FEBRUARY, 2020

MORE THAN A NAME
The Meaning Behind “Holy Moments”

by Ed Leszynski, SVDP Board President

During my years as a Society of St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, I would often ask myself, “Why am I doing this?”

When I analyzed the “why,” I realized that the feeling I receive from the work we do – helping the poor and less fortunate – is extremely fulfilling and gives me purpose.

After reading Matthew Kelly’s book, The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity, I finally understand what it is that I am receiving each time I help people in need. Kelly describes the euphoric feelings we receive from helping others as “Holy Moments.” Doing good works results in those holy moments.

As we move forward in this new decade, let us continue to do good works, but also recognize those “Holy Moments” that energize, inspire and renew us.

...I would often ask myself, “Why am I doing this?”

In the spirit of new beginnings, we have renamed this newsletter, “Holy Moments.” Let us all experience many Holy Moments.

- Ed -

St. Joseph Parish to Host Poverty Simulation Event

Sunday, February 16, 2020 from 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
SJ Hall • 32929 Lake Rd • Avon Lake, OH 44012

The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month. The object is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by low-income people.

For more information, please visit stjosephavonlake.org/socialjustice
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocese of Cleveland Board of Directors announced on January 17, 2020, that it has restructured its Central Office leadership in a strategic effort to achieve a more streamlined and efficient leadership model. Anelize Nader, who most recently served as the organization’s Program director, has been promoted to the newly-created position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective January 20, 2020.

Nader will direct SVDP’s central office in supporting the organization’s 2,300 members and volunteers who provide emergency assistance to more than 230,000 low-income individuals across eight counties.

During her five-year tenure with the Society, Nader has significantly expanded various programs that help the poor, such as the annual Back-to-School and Blanket Sunday campaigns, which provide supplies to low-income children and schools, and blankets to the homeless and disadvantaged. She has increased community collaboration by developing a network with partner agencies, and increased the organization’s financial best practices through upgrading internal financial controls and procedures.

Anelize’s financial background and experience in corporate and nonprofit management are an asset to the St. Vincent de Paul Society,” said Ed Leszynski, Board president. “She has a successful track record of relationship-building with diverse stakeholders, proven leadership skills and a clear vision. Equally important is her passion for helping people in need and her commitment to our mission. Under her guidance, the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be well-positioned to maximize its impact in Northeast Ohio’s most underserved communities.”

Nader holds a Master degree in Nonprofit Management from Case Western Reserve University and a bachelor’s degree in English Language and Literature from Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society’s restructuring strategy also includes the recent promotion of Gary Sole to Chief Operating Officer (COO). Sole joined the organization in September, 2019 as a liaison to its 62 member parish groups. He brings an extensive background in finance to his new position, having served in executive roles at several institutions that include Lakeshore Community Credit Union, Inc., Steel Valley Credit Union, CIT Group Inc., and National City Bank. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Baldwin Wallace University.

Dear Vincentians,

I feel so honored and deeply humbled to take on the leadership of the Society in our Diocese. I thank the Board for their trust, and I especially thank all of you for being my ultimate inspiration. Our Vincentians are the reason for our existence as a Diocesan Council. The majority of our activities reside in our Conferences, and our collective impact this past fiscal year is currently being compiled via our annual reports (stay tuned for next month’s newsletter). Our office is here to support our Conferences, as well as to provide services on a larger scale, which would be beyond the capabilities of any individual Conferences (e.g. our eight main hunger centers and the Conference Supply Center).

Having said that, I thought it would be beneficial to share with you our plans for this year. Considering that last year we had to focus upon streamlining and improving our internal financial controls, we are now better positioned to move our focus externally. Because our Conferences are vital to a vibrant Council, the plan is:

• To strengthen existing Conferences
• To develop new Conferences
• To expand training and formation opportunities

In addition to these three action items, we will work on developing and expanding community awareness about the Society. As you know, awareness brings support, which translates into financial, in-kind and/or volunteer donations. All of these are key to help us fulfill our mission of serving people-without ever forgetting that we are ultimately bringing people (us included!) closer to God. Yes, we are a spiritual organization.

Thank you for all that you do, and please be in touch. We love to hear from you!

Anelize Nader, CEO of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
As a Vincentian, you make a significant difference in the lives of so many who are less fortunate. Each day as you help others, you are a living example of Christ.

Whether you regard yourself as rich, poor or somewhere in between, your personal legacy gift to the Cleveland Council will help fulfill our mission now and long into the future, and will serve as an example to your heirs of the values and ideals you hold dear. Making your wishes known through a will assures that your intentions are fulfilled and allows you to plan your gift for the greatest legal and tax advantages to yourself and your heirs.

We suggest that you consult your financial adviser regarding the amount, timing and type of asset to donate to ensure that you maximize both your charitable giving deductions and philanthropic impact.

For more information, contact the Central Office at 216-696-6525 x. 2520.

For treasurers: you might have noticed a new line item under 'Expenses' called:

“Housing Assistance/Eviction Prevention” (line item #7)

The reason for this new line is two-fold: first, the Society at a National level has seen a significant increase in this expense for most Conferences, and thus it warrants some specific attention; second, it helps highlight our impact in the community in terms of eviction/homelessness prevention.

Please track these expenses under line #7 by breaking out any rent/mortgage/security deposit expenses from line #6, Those We Serve.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Gary Sole:
216-696-6525 x. 3590 or gsole@svdpcle.org.
Most people have difficulty comprehending the enormity of the human trafficking problem. This article will address some of the fundamental reasons why trafficking flourishes.

**Human trafficking is driven by money.** This industry generates billions of dollars in non-reported (tax-free) income. Many traffickers have several women or men who typically are forced to service one or two dozen “johns” seven days a week. In Northeast Ohio, the going rate is approximately $300 to $400 a “trick.” At an average rate of $350 and only 12 tricks a day, one person can generate $4,200 a day, which translates into $29,400 a week or an estimated $1.5 million a year! The numbers are astounding.

The traffickers are skilled at exploiting the vulnerable. Traffickers often prey on those who have low self-esteem, feel unloved, are drug dependent, have mental or emotional problems, or who have run away from home. The trafficker may initially shower the woman -- (most are women) -- with attention by buying her nice clothes, taking her to a beauty salon, wining and dining her, and feigning affection for her. After a short honeymoon phase, the trafficker asks or forces the woman to do his bidding. Sometimes traffickers recruit online.

They may persuade the woman to send compromising photos and use them to blackmail her. If a woman has any family members, the trafficker may threaten to kill them if she does not comply. As a result, those being trafficked may feel there is no way out.

Drugs and human trafficking go hand in hand. If the woman being exploited is not a drug user, she may become one. The trafficker may get her hooked on a drug, such as heroin, and only give her a fix once she has reached her quota. Traffickers know that an addict will do most anything for the next fix.

If you suspect human trafficking, report what you know. Call 911 if an emergency response is needed. Otherwise, call the Cuyahoga County Sheriff, which has a human trafficking task force. You need not memorize the phone number, but the dispatch line is 216-443-6085. A human trafficking task force member will call you back promptly.

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**SVDP DISTRICT MEETING**

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<tr>
<th>SVDP DISTRICT MEETING</th>
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<th>PLACE</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Akron District</td>
<td>March 1 8:30 am Mass</td>
<td>Visitation of Mary Akron</td>
<td>Holly Miller Dept. of Community &amp; Economic Development Summit County</td>
<td>Mike Zorena <a href="mailto:akron@svdpclave.org">akron@svdpclave.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>East District</td>
<td>March 19 6:30 pm</td>
<td>St. John Nepomucene Cleveland</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Emma Bednar <a href="mailto:eastdistrict@svdpclave.org">eastdistrict@svdpclave.org</a></td>
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<td>Lake/Geauga</td>
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<td>Bill Brandoni <a href="mailto:lake-geauga@svdpclave.org">lake-geauga@svdpclave.org</a></td>
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<td>Sacred Heart Chapel Lorain</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Al Schiazza <a href="mailto:loraindistrict@svdpclave.org">loraindistrict@svdpclave.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>West District</td>
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<td>St. Basil Family Life Center Brecksville</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Mary Flanagan <a href="mailto:westdistrict@svdpclave.org">westdistrict@svdpclave.org</a></td>
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