

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Quarterly Newsletter



A special thank you to all who responded to our Lenten Cross requests. (pictured)



Based in the offices of St. Thomas Church, the Ann Arbor SVdP conference collaborates closely with local social workers to pinpoint individuals and families requiring assistance. Once identified, SVdP members assess the most effective aid, be it financial assistance, home visits, resource referrals, or other forms of support. Our members live out their vocation by providing companionship, encouragement, and prayers during challenging times for those in need.



President's Note

from Sara Carriere, SVdP President

Dear Friends,

My name is Sara Carriere and I want to welcome you to the first Quarterly Newsletter of the Society of SVdP Conference at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. In this Newsletter you will learn what we have been doing for the last three months assisting neighbors through the Assistance Ministry and bringing Blessing Bags in our Home Visit Ministry. It is your donations of time, talent, and treasure which do Christ's work and we can't thank you enough.

Happy Easter!

Donate today at:

donate on the St. Thomas the Apostle website, Giving/ParishSoft Giving Portal/Fund or 530 Elizabeth St. Ann Arbor 48104

By the Numbers

In January we spent \$6,692 to help 89 people in 30 households. From October 2023, the beginning of our fiscal year, we have spent \$ 33,454 to help 345 people in 112 households. Since the first of October we have helped 76 households avoid eviction and homelessness. We also have helped keep the heat and lights on for 48 households and helped 7 neighbors with car related expenses so they could get to work or medical appointments.



SvdP members pray before the start of a conference meeting.



Volunteers of SVdP staff our offices at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Ann Arbor.

Learning from our Neighbors in Need: A Story from the Field

“Today, we delivered various packages to Andrea's apartment. It was a bit tricky finding her place, but once we did, she welcomed us in. We got to meet three of her four children. In all our years of delivering blessing bags, Andrea stands out as one of the loveliest and most gracious people we've encountered.

After discussing our mission as Vicentians, Barb asked if we could pray together, and Andrea agreed. I led us in a spontaneous prayer, which was truly special. Andrea shared how she reads the Bible every day from 3:00-5:00 AM – what dedication! Meeting Andrea and being able to offer our help, even in a small way, was a true honor.”

—Anne and Barb

What is a Blessing Bag?

SVdP volunteers go out two-by-two in Home Visits to deliver blessing bags with requested items donated by St Thomas parishioners to the families or persons we helped financially with St Thomas donations. We provide new household items, bed supplies, personal care and child care items.

“Help honors...when it takes heed not only of material wants, but adds the home visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, when it treats the poor person with respect, not only as an equal but as superior... since this person is the messenger of God to us, sent to prove our justice and our charity and to save us by our works”

— Blessed Frederic Ozanam, 1848, Founder of SVdP Society

