

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Quarterly Newsletter

April, 2025 Issue No. 5



President's Note

from Sara Carriere, SVdP President

Hello Vincentian Friends,

This Quarterly Newsletter marks the beginning of our second year of publication. During this past year your Conference has grown in Spirituality, Service and Fellowship. St. Vincent said "People suffer less from a lack of generosity than from a lack of organization." To that end we have become more organized and efficient. We now have five Vincentians who work in our Assistance Ministry 3 days a week answering requests for assistance from our Neighbors in Need. Three more members prepare Blessing Bags, organize the storeroom, with many Vincentians making home visits. College students, young professionals, and people with construction skills are joining our conference. This is completely the work of the Holy Spirit, which is amazing!! We are so grateful for your prayers, donations of material goods and monetary support. Without your support this work would be impossible. If you would like to join our Ministry or donate, please see the next page for information on how to contact us. God Bless you. See you in church!

Sara, Vincentian

Quote of the Quarter

Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and Persons to one another . . .

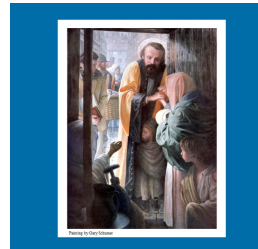
St. Vincent de Paul

Why I'm a Vincentian....

I am a Vincentian in part because it is a family tradition. My grandfather was a very active member of the Vincentian conference at his longtime parish in Orange County, California. His longtime Vincentian service was one of the things that led me to consider volunteering with our own conference here. And now that I am a Vincentian, my younger brother has been volunteering with his local conference in Orange County.

I was also drawn by the fact that the Society so clearly and actively lives out the Gospel, specifically Christ's command to show kindness to the poor and the marginalized. And this is precisely how the Society accomplishes its primary purpose--which, I learned at new member orientation, is actually the spiritual growth and development of its members. By subordinating my own will and desires to Christ's, I have drawn closer to Him and begun to live a more authentically Christian life.

Jesse Kaufman



What is a Home Visit

A home visit is made by two Vincentians. We bring our Neighbor a Blessing Bag containing items that can't purchased with a Bridge card. - such things as paper towels, Tide, dishwashing soap, toilet paper, shampoo, bar soap, diapers, baby wipes and feminine products. Sometimes there is a need for sheets, blankets, kitchenware or dishes. We also include an envelope with lists of resources that may be of help to our Neighbor. Our purpose isn't to gift things, but to connect with them by sitting and listening to them, praying with them and offering encouragement and hope.



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.



Crypt for Sale

Some time ago SVDP was gifted an adult size crypt designed to hold two people. The crypt is located at Ann Arbor's Washtenaw Memorial Cemetery. We always thought we could provide the crypt to someone in need, but that opportunity never arose. We'd like to sell the crypt and use the funds to further help our Neighbors in Need. If you're interested and would like more information, please email us at vdepaul530@gmail.com or 734-761-8606 ext. 8.

Thank You GEM's

Our GEMs are those who "Give Every Month" to St. Vincent de Paul through St. Thomas' on-line giving program and our SVdP envelopes. To become a GEM, you must donate for 3 months in a row and thereafter. Your donation amount may be the same each month or you can change the amount as you see fit.

Our GEMs are the foundation of SVdP and our Neighbors in Need rely on you!
St. Vincent de Paul teaches us that every small gesture of generosity can make a difference and that by relying on God, even the most difficult challenges can be overcome. Our Gems personify his teachings. SVdP thanks you and prays for you.

Carol A. Dick, Corresponding Secretary

Home Visit - Our Story

Vince and Alicia paid a Vincentian visit to Alisha and her three young sons. Alisha is alone in the area as her ex is in jail and she is very frightened of him. She doesn't want to pursue child support as he has threatened her if she does.

She was grateful for the items we brought her and her boys as well as having her water bill paid. She is currently looking for a job but needs the brakes fixed on her car.

At the end of a visit, we always ask our Neighbor if they would like to pray, and Alisha said yes. Alicia led Vince and Alisha in prayer. Please say a prayer for Alicia and her sons.

By the Numbers

ASSISTED	4th QTR 2024	1st QTR 2025
Households	122	98
Adults	142	118
Children	147	86
Home Visits	32	28
\$ Provided	\$23,917	\$22,605

**We could really use your help:
PLEASE DONATE TODAY**



St. Thomas the Apostle
Church website:
www.sta2.org/church/giving
or by mail:
530 Elizabeth St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

