Papin Street
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SAVE THE DATE

170th Anniversary Celebration
On the establishment of
the Society in the United States

Commemorative Mass
Basilica of Saint Louis, King (The Old Cathedral)
2pm on September 13, 2015

IN *Charity*
AND **TRUTH**

Dellwood Store Damaged, But Reopens

THE SVDP DELLWOOD THRIFT STORE is located at 10052 West Florissant Avenue, the stretch of road that witnessed the worst of the vandalism and arson during the Ferguson unrest.

“The glass in our door was broken in August,” says assistant store manager Mark Misuraca. “But we were ready for the Grand Jury decision. We finished boarding up at about 8 p.m. that night. The next day, we couldn’t open because we couldn’t get there.”

Despite those dark times, the store was open the very next day and has stayed open ever since. “It’s our smallest store in square feet,” says John Walters, the director of thrift stores for the Society. “But our neighbors there need us. Lots of customers walk there. Lots of shoppers thank us for being there.” In 2014, the Dellwood store fulfilled \$57,000 worth of voucher purchases, helping 329 neighbors in need. Vouchers are distributed by Vincentians during home visits when volunteers discover that the family does not have furniture to sit on, a kitchen table to eat on, or beds for children to sleep in. In these cases, a voucher is provided that the family can redeem at no cost to them for specific goods at our thrift stores.

Wilma was one such recent shopper. A Vincentian had provided her with a voucher for a mattress set, and she was there with a niece to pick it up. She is a widow on a fixed income, who suffers from degenerative arthritis. A recent shoulder injury had made her 20-year-old mattress unusable. “I live alone,” she says. “I don’t know what I would have done without St. Vincent!”

Proceeds from our thrift stores help fund our programs year-round. **Whether you’re shopping or donating, you’re helping!** With five stores in the St. Louis area, there is a Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store near you.



SVDP employees assist a customer at the Dellwood thrift store.