

DOING GOOD!!

An E-Publication of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocese of Cleveland



DOING GOOD!!

is sent monthly.

To join our Doing Good mailing list, view past issues, or to learn more about SVDP, visit us at svdpdcle.org.
Correspond with us via email at doing-good@svdpdcle.org.
Please share this issue with your fellow Conference members who may not have email.
To unsubscribe, simply reply to the email from which you received this newsletter with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.



Give Hope

Donate a car
Give hope to those in need

Donate old vehicles to SVDP by calling 1-800-322-8284 or by visiting svdppusa.com. All donations stay local.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

INVITATION FOR RENEWAL

November 9-13
Indianapolis, IN

BOARD MEETING

All Vincentians welcome
December 12 Noon
Our Lady of Hope
300 Center Rd., Bedford

OZANAM ORIENTATION

St. Mary, Hudson
January 2017/ Time TBA

FOOD CENTERS VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

April 24-28 / Time TBA

KENTUCKY DERBY DAY

Great Lakes Brewing Co.
May 6, 4pm-8pm

DIOCESAN SVDP COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Assumption Parish,
Broadview Heights
May 21, 9:00am mass

5K RUN FROM HUNGER

July 1
Site/Time TBA

GOLF OUTING

Sleepy Hollow Golf Course
Brecksville
July 21, 8am-4pm

SVDP NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

August 28-September 2
Tampa, FL

FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK

September 24
Sites TBA

RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

September/October

BLANKET SUNDAY

October 7 & 8

CONFERENCE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE THIS MONTH

All our Conferences use the same EIN (IRS non-profit identity number) on our bank, savings, checking, investment accounts, etc. Our Central Office compiles all our financial numbers and fills out one 990 report to the IRS for all of us each year. This is required so that all Conferences that report financials to us are the then registered with the IRS as tax-exempt 501 (c) 3 non-profits. Otherwise your Conference should file its own IRS 990 every year to maintain its tax exemption.

All Conferences have been sent the proper form that summarizes your financials, and all the good works your Conference has done the past fiscal year. Our SVDP fiscal year is October 1 to September 30 each year. If you have any questions about the form please call Anelize immediately. If you'd like help with the financial data our Comptroller, Ed Treat will be happy to work with you. PLEASE make sure we have your data in our office by November 30.

A Greater Hunger

In my work with Vincentians, I have realized just how generous you can be with your time and resources. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I am reminded of how many Vincentians I know who help out at free community Thanksgiving dinners and provide Thanksgiving food baskets to those in need.



On a day when there is so much food, no one should go hungry. Yet I also see at those Thanksgiving dinners and food distribution sites some who suffer from a greater hunger: the hunger for friendship, for companionship, and for some pleasant human interaction. There are many who struggle with loneliness, especially on days like Thanksgiving when the images are all of picture-perfect dinners with a full table of family and friends. Reality is often stark and sad for those who do not have anyone close to them. Please pray for those who sit at an empty table this Thanksgiving. Offer a kind word or even an invitation to someone who has no one else. Help to fulfill this greater hunger for those in need, a hunger that no food can satisfy. May your Thanksgiving be blessed and filled with gratitude for God's blessings.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

John Litten, Executive Director



Hope to Bring

I spent Game 1 of the World Series volunteering, but not in the Vincentian sense. I was handing out "Rally Towels" at Progressive Field to what felt like thousands of Father/Son combinations. I enjoyed the game (and the result) with my wife Carrie, but as someone who lost their Dad in 2013, something (or someone) seemed to be missing. My Dad was a huge Indians fan, who would've taken great joy in the current World Series run.

Our celebrations of All Souls and All Saints Day are a very nice opportunity to remember those loved and lost from this world. As I joined in a Diocesan prayer service today, worried a bit about something as trivial as sports, I felt my father's presence. If he were here, he would tell me that games are fun, and they come & go. What will remain is the work that we are doing collectively as a Society of St. Vincent de Paul. That will still exist tomorrow, and the day after that. In victory and defeat, we give thanks. In 2016, our local sports teams have given us hope for our region. Let us also go to those we serve and bring hope to them.

In this issue, we also hope to bring you growth as a Vincentian – through new leadership at the national level, through a renewed focus on our spirituality through the work of Mike Birskevich and many of you, and through your reports (yes annual reports too). The collective work you all do is amazing. Over 240,000 people helped last year. Quantifying that begins with knowing what you've done.

Lastly, I "hope" that you'll consider joining us for a number of exciting events in 2017! Namely, our annual communion breakfast on May 21 at Assumption in Broadview Hts., where we will recognize Vincentians from around the Diocese (let us know if you have someone we ought to consider). We will also once again host a Kentucky Derby Day Party on May 6th at the Great Lakes Brewing Company, our FIRST "Outrun Hunger" 5K on July 1st and our 2nd Annual Golf Outing on July 21st at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course. As always, the Friends of the Poor Walk to benefit Conferences will also take place anywhere you'd like to host it on September 23rd. Mark those calendars, and we hope to see you soon!



Yours in Christ,
Father Doug Brown
Spiritual Advisor

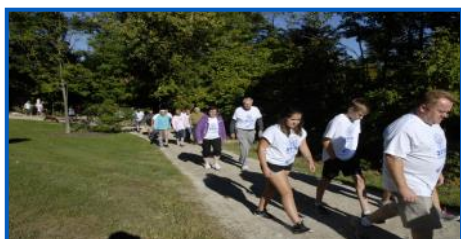
Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven"

MATTHEW 5.16



VOTING FOR SVDP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Last month's DOING GOOD described the protocol for your Conference to vote for our next NATIONAL President of the Society in the United States. All Ballot and complete instructions have been sent to your Conference President. Please read the bios of the two candidates, discuss at your next Conference Meeting and your President will complete the Ballot and send it to Anelize before November 20th. We will tabulate all Ballots received by that date and Bob will fill out and certify the Ballot for the Diocese of Cleveland and send it to National by November 30. Thirteen of our Conferences have already sent their completed Ballot to Anelize. If you and your Conference want to be heard in this every 3-year vote for our National SVDP President, we must have your Ballot in our office by the 20th of this month. We will let you know in the December DOING GOOD how you all voted.



WALKERS AT FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK
Lake/Geauga District

Mark Your Calendars Now for 2017 Upcoming Events

As the Society grows to help more people in need, we are also increasing our fund-raising events to help support the good works of our Conferences. Whether you serve as an event committee member, attendee or donor, we hope you can join us in 2017 for the following fun-filled events:

17th Annual Kentucky Derby Party

for SVDP Food Centers.

5/6/17 at Great Lakes Brewing Company across from West Side Market.

Outrun Hunger 5K Race

for SVDP Food Centers.

7/1/17 – location TBD. A fun, healthy way to involve our younger members.

2nd Annual Outdrive

Hunger Golf Outing

for SVDP Food Centers.

7/21/17 at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course (Brecksville, OH).

For both men and women golfers.

Friends of the Poor® Walk

9/24 – locations TBD.

Many Conferences easily raise over \$1,000 for their local needy.

BEING VINCENTIAN

by Mike Birskovich

August 2017, marks the 400th year of the Vincentian Charism which was crafted by St. Vincent when he organized the abundant good works being done by the lay members of his parish. This Vincentian heart continues and is in our hearts, and hands, today.

Throughout the world our Vincentian Charism truly has a special resonance in the life of today's Church. As we trust God's guidance and reach out in service to those in need, we are getting the attention of people around the world. What they see is a fresh new way of living our faith which Vincentians have been living for almost 400 years. We are people of faith seeking to become closer to God through fellowship and service; who, by nature and simply being, are who we are and do what we do.

St. John Paul II, in speaking to the Vincentian Family, said: "Dear Vincentians, not only have you made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Church over the last four centuries, you also have a great history still to be accomplished!"

Bob asked me to take on the role of VP of Vincentian Charism and I am now inviting every member of our Vincentian family to join me on a journey of discovery. A journey to more fully understand and share the Graces, Blessings, Faith, Hope, Love and Joy of our Vincentian Charism.

In last month's DG you read how Our Lady of Hope Conference helped a woman by mentoring her. My hope is not only that many other Conferences incorporate a similar program but that many also engage in the larger "Bridges Out of Poverty" mentoring program. ANY member interested in learning more about how the "Bridges" program works is invited to join a two-part webinar Dec. 3rd and 10th. To register go to [Bridges Registration](#). For more information go to: www.svdpcusa.org/systemicchange.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DOWNTOWN OFFICE (1404 E.9th St., Cleveland):

Help one or more days a week with general office work and answering our busy phone. Get to know staff and how it runs Central Office. Contact Anelize at 216-696-6525 x.3560.

WOODLAND FOOD CENTER (6001 Woodland Ave., Cleveland):

Client check-in: Check-in clients via computer that come to receive food. Training provided. Choose one or more Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Seeds to Read Program: Help clients select books for their children. Choose one or more Fridays, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Pick-up food: Pick-up food via the SVDP truck at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Choose one or more Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 a.m.

Contact Will Skora at 216-570-1959.

BROOKSIDE FOOD CENTER (3802 Pearl Rd., Cleveland):

Prepare food bags, register clients and/or help elderly with their bags of food. Choose one or more days a week, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Contact John Litten at 216-696-6525 x.3570.

COMMUNITY CORNER FOOD CENTER (8302 Detroit Ave., Cleveland):

Help in resale shop, prepare bags of food, register clients and/or help elderly with their bags of food. Choose one or more days a week, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Contact John Litten at 216-696-6525 x.3570.

SVDP DISTRICT MEETING	DATE & TIME	PLACE	SPEAKER	DISTRICT PRESIDENT
East District	November 9 6:00pm	Gesu	TBA	John Patton eastDistrict@svdpcle.org
Lake/Geauga	TBA	TBA	TBA	Marilyne Brandoni lake-geauga@svdpcle.org
Lorain County	November 10	St. Peter	TBA	Jim Watling loraindistrict@svdpcle.org
West District	December 6 7:00pm	Mary Queen of Peace 4423 Pearl	TBA	Jim Beesley westdistrict@svdpcle.org