Christmas Party to Brighten Holidays for Families December 21

Families in need will receive a welcomed visit from Santa at our second annual hunger centers Christmas Party on Saturday, December 21 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Held adjacent to SVDP’s Brookside Family Center at Bethlehem Temple of Praise Church (2607 Archwood Avenue), the event provides an opportunity to share the gifts of the season with individuals who struggle with poverty throughout the year. Toys, clothing and other gift items distributed are donated by local organizations, individuals and businesses. Last year, some 400 families attended the party.

Adopt-A-Family Campaign Benefits Local Families in Need During Holidays

Our Adopt-a-Family campaign provides the opportunity for local parishes and organizations, staff at the Diocese and others to bring Christmas cheer to low-income children and their parents. This year’s campaign will benefit 31 families, comprised of 148 people, and includes families from our hunger centers, Holy Name School in Slavic Village and St. Francis School in Cleveland. Thank you to all who participated for willing to share your blessings with others in need! God bless!

Volunteers Needed

Holy Name Ozanam Center needs a few volunteers to work occasionally on Saturdays. Help register clients and give out food. Team up with a friend and call Maryann Ambrose at 440-554-8370 or email her at moliveoil52@yahoo.com.

SVDP Family Center at 3764 W. 25th needs two volunteers to help clients with clothes and food. Pick any weekday and call Cathie at 440 503-2462 or email at ckovacik@svdpcle.org.

Jesus Comes to Us

The word “Advent” in Latin means “to come.” The birth of Jesus at the end of Advent marks the first, but certainly not the only, instance of his coming to us.

Jesus comes to us in the person of those who help us. He also comes to us in the guise of the needy, including the hungry, homeless, sick--the “least” amongst us, to use Matthew’s description. Thinking about his coming to us can help us grow in our faith.

To use an analogy, Alfred Hitchcock fans know that Hitchcock makes cameo appearances in his films. If you don’t look for him, though, you can miss him. Similarly, if we are not alert to Jesus coming into our lives, we may lose an opportunity to better know, love, and serve him.

This Advent, may we be aware of Jesus coming to us, time and time again.
Impact of your Conference Annual Report

WELL DONE VINCENTIANS!

A big and heartfelt THANK YOU to all our Vincentians for what you are doing for the neediest among us! With your Conferences’ annual reports we are able to compile the collective impact of the Society in our community, and we expect to be close to the $9 million worth of total Conference assistance again this year. This is impressive, and your Conference was a part of this effort! For us at the Central Office, it is both humbling and highly inspirational to keep on finding ways to grow the support and services we provide to you all.

We would love to hear from you on ways we can best assist! Contact us at anader@svdpcle.org or 216-696-6525 x. 3560.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a most blessed New Year!

Video Introduction

For the past three years, the Cleveland Diocesan Council has been expanding its usage of CMS, a software that manages complete records for Conference case work. Providing Conferences with a comprehensive picture of the assistance provided, the advantages of CMS are numerous. The program tracks information on clients that come to a Conference for aid, offers an accurate Conference checking account balance, and even matches payments to case work. Moreover, CMS can automatically generate a Conference’s annual report at the end of each fiscal year.

Another benefit is the ability to eliminate duplication. Information about a client seeking help is available across the Diocese - please note the same rules of confidentiality apply when using CMS, as only authorized members can see specific information. Anyone coming to a Conference for assistance can be vetted against aid provided by other Conferences using CMS. As additional Conferences begin to use this software, the more each of us will learn about help provided by other Vincentians to our neighbors in need.

For example, CMS revealed to one Conference that four neighbors were all members of the same household and were each receiving aid simultaneously. That single incident saved that Conference more money than the cost of CMS.

There is also an individual who is asking for help from multiple churches. He has been flagged in CMS so Conferences can use caution if he comes to them for assistance.

As of today, there are 13 Conferences that are connected with CMS. At St. Gabriel, we have been using it since day one, 18 months ago. All information on our cases is located in one place, available to all our case workers. CMS has saved us time and money by revealing some cases where we really should not be providing assistance or, revealing that some cases are beyond our ability to assist, and thus making us look for other alternatives for help.

I don't think we would function as efficiently and effectively as we do without CMS. The software's cost is minimal. Currently, the fee is approximately $275 annually per Conference. When you think about it, that's about the cost of one gift card a month for a Conference. But here's the good news: The Cleveland Diocesan Council will consider subsidizing part of the costs for any Conference that wants to use CMS (and actually uses it), for up to five years. If we have enough interested Conferences, the Central Office will provide a shared expense proposal for Board approval. Training classes will be scheduled throughout the Diocese on an as-needed basis.

CMS is used in 14 Diocesan Councils across the U.S. Agular Systems, its developer, is a National SVdP partner. Additional information can be found on SVDP USA's website partners.supportsvdp.com and at agularsystems.com. For more information, contact Anelize Nader at anader@svdpcle.org or Bill Brandoni at lake-geauga@svdpcle.org.

Having a Fundraiser? We Can Promote on SVDP Social Media

Whether your Conference fundraiser is a spaghetti dinner, fish fry, turkey bowl or ice skating party, we can promote your event by sharing it on our Diocesan Council social media.

Simply send a short summary of the event and an image so we can post it across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Email information to NSchrimpf@svdpcle.org.

Social Media Spotlight: Conferences and Volunteers

We are always seeking ways to promote the good works of our Conferences, Vincentians and volunteers. If you would like to highlight a Conference or individual through SVDP’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media, please email the information to Natalie Schrimpf: NSchrimpf@svdpcle.org.

Click to follow us:
The Cavaliers Community Foundation has teamed up with the St. Vincent de Paul Society hunger centers during the holidays. They are offering tickets to the Friday, December 20 Cavs home game at 7:00 p.m. against the Memphis Grizzlies at a reduced price with no convenience, handling or resale fees.

This is a Whammer bobble head giveaway night. Fans are also invited to stay after the game to shoot a free throw on the court – a great photo opportunity for all!

Order tickets at [https://go.rallyup.com/svdp-cavs](https://go.rallyup.com/svdp-cavs). Ticket sales end December 19 at 5:00 p.m.

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Feel good knowing your ticket purchase brought nourishment to individuals, families and children that are food insecure. What a wonderful way to share in the joy of the holiday season!

**Ticket sales end 12/19/19 at 5 PM | Tickets ARE LIMITED Now!**

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Ozanam Orientations

The next session will be Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at Divine Word Parish, 8100 Eagle Road, Kirtland. To register, contact Gary Sole at gssole@svdpcle.org or 216-696-6525 ext. 3590. An orientation will also be held on a Saturday in mid-February in the Akron District (date to be announced in the January Doing Good).”

On Dec 8th, KSKJ Slovenian Lodge 110 presented our SVDP Conference, Prince of Peace, a check for $2,000 towards our FOP Walk on September 28, 2019. Our Conference raised nearly $7,500 as a result. (from left to right) Jane Perino, Larry Lauter, and Rebecca Thomas

**YOU SHOP! AMAZON GIVES!**

It’s a great way to double your gift-gifting this Christmas.

This year as you shop for friends and loved ones, please consider “amazon smile” program, which will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our Cleveland SVDP Council to help local neighbors in need.

Shop Online-Click [amazonSmile.com](http://amazonSmile.com) today to help another man, woman or child in need. Thank you!

*Please bookmark this link so whenever you shop, Amazon donates. It’s easy!*