

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 svdpdle.org.

Correspond with us via email at doing-good@svdpdle.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 svdpusa.com. All donations stay local.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BLANKET SUNDAY DRIVE
October 8-9
All parishes participate

OZANAM ORIENTATION
Date & Location TBA

CONFERENCE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE
November 7
If you need help, contact our office

INVITATION FOR RENEWAL
November 9-13
Indianapolis, IN

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

Going Above and Beyond the Usual Vincentian Help: Our Lady of Hope Conference uses systemic change approach to provide a "hand up"

After eight long years of trying to help a client keep a roof over her head, Vincentians at Our Lady of Hope Conference in Bedford decided to assist in a different manner.

Darlene, a single, unemployed middle-aged woman, was living in a constant state of crisis that was reflected in her surroundings. Her mobile home was in tremendous disrepair and often on the verge of eviction from the trailer park. Her personal appearance matched her surroundings, as she always had disheveled, uncombed hair and did not show any interest in taking care of herself. Her mental health was affected as well. At times she seemed depressed, despondent and possibly suicidal.

Over the years, Conference members came to her aid numerous times with rent, food, heating fuel, and repairs of broken pipes and a leaking roof. Darlene's constant dependence upon the Conference's emergency financial support was the subject of numerous Conference discussions regarding the most effective ways to help her. Members concluded that they were actually enabling her situation more than they were helping her, and decided to end further financial assistance.

But cutting her off financially seemed as if they were yanking away a life preserver from a drowning woman. And was this the Vincentian thing to do?

It was time to try something new. The focus then shifted from merely providing a handout to giving her a hand up.

Michael Birkovich, the Conference's vice president, shared some systemic change programs from the National Council that other Conferences are using. The "Bridges Out of Poverty" national mentoring program teaches Vincentians how to facilitate discussions with people in need in an effort to help them help themselves out of their situation. Using principles from this program, the Conference members agreed to support a team to mentor Darlene for three months.

Two Vincentians, Michael and Marlene, visited Darlene in her home to inform her about the decision to stop all financial assistance. They also asked if she would be willing to discuss her life, problems and dreams, in addition to allowing them to mentor her for three months.

To follow the rest of this story: [CLICK HERE](#)

Blessed Are the Poor

St. Luke is often referred to as the "beloved physician" because of St. Paul's words in his letter to the Colossians. Yet St. Luke, whose feast day is celebrated on October 18th, is also known for his love for the poor. He is the one who tells the parable of Lazarus and the rich man who ignored him. St. Luke is the one who uses "Blessed are the poor" instead of "Blessed are the poor in spirit" in the Beatitudes. And only in St. Luke's Gospel do we have the beautiful prayer by Our Blessed Mother called the Magnificat in which she proclaims that God "has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty."

In our daily work as Vincentians, when we are looking for another intercessor to help the poor with their daily struggles, we can turn to St. Luke. It is his message of love for the poor that should resonate with us this month, especially when we celebrate his feast day. Why not attend daily mass that day and ask for

St. Luke's assistance and intercession?

Yours in Christ,
Father Doug Brown
Spiritual Advisor



PLEASE KEEP THESE VINCENTIANS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Pat Boggins has continued to have complications from an irregular heart rhythm. She may need surgery next month.

Larry Lauter is now at home and is receiving in-home rehab.

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



SVDP DISTRICT MEETING	DATE & TIME	PLACE	SPEAKER	DISTRICT PRESIDENT
Akron District	October 16 9:00am Mass	St. Hilary	Buzz Pelland Open M Ministries	Michael Zorena AkronDistrict@svdcl.org
East District	November 9 6:00pm	Gesu	TBA	John Patton EastDistrict@svdcl.org
Lorain County	November 10	St. Peter	TBA	Jim Watling loraindistrict@svdpcle.org

WANT TO HELP MORE PEOPLE? We need volunteers!

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

MICHAEL BIRSKOVICH APPOINTED VP

At the September Board Meeting, President Bob Reuter appointed Mike Birskovich **Vice President** in charge of Vincentian Charism. Mike was previously a Conference and East District President and is currently Vice President of Our Lady of Hope Conference in Bedford. Mike holds a Bachelor's Degree from Kent State University, is an alumni of Invitation for Renewal, attended numerous Regional and National Assembly meetings, served on SVDP's 150th Anniversary Gala Committee for our inaugural golf outing this year, and has a deep understanding of Vincentian history and charism. Mike has been a Vincentian for 12 years.

Mike will be working with all Conferences throughout the Diocese to promote spirituality and Vincentian values.



YOUR CONFERENCE NEEDS TO VOTE FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Much like our own Cleveland Council, the National SVDP Council is electing a new President and your Conference President has already been sent all the procedural information for you to vote for the candidate of your choice. All SVDP Conferences in the United States have been sent the biographical information about the two candidates and the same election process that your Conference President has received.

In addition to the paper copies being sent to your Conference, we've placed the National candidate bios on our website for you to read and be informed.

Ralph Middlecamp's autobiographical statement - [CLICK HERE](#)

William Migley's autobiographical statement—[CLICK HERE](#)

After your Conference chooses one of the candidates, the conference president fill out the *Conference Ballot* and return it to our office. We will tabulate all your *Conference ballots* and report the local winner to National which will compile the results from Councils all over the U.S. and announce the winner.

In order to meet the deadline when National must receive our data, we **MUST** receive your *Conference ballot* no later than November 20th.

If you haven't received your Conference ballot by this weekend, please call Anelize ASAP.

PATTON ELECTED SOCIETY PRESIDENT-ELECT



John Patton was elected *President-Elect* of our Society at the September Board Meeting. He became a Vincentian in

2005 when he joined the Gesu Conference in University Heights and is currently East Cuyahoga District President.

John grew up in Fairview Park where he was a member of St. Angela Merici Parish. He attended St. Ignatius High School and subsequently graduated from the University of Dayton with a degree in Business Marketing. After graduating from college, he worked in Columbus for four years and then moved back to Cleveland. He has worked for the past 25 years in medical device sales and management.

Bob Reuter, like all elected Vincentian officers, will "age out" of office when his two 3-year as president ends September 30, 2017. Due to the growth of the Society during the past 5 years, the Board decided that it would be difficult for a new President to know about all the new projects, Conferences, staff responsibilities, fund raisers, etc. that are happening for the first time. A notice was sent June 28th to the Presidents of all Conferences asking them to announce to their members that any interested Vincentian in good standing was eligible to run for the office, and to contact John Litten or Bob to declare their interest in running. Two eligible candidates applied and their bios were sent to all 9 Board members. Each candidate spoke during the September Board meeting as to why they believed they were ready to bring the Society forward into the future.

30th Annual BLANKET SUNDAY

Oct. 8th & 9th

*Please Help People
In Need Keep Warm
This Winter!*

