SVDP BEGINS INTEREST FREE MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM

The program consists of zero-interest loans of up to $500 available to qualifying candidates for a 12-month period.

Our goals are:

a. to help our neighbors re-establish credit (making good on payments);

b. Raise their credit score;

c. Cover their short-term need;

d. Educate them on financial literacy (lifelong education).

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocesan Office has launched a pilot Micro-loan program in partnership with the Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union. This program follows other Vincentian Councils’ footsteps, stepping into a field that has hurt so many of the people we serve.

The pilot program is starting with eight of our sixty-three Conferences who are participating in the first phase of this program. We have trained these eight Conferences with the goals, parameters and processes that are needed to make a successful loan program. We anticipate an initial learning curve, until we are ready to expand it to all our Conferences that are interested in participating.

For more information contact John Patton, Executive Director, j Patton@svdpcle.org or 216 696-6525 x 3570.

NEW OPERATIONS MANAGER

John Patton announced this month that James Bruening has been hired as Operations and IT Manager for our Council. As such, James will oversee Operations at Woodland, Near West (St. Patrick’s), and Brookside Hunger Centers. Mr. Bruening will report directly to Mr. Patton.

In addition, James will be directly responsible for Information Technology support throughout our service area. Mr. Patton said, “I am so grateful to James for his dedication to St. Vincent de Paul, compassion for others and his professionalism. We are very blessed to have James on our team.”

OZANAM ORIENTATION IN THE LAKE-GEAUGA DISTRICT THIS WEEKEND!

Where: St. Mary in Painesville (242 N. State St., Painesville, 44077)

When: Saturday, August 11th

Time: 9:00am to 3:00pm (mass will be at 8:00am, in case you’d like to join)

Ozanam Orientation is a MUST for all Vincentians. It is for both new and seasoned members, as well as anyone interested in learning more about the Society. We discuss who we are and what we are all about, and we reconnect with our spirituality and heritage. Every participant leaves with a deeper understanding of our organization, feeling more connected with and energized about our work. Please join us and bring a friend! There will be a light breakfast, and the program starts promptly at 9:00.

Please contact us ASAP so we can prepare materials and lunch. Bill & Marilyn Brandoni will be the presenters. More information contact w.brandoni@ameritech.net.

CONFERENCE SUPPLY CENTER CHANGES

In the past we tried to deliver Conference orders as quickly as we could and in the beginning orders for our delivery were only a few times each month. During the past year the frequency of orders to be delivered has increased substantially. Sometimes we deliver to a Conference 40 miles from the CSC and then find a new order a few days later for another delivery to a different Conference but in the same city as the earlier delivery.

Since it’s costly to pay for gas, tires, and maintenance on our rather old box truck, we believe we could still give good service to our Conferences if we delivered beds, mattresses, and other supplies only on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month. This new scheduling began August 1st (Lorain and West Cuyahoga Districts on the 1st Thursday & Akron, East Cuyahoga and Lake/Geauga Districts are the 3rd Thursday of every month.)
District is the 3rd

If a Conference has an urgent/emergency need and can arrange for someone to pick-up the order at the Conference Supply Center (CSC), every effort will be made to schedule the pick-up within 48 hours of notification. Urgent orders should be placed as usual on the proper form. *Then Anelize must be called and notified to mark the order urgent.* Immediately the order will be forwarded to Mike Birskovich, who will call the Order’s contact person and schedule the pick-up at the CSC.

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**FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK**

The Friends of the Poor Walk is Saturday, September 29th!

Are you and your fellow members and friends joining any of the four locations in our Diocese? This is THE opportunity for your Conference to raise funds AND awareness to increase your ability to help our neighbors in need.

**Please consider joining us at any one of these locations:**

- **Our Lady of Hope Parish** • Bedford, OH • Registration begins at 9am • Walk at 10am
- **Richfield Park** • Richfield, OH • Registration begins at 9am • Walk at 10am
- **Penitentiary Glen Park** • Kirtland, OH • Registration begins at 10am • Walk at 11am
- **Nativity Parish** • Akron, OH • TBA

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**WOULD YOU BE A VOICE FOR THE POOR?**

Our National (and International) Society has been working more strongly on becoming a *Voice for the Poor*, following the beliefs expressed by both our founder, Frederic Ozanam, and our patron, St. Vincent de Paul – and echoed by Pope Francis. There has been a *letter signed* by our National President in which he urges us to participate in the discussion of the Farm Bill, which funds SNAP (previously known as food stamps). We as Vincentians are in the most privileged seat to address these issues, as we know firsthand how the families we visit struggle day by day – and how they depend on this program to help make ends meet.

Please consider joining forces with SVDP, USCCB and CRS, read the article in the link below and make your voice heard!

**Take Action-Can you be a Voice for Hungry People?**

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**NEW OZANAM ORIENTATION PRESENTERS!**

We are so fortunate that 9 Vincentians answered the call to become Formators in our Diocese. We spent a full day reflecting on our foundational values and beliefs, our Vincentian Spirituality and the meaning of Servant Leadership – all of which provide the framework for presenting an Ozanam Orientation. Thanks to these new Formators, we will be able to offer Orientations more often across our Diocese.

If you’re interested in hosting one, please contact Anelize Nader at *anader@svdpcle.org*.

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**MID-EAST QUARTERLY NEWS**

Bill Brazier, President of our SVDP Mideast Region has written a newsletter that some of you may be interested in reading. It’s a little long for us to publish it. So here’s a link:

**Regional Formation Plan –2018-2019**

**Back to School Program**

A HUGE thank you to the 40 parishes (and hundreds of parishioners) who contributed cash and in-kind donations to our Back to School Program!! Twenty of our inner-city Catholic schools, spread around the Diocese, are benefitting from this program: not only were we able to provide traditional school supplies but much-needed cleaning supplies as well.

Instead of having the teachers purchase these items when they are not brought to school, SVDP is providing them – thanks to the generosity of those donors! School principals are SO grateful! In addition, we were able to distribute school supplies to families in need through our hunger centers as well, which is wonderful too! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

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**SVDP DISTRICT MEETING**

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**St. Vincent de Paul of Holy Name Church**

**Poor Man’s Dinner & Reverse Raffle**

Saturday, September 15th at 6:00pm
Tickets $20.00 per person
(Spaghetti Dinner/Beverage)