

Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another ... - St. Vincent de Paul

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Mission Statement



Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. As a reflection of the whole family of God, members, who are known as Vincentians, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group, and economic level. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule. Organized locally, Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ.

CONFERENCE:

The local SVDP group, hosted by a parish but independent from the parish. Both St Catherine's and St Joan of Arc host conferences.

Levels of Membership

- **Active (full) members** are those who participate regularly in prayer life, attends regular conference meetings, and participates in charitable activities through personal contact with the poor of the Vincentian Conference or Council. An Active (Full) Member accepts the Rule of the Society and belongs to a Catholic Church.
- **Associate members** are committed to living the Society mission and serving those in need by offering assistance to outreach projects held throughout the year. Associate members do not attend conference meetings and may or may not be of the Catholic faith. The Conference is expected to keep associate members informed of the conference activities.
- **Contributing members** offer In-Kind or financial donations to a conference, Council Program or special work.

Vincentian Spirituality: Vincentian's see their work as a continuation of Christ's own work.

- To see Christ in the poor and marginalized.
- To be one with the poor.
- To serve with humility, authenticity, and without judgment.
- To give of one's self, rather than the simple provision of material assistance.

The Home Visit

The Home Visit is the basic, most fundamental activity of St. Vincent de Paul. Its purpose is to build a helping relationship by offering support, prayer and hope to people in need. Assistance may include emergency rent, utilities, food, clothing, household goods, referral services and programming to help navigate a path to financial stability. The person-to-person caring visit is what sets us apart from other helping agencies. A standard procedure is that home visits are always conducted by two members and held in the patron's home whenever possible. The Council offers periodic in-depth Home Visitor training.

Sampling of Current Conference Activities

- **Call Contact** for our Conference. Receive the calls for assistance from church and assign members.
- Summer Lunch Program. Arrange our team to provide lunch in summer.
- Waukesha Resource Directory. Keep the data updated and members informed.
- Ad hoc coordinator. Get people to help for small projects as needed.
- **School Supplies**. Annual project before the new school year.
- **New Member Drive**. Plan ways to recruit and welcome new members.
- Data entry into Council's Electronic Voucher system.
- Bulletin and Website Announcements and Contents. Prepare short articles for publication.
- **Keep Pastor updated** on SVdP
- **Hope Center**. Schedule and arrange our four dates per year to serve the evening meals.
- **Coming Together to Get Ahead** (CTGA) liaison and meal preparers
- **Voice of the Poor**
- **Jail Ministry**
- Thanksgiving and Christmas Plans. Arrange gifts to patrons. Oversee the Advent Giving Tree opportunity
- Mentor new conference members

COUNCIL:

The regional SVDP group that brings together and offers support for local conferences. We are part of the Waukesha County Council, which has about 25 conferences.

- **Thrift Stores** – SVdP's most visible presence in the community are its two stores open to the public. They are located in Oconomowoc and Waukesha.
- **Coming Together to Get Ahead** – CTGA's initiatives seek to reduce poverty. The program guides individuals to financially self-sustaining lifestyles. It also seeks to garner support for community-wide efforts to remove barriers that burden individuals' efforts to move from poverty. Seminars, workshops and mentoring are the tools used to create this change.
- **Jail Ministry** -- For more than twenty-five years the St. Dismas Jail Ministry has been meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the men and women of the Waukesha County Jail and Huber facility. While one-on-one jail visits are central to the ministry, St Dismas Jail Ministry members provide numerous other services.
- **Back-to-School Program** -- The St. Vincent de Paul Back-to-School Program helps struggling families get their children off to a good school start.
- **Monday Meal Program** -- St. Vincent Waukesha County partners with the Hope Center (with financial support and staffing) to serve a nutritious hot meal Monday evenings to the homeless, indigent and needy men, women and children in the City of Waukesha. The meal is served to approximately 60 guests at the Hope Center, located at 502 N. East Avenue, Waukesha.
- **SVdP Sundays** -- Donating to SVdP made easy! SVdP Sundays are designed to offer a convenient way for parishioners, neighbors and friends to donate items to our Thrift Stores right at their parish location. The SVdP truck is positioned in the church parking lot for an entire weekend. Donors may drive right up to it to donate and volunteers will help you unload your items. SVdP Sundays are held annually.
- **SVdP Summer Lunch Program** – This provides a bag lunch and beverage to school age children and their parents Monday through Friday during the entire school summer vacation. The program is offered at Saratoga Park, located on the grounds of the Saratoga Campus – Waukesha Stem Academy. This site was chosen to accommodate the largest group of children in the city of Waukesha that utilize the School District of Waukesha's Free and Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Programs while school is in session. SVdP partners with the City of Waukesha Park, Recreation and Forestry Department.
- **Waukesha Food Pantry Home Delivery** -- St. Vincent de Paul partners with the Waukesha Food Pantry and St. William Catholic Church to deliver food once a month to approximately 45 shut-ins in Waukesha County. This is a great service to those who need assistance but have no way of getting to the Food Pantry. The Waukesha Food Pantry qualifies recipients, St. William Church volunteers packages the food, and St. Vincent de Paul members provide delivery services.
- **Voucher Program** -- St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores provide an avenue for members to send people they are assisting to choose, free of charge, items in need such as clothing, household items and furniture. During a Home Visit the immediate needs are determined, a dollar value of those items the Conference will support is established, and a voucher is offered to the party in need. The Voucher form is obtained through this referral process and also serves as a communication to Thrift Store staff.
- **Trainings** – Home Visits, Leadership, Ozanam Orientation (overview of SVDP's history), Poverty Seminar, Safeguarding All of God's Family (through the Archdiocese).
- **Other Support** – Regular Meetings, Monthly e-mail newsletter, website, material resources

LEARN MORE ON THE WEB:

OUR CLUSTER CONFERENCE PAGE →

<http://www.scsjcluster.org/st-vincent-depaul>

WAUKESHA COUNCIL WEBSITE →

<http://stvincentwaukeshacounty.org/>

NATIONAL WEBSITE →

<http://www.svdpusa.org/>

