The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is excited to announce that the organization has purchased a building on W. 25th Street in Old Brooklyn in Cleveland. The two-story, 13,000 square-foot facility, which previously housed a medical clinic, will provide additional space for the Society to expand social services for citizens in the Brookside/Archwood neighborhood. Our Brookside Hunger Center will be relocated to the new building after renovations are completed.

I am working with the Diocese, Cleveland City Council and community leaders to determine services that would best benefit the community.

The purchase of the building was made possible by a generous donation from The Schultz Fund. Mr. Shultz requested that the funds be used to support programs specific to the Brookside neighborhood. Mr. & Mrs. Schultz had no children. He outlived his wife for many years as a widower and upon his death donated the money.

As you’re aware, our mission statement is: “A network of friends, based on gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and services for people in need.”

Keeping this mission in mind, we are blessed with the opportunity to expand services to our neighbors.
PRAYING FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM ADDICTION

There may be times in our work as Vincentians that we encounter those who are suffering from the pain from addiction, whether it is someone who is personally struggling with addiction or a family that has a loved one with an addiction. Sometimes, it may be hard for us to sympathetic to those who seem to be suffering from self-inflicted problems. Yet they are still in need of our assistance and our empathy. The battle of addiction can be a battle for one’s soul.

There are times when we may be called to visit clients who are caught in the grip of addiction. In addition to providing help with food insecurity, we can also offer a listening ear. If there are resources to aid in recovery, we may be able to recommend treatment options. Most of all, however, we need to ensure that we are caring and compassionate to those who may seem to be selfish and unlovable. We are all still part of God’s creation and each of us are deserving of respect and dignity—no matter what poor decisions any of us may have made.

MARY FLANAGAN ELECTED WEST DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Mary Flanagan was nominated at the September 10th West District Quarterly Meeting where all nine present Conferences voted for her election and three Conferences voted by phone to elect their new President.

During the meeting Mary told the group that she has been the Conference President at St. Basil the Great in Brecksville for the last three years. Mary’s grandfather, George Quinn, and father, Edward Flanagan, were founding members of St. Basil’s St. Vincent de Paul. She became treasurer in 1984. For the next 31 years, Mary served as treasurer and then secretary/treasurer for 15 of those years. In 2015 she was elected Conference President.

Mary was educated by the Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Michael's in Independence and then graduated from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School. She received a B.A. in Education from Ohio Wesleyan University and a M.A. in Administration from the University of Akron. She taught 15 years as an elementary teacher and the next 26 years as an elementary school principal.

Throughout the years, she has been involved in many activities at St. Basil including Bible Study, Women's Retreats, PSR teacher and Eucharistic Ministry.

Throughout the years, Mary says, “the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has always been my #1 calling and ongoing commitment. Our St. Basil SVDP Conference is blessed with outstanding, dedicated members and supported by generous parishioners. As examples, our Community breakfast at Our Lady of Lourdes the last Sunday of each month we provide, prepare and serve a delicious meal. Monetary and volunteer support to the Westside Catholic Center for a breakfast meal on the last Saturday of each month. Monetary, volunteer support and operation of a Food Pantry at E. 93rd and Harvard (the old St. Catherine's). Tireless work of our case managers as they serve the poor, needy or troubled, with one-on-one assistance.”

Please welcome Mary Flanagan as the new West District President.

FEEDING AMERICA

September marks the ninth year that Feeding America has mobilized Food Banks across the country to promote “Hunger Action Month”. This annual event is designed to inspire people to take action and raise hunger awareness. In Greater Cleveland alone, one in four children—and one in six people—live in a food-insecure household, meaning they do not consistently know where their next meal is coming from.

To answer the call this year, the Cleveland Indians, Lift Up America, Tyson Food, Insurance Partners Agency and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank partnered together to distribute more than 30,000 pounds of protein to Cleveland-area food pantries.

A lottery-based selection process was used to determine participating agencies and SVDP was truly blessed to have two of our hunger centers chosen! On Friday, September 14, representatives from Woodland and Community Corner met with Slider, Andrew Miller and volunteers from Newton D. Baker School of Arts and others to load up 2,000 pounds of Tyson chicken patties. In the coming weeks this product will be distributed to our other hunger centers to maximize the number of families we can serve with this generous donation.
SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT OZANAM ORIENTATION

How exciting!! Our newly trained Formators, Cheryl Davis from St. Mary in Wooster and Kathy Yonto from St. Agnes in Orrville, will present an Ozanam Orientation on November 10th at St. Mary/Wooster. The day will start at 9:30am and run until 3:30pm. Refreshments and lunch are provided. To register, please call St. Mary at 330-264-8824 by Monday, November 5th.

The purpose of an Orientation is to introduce new members to “who we are and what we are all about”, and to reacquaint our existing members with our spirituality and heritage.

If you have not attended an Orientation yet, this is a great opportunity to do so; and if you have, repeating participants report that they always come out of the session with new insights and ideas – new presenters, new participants, a lot of sharing. You will see the day is truly well spent!

Please join us and bring a fellow Vincentian and Stay tuned for other upcoming Orientations!

NICE TURNOUT FOR FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK

Akron District FOP walk was held at the Richfield Woods Park with approximately 75 to 80 people attending.

They order tee shirts for participants from SVDP Central office every year along with the sponsor logos. The tee shirts are picked up in Cleveland shortly before the walk.

We earned close to $2,700 through online donations at the FOP Walk website.

In addition, we had close to $600 in donations the day of the walk and the raffle made slightly over $700. There have been years when the online donations were much higher and the total between online donations and offline donations were close to $7,000. All proceeds go to help the poor in the attending Conferences.

Click Here to view more pictures on Prince of Peace Parish’s website.

SVDP DISTRICT MEETING | DATE & TIME | PLACE | DISTRICT PRESIDENT
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Akron District | October 28 7:30am Mass | Holy Family | Mike Zorena akron@svdpCLE.org
East District | N/A | N/A | Emma Bednar eastdistrict@svdpCLE.org
Lake/Geauga District | N/A | N/A | Bill Brandoni lake-geauga@svdpcle.org
Lorain District | November 15 7:00pm | St. Peter | Al Schiazza loraindistrict@svdpcle.org
West District | N/A | N/A | Mary Flanagan westdistrict@svdpcle.org

Contact Joe Cleary wishlist@svdpcle.org

- Gently used CONFERENCE TABLE & CHAIRS
- Two or four drawer metal filing cabinets
- Two drawer, 48 hour fire resistant, locking file
- Five (or more) station office phone system.
- Gently used clothing racks, some on wheels, some stationary
- Folding tables either 4 ft. or 8 ft. lengths
- Metal or wooden storage shelves.
- Heavy-Duty Rolling Cart (Wagon)
- Large Cooler
- Metal Shelving
- Large Storage Bins
- POS System/Cash Register