

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 svdpcle.org.

Correspond with us via email at doing-good@svdpcle.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 svdpcle.org. All donations stay local.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM FEAST DAY
September 9

BOARD MEETING
All Vincentians welcome
September 12 Noon
Our Lady of Hope
300 Center Rd., Bedford

FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK
September 24
Concord Woods (Concord)
Richfield Woods (Richfield)
Jefferson Park/SVDP (Cleveland)
Our Lady of Hope (Bedford)

BLANKET SUNDAY DRIVE
October 8 & 9
All parishes participate

OZANAM ORIENTATION
October 22— location TBA

CONFERENCE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE
October 31

If you need help, contact our office

INVITATION FOR RENEWAL
November 9-13
Indianapolis, IN

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

Board Meeting to Elect Next Council President September 12

By Bob Reuter

Please join us for this important Board meeting Monday, September 12 at noon at our Lady of Hope, located at 300 Center Road in Bedford. Among the items that the board will vote on will be for a president-elect. This new Cleveland Council President will assume the position when Bob Reuter completes his term as president on September 30, 2017.

Approved by the Board at the June meeting, the plan is to allow the incoming president to "shadow" the current board president prior to the date when he/she takes office. This is particularly important, as the Society has grown rapidly during the past five years.

Board meetings are held quarterly and open to all Vincentians.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

John Litten, Executive Director

Hitting the Ground Running (or Walking)

Last week I had the honor (along with nearly 20 other Cleveland Diocese Vincentians) of attending the 2016 Annual SVDP Assembly in Columbus. As in prior years, it was a wonderful opportunity to "recharge batteries" and reconnect with why we serve AND who we serve. It is also an opportunity to reconnect with the spiritual aspects of being a Vincentian, with beautiful masses and music, as well as seminars intended to help us understand how to apply Vincentian spirituality to our service. The week after is always a challenge, as the harsh realities of doing the work await us. I've been doing everything I can this week to "hit the ground running" with both new ideas and the realization of continuing to work on the challenges we left behind a week ago. I know that I am better for it, and it will take new and focused eyes to incorporate old and new ideas into our path forward. I am thankful for the many attendees from our Diocese who joined us. I hope and pray that you share all you've learned with your fellow Vincentians and those you serve.

Speaking of hitting the ground running or walking, please don't forget a wonderful opportunity to raise needed funds for your Conference at the 5th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk on September 24th. There are multiple sites to choose from, and you can easily create your own donation page to benefit your conference at www.FOPwalk.org.

Lastly, please keep Larry Lauter and Pat Boggins in your prayers. I don't know if I could've ever done this job without them, and we owe so much of our organization's success to



Living the Year of Mercy

Dec. 8, 2015 - Nov. 20, 2016
"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."
We approach the end of the Year of Mercy and it's a good time to reflect on how merciful we have been to others and how grateful we have been for God's loving mercy. The Year of Mercy, called by Pope Francis, began on December 8, 2015 and concludes on November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Our Holy Father's desire was to encourage mercy to be lived out in our daily lives, reflecting His mercy to all whom we meet.

In our daily work as Vincentians, there are many opportunities to show mercy to others. It is in treating all with kindness, in taking the time to listen when we already know our answer, and in forgiving those who may have hurt us. It is not easy nor is it meant to be. To be merciful is difficult. Yet so is the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. I like what Pope Francis once said: "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets." And don't forget the indulgences available by walking through the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist and Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine – only available during this Year of Mercy.



Yours in Christ,
Father Doug Brown
Spiritual Advisor

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We want to make DOING GOOD the Society's information source for YOU. We'd love to hear your suggestions on how we can improve this monthly publication with items that YOU would like to hear about. Please feel free to send us your ideas, suggestions, and advice anytime. Call Bob at 440-243-0510 or bob-reuter@svdpcle.org



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



On August 19th the Cleveland Food Bank awarded our Executive Director, John Litten, and our Woodland Food Pantry Manager, Will Skora, the prestigious **BAG OF HOPE 2016** Award. The full announcement follows. This is great PR for our society.

“Bag of Hope Award 2016—St. Vincent de Paul Woodland Pantry



St. Vincent de Paul Woodland Pantry is a program located in Cleveland’s Central neighborhood. This pantry is in an area where nearly 90% of the population qualifies for food assistance.

St. Vincent de Paul Woodland Pantry has been a Cleveland Food Bank member since August 2013, after the previous pantry in that location, Brother Hubbard’s Cupboard closed. The pantry is managed by Will Skora and a team of 40 volunteers that serve an average of 700 families each month. This number is increasing as additional clients, including the working poor, are struggling to make ends meet.

In addition to providing food, a new early reading program, “SEEDS to READ” was piloted at the Woodland pantry as nearly one-third of the pantry’s clients are children. “Seeds to Read” distributes free, age-appropriate children’s books to parents as they visit the pantry.

During the last 12 months, St. Vincent de Paul Woodland Pantry provided almost 320,000 meals and assisted more than 21,500 people in their community.

Connect with Fellow Vincentians:



Join Our Facebook Vincentian Group

By Natalie Schrimpf

In effort to facilitate communication among Cleveland Diocesan Vincentians, we have created a special Facebook group for Vincentians only. This private group is a convenient way for Vincentians to quickly share all types of information with their peers, such as ideas, needs, donations, announcements and more.

To join, simply log into your Facebook account and enter a search in the upper left portion of your screen for “SVDP Cleveland Vincentians.” Click on the “request to join” button and we will validate your request in a timely manner.

Please encourage fellow Vincentians who are also on Facebook to join as well. We will verify membership based on Conference rosters that your secretary sends us.

CONFERENCES RECEIVE BEQUESTS

By Bob Reuter

Two of our Conferences have received sizable bequests from benefactors at their parishes to help local poor in their service areas. The Diocesan Office was able to assist them both in investing the funds in their own special accounts at the same institution where our Diocesan funds are invested. The investment organization gave the Conferences the same substantial discounts they give to us. The accounts typically yield 5% or more appreciation annually.

The Conferences can remove the principal and interest as needed to help their local disadvantaged.

Webinars sponsored by National SVdP

By Anelize Nader

It’s easy. It’s free. It’s VERY informative.

I have recently participated in a free webinar promoted by the National SVdP focused on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). This is a topic of great interest to us Vincentians, considering that many (if not most) of our clients should be receiving it and/or are applying for it. The more clients receiving SSDI, the more sustainable they will be – **and the less dependent on SVdP.**

I would highly encourage you to take this

leap and start checking the opportunities provided by National. We are our clients’ advocates, and we need to be informed and educated on issues pertaining to them so that we can provide the best guidance. Even if we cannot help them directly, sometimes we can always connect them with other resources. That’s what National is trying to do. Educate.

Please read the weekly e-Gazette, even if you only browse it and pick one or two items of interest. Free webinars are also listed there. It is truly worthwhile! If for some reason you are not receiving the Weekly Gazette, please let me know.

PLEASE KEEP THESE VINCENTIANS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Pat Boggins is having complications from an irregular heart rhythm.

Larry Lauter is now in rehab in Akron after a stroke.

SVDP DISTRICT MEETING	DATE & TIME	PLACE	SPEAKER	DISTRICT PRESIDENT
Lorain County	November 10 (tentatively)	St. Peter	TBA	Jim Watling loraindistrict@svdpcle.org
Lake-Geauga	September 27 7:30pm	St. Gabriel	TBA	Marilyne Brandoni lake-geauga@svdpcle.org