ABOUT DOING GOOD

Doing Good is a monthly publication designed to share important news and celebrate the accomplishments of our Vincentians throughout the Diocese of Cleveland. If you have content for Doing Good, please share it with us.

Send emails to: doing-good@svdpcle.org

CARING FOR OUR NEEDY NEIGHBORS SINCE 1865

20/20 MISSION
By: Mike Birskovich

On October 1st, we closed the books on our 2019 SVDP fiscal year and have begun consolidating data for the annual report. It will be great to see how the numbers turn out. But what’s more important is how successful the Conferences were at fulfilling their Vincentian mission.

If your Conference has not yet discussed last year’s successes and challenges, have the topic placed on the next agenda. In fact, it’s a good practice to annually have such a review placed on the agenda soon after the close of our fiscal year. Once all members have had a chance to reflect and discuss last year, priorities become clear for the 2020 fiscal year.

For various reasons (location, skills, age) Conferences have unique ways of living our mission, but we share commonalities to be members of The Society of Saint Vincent De-Paul. Key among them are our meetings. Our gatherings together of friends with a common desire to grow in holiness, by living Gospel values in service to those in need. Vincentian meetings are meant to be a period of prayer, no different than any individual welcoming God to be close. Our meetings are periods of prayer for the very same reason.

I would like to make a suggestion for Conferences whose meetings go:
[Opening prayer - Amen, reflection / inspiration, agenda, closing prayer - Amen.]

Common among SVDP meetings is to have only ONE “Amen”, which is said after the closing prayer, eliminating the one said after the opening prayer. This helps define the entire meeting a prayer. A simple gesture to help keep the Holy Spirit in our minds and hearts throughout all discussions, and it brings a uniformity to our Vincentian prayer life. Don't just implement this simple change at your next meeting. Make it a topic to discuss and reflect upon. I'm sure some wonderful, insightful and inspirational interactions will come of it.

Remember, keeping the Holy Spirit close through prayer gives us 20/20 vision to do our 2020 mission.

Faithful Perspective

Mark Twain once said: "I've been through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened." This quip reminds us that in the midst of difficulties we sometimes presume the worst. A proper perspective grounded in Christian faith may be just what the doctor ordered.

We can recall past problems that weren't really problems, with things working out for the best. We also can ask ourselves if this will matter in a month or a year. Many times the answer is clearly "no."

Most important, though, is our faith in God. Our loving and merciful Lord has brought us this far and will not abandon us when we need him most. When we cannot see how our troubles are part of God's plan, we can recall St. Paul's advice to walk by faith and not by sight. A faithful perspective can help us overcome seemingly insurmountable problems.

Click to watch an Individual Segment from "Our Faith in Action: Today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul"
The link is only 8 minutes and it describes a home visit. The Vincentian team starts by placing a small variety of items from their pantry to bring to a needy family. They pray the “The Lord’s Prayer-Our Father” with the family and discuss what they can do to help. It is well done and most of you emulate the examples that are used. Some of you might want to bring your laptop to the next meeting and show it to everyone.
Friends of the Poor Walk
Prince of Peace/Our Lady of Hope/Lake Metroparks

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Friends of the Poor Walk! Prince of Peace, Our Lady of Hope and the Lake/Geauga district each hosted a Walk, raising funds for the good works of their respective Conferences. Highlights included:

- Prince of Peace SVDP members, Knights of Columbus (KofC) members of Council 14111, KSKJ Lodge 110, their families, the youth groups, and parishioners participated in the National SVDP Friends of the Poor Walk Saturday, September 28. The event raised almost $8,000 to help the needy in the Barberton and Akron areas, thanks to generous donations, from KofC Council 14111, and KSKJ Lodge 110. Six other Conferences in the Akron District participated as well. Thanks also to the Button Box group (with Lisa Pelton) for providing lively polka music from 9am to 10am to show the ethnic roots of Barberton.
- Our Lady of Hope enjoyed warm weather and the fellowship of friends as their Walk took place on Saturday, September 28th as well. In total, they raised $1,231 to help the needy in the Bedford area thanks to the generous support of their participants.
- The Lake/Geauga Walk took place one week prior to Prince of Peace and OLH, with a successful event taking place on Saturday, September 21st. A big thank you to everyone who participated so generously!

Volunteer Group needed for
St. John Paul Ozanam Food Pantry

The St. John Paul II Ozanam Center serves many people in need for the Southeast portion of East Cleveland district. We have about 11 parishes participating at present. Many of the parish volunteers come from Parishes with Social Action groups and some are St. Vincent de Paul groups. We are looking for another Parish Social Action Group or St. Vincent de Paul group to volunteer one **Saturday a month from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm**. You would need about 6-7 volunteers 18 years and older. Young teens are welcome who needs volunteer hours but need an adult to supervise them.

The St. John Paul II Ozanam Center is located at 8328 Broadway Avenue in Cleveland 44105 on the campus of Holy Name Church. Does your group need to be doing more? We can sure use your help.

Call Maryann at 440-554-8370 for more information.

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2019 Blanket Sunday Appeal Results

Thanks to the success of this year’s Blanket Sunday appeal, the Society was able to purchase and distribute more than 4,000 winter blankets to shelters and social services agencies across Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Geauga and Summit counties. These agencies were especially grateful for the early receipt of these blankets, due to the cold weather upon us.

The annual appeal, now in its 33rd year, is held the first weekend in October and presents SVDP with an opportunity to reach out to all parishioners within the Diocese to support the good works of our Council. Thank you to all who have contributed their dollars to help us blanket good neighbors in need with warmth and compassion during the cold weather.

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You can double your gift-giving power when you shop at **Amazon Smile**.

Whether it’s during the holidays or throughout the entire year, when you shop **Amazon Smile** and select the St. Vincent de Paul Society as a charity to support, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible products to SVDP. As more people shop **Amazon Smile**, the donations can really add up. Be sure to tell your family and friends! And remember that if you currently shop on Amazon.com, switch over to **Amazon Smile** and bookmark that link for future shopping.