Bishop Perez Appoints New Spiritual Leader

Deacon John Travis has been appointed the new Spiritual Advisor for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Diocese of Cleveland. A lifelong Cleveland resident, John attended Ohio State where he earned business and law degrees. After working for the City of Cleveland as an assistant prosecutor, assistant director of law, and chief assistant director of law, John went into private practice as a civil litigator. He is a longtime member of the Lawyers Guild of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Ordained a permanent deacon in 2010, John is assigned to St. Ladislas parish in Westlake. He enjoys deaconing Masses, preaching, marrying couples, as well as doing baptisms, benedictions and funeral services. He is involved in numerous ministries at St. Lad’s, including evangelization, men’s fellowship, the Knights of Columbus, prison ministry, adult faith formation, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the welcome ministry. John also is a mentor to newly ordained deacons. He and his wife Lyn, a Cuyahoga County assistant prosecutor, live in Bay Village. Their daughter, Makenzi, also a law school graduate, currently attends the University of Wisconsin College of Veterinary Medicine at Madison. After receiving her D.V.M. degree next year, she and her husband, Zoran, plan to return to the Cleveland area.

Revised Cleveland Code of Regulations

The National SVDP recently sent all Councils in the U.S. a suggested Diocesan/District Council and Conference Code of Regulations. The new suggestions are up-to-date regarding nonprofits, are much simpler and much easier to understand than the ones adopted in 2005. Larry Lauter is reviewing the new models and will present his recommendations at the March 11th Board Meeting.

Needy Conference Grant Applications -Now Open

If your Conference has need for money to help more clients in your area, or has a novel idea to assist more clients, now is the time to apply for a Grant from our Central Office. Grant applications may be downloaded from the SVDP web (CLICK HERE). Send the completed form to Greg Werner, Staff Comptroller at gwerner@svdpcle.org before May 30th. Ed Leszynski, Board President, will appoint a 5 member review committee to evaluate applications. Maximum grant is $5,000 and checks for successful applications will be mailed by June 30th.
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is Seeking Volunteers!

The **Brookside Family Center** is seeking volunteers at its new facility! Tucked into the heart of the Clark/Fulton neighborhood, the Brookside Family Center (3764 West 25th Street) provides emergency food and clothing assistance to members of the community. The site will also feature a resale thrift shop, with the proceeds supporting the center’s operations.

Currently, the Brookside Family Center is seeking volunteers specifically to assist with sorting donated clothing for the thrift shop. Giving of your time is one of the greatest gifts you can give to SVDP; last year an estimated 1,172 SVDP volunteers spent 122,249 hours in active service throughout the Cleveland Diocese. This service touched 104,320 individuals and families! **If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cathie at: 216-749-4295 or 440-503-2462.**

**Ozanam Orientation: Recent and Upcoming**

We have just had another successful Orientation in Garfield Heights, attended by 19 Vincentians from 10 different Conferences. Kudos to our new presenters, Toni House and Eric Russell from Blessed Trinity in Cleveland, who did a wonderful job guiding everyone through our Society’s history, founders, values and beliefs – plus helping everyone gain a deeper understanding of the realities of poverty and our home visits. The evaluation forms came back extremely positive, rating the day worthwhile and very worthwhile. A huge thank you to both presenters and participants!

The next Ozanam Orientation:

**Saturday, March 16th at 9:00am**

**Sacred Heart of Jesus in Wadsworth**

(light breakfast ready at 8:30, lunch at noon)

The workshops go from 9:00-3:00pm at the latest. I have said it recently, and I can say it again: you will not be disappointed! Come join us, and you will leave with a clear sense of a day well spent – whether you are a new Vincentian or a seasoned one. Everybody leaves inspired and re-energized, really renewed in their Vincentian vocation. I hope to see you there!

To RSVP, call Anelize at 216-696-6525 x.3560 or anader@svdpcle.org. Thank you!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SVDP DISTRICT MEETING</th>
<th>DATE &amp; TIME</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DISTRICT PRESIDENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Akron District</td>
<td>April 28 8:30am Mass</td>
<td>St. Mary Church Akron Speaker Clara Wertz</td>
<td>Mike Zorena <a href="mailto:akron@svdpcle.org">akron@svdpcle.org</a></td>
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<td>May 7 7:00pm</td>
<td>Divine Word</td>
<td>Bill Brandoni <a href="mailto:lake-geauga@svdpcle.org">lake-geauga@svdpcle.org</a></td>
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<td>Sacred Heart (Lorain)</td>
<td>Al Schiazza <a href="mailto:loraindistrict@svdpcle.org">loraindistrict@svdpcle.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>West District</td>
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<td>Mary Flanagan <a href="mailto:westdistrict@svdpcle.org">westdistrict@svdpcle.org</a></td>
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**Prince of Peace Parish (Barberton)**

Hosts “Undy Sunday” Drive with Great Success

Children and adults will be able to stay warm this winter thanks to the “Undy Sunday” clothing drive hosted by the SVDP Conference at Prince of Peace Parish. SVDP at Prince of Peace recognizes that many families living on poverty level incomes do not spend money on underwear and they desperately need it. To help meet this need, the “Undy Sunday” drive collected new-in-package underwear and socks. The drive took place on February 9th and 10th and collected over 1,100 items. (Click here to see Results) Thank you to the generous parishioners!