

# Society of St. Vincent de Paul

## Quarterly Newsletter

October 2025, Issue No. 7



### President's Note

from Sara Carriere, SVdP President

Fall is always special for the Society of SVdP because we celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saint, St. Vincent de Paul on September 28th. This year we attended Mass and received a special blessing from Fr. Bill.

The Society came about in 1833 because six students at the Sorbonne in France were worried about the turmoil in Paris. They were challenged to do something to help those affected and they formed a Society based on the works of St. Vincent de Paul. Twelve years later SVdP Society was transported to the United States to continue the good work.

Early in October we issued an Invitation to join us in our mission to all our fellow parishioners.

**The SVdP mission is different from others in that we seek personal holiness through serving Christ.** We seek the face of Jesus in the Neighbors we help and hope we are the face of Jesus to them.

**Christ is inviting you to join our work!** If you would like to be a part of SVdP or would like to explore the possibilities, please see the box below for contact information.

We are deeply grateful to Fr. Bill and to all of you for your support. Please pray for us and for the neighbors we serve.

In humility, Sara, Vincentian

### Thanksgiving Giving



One of the many traditions at St. Thomas is the annual Thanksgiving Collection that benefits the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. If you wish to donate we will have envelopes in the pews beginning with the Thanksgiving Day Masses and throughout the weekend. If it's more convenient for you, contributions can be made online at:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stthomasannarbor> or use the QR code shown below.

If you'd like to write a check it can be sent to St Thomas Church at 530 Elizabeth St., Ann Arbor, 48104. Please write "Thanksgiving" on the memo line.

The Thanksgiving collection is the cornerstone of our work. Your contributions will help us keep families in their homes and to move families from homelessness to apartment living. You will be helping to keep the heat and the lights on in many homes this winter. Helping with a car repair bill can keep an individual in the work force.

Please help us help others! Thank you for all your past generosity!

Are you being called to serve Christ as a volunteer for St. Vincent DePaul Society? Contact us at

[barbleenorman@gmail.com](mailto:barbleenorman@gmail.com) or 734 761-8606 extension #8."

### Be a G.E.M.(Gives Every Month )

Every day families in our area and our Parish need help. Every day families turn to Vincentian volunteers for aid - aid that you can help deliver by giving monthly. When you become a GEM (Gives Every Month) you extend a hand of hope directly into the homes of those in need.

A GEM is committed to helping each and every day by making an online donation once a month. If you'd like to become an SVDP GEM please see the link below:

[sta2.org/church/giving](https://sta2.org/church/giving)

If you'd like to discuss becoming a GEM with a Vincentian, please contact:

Carol Dick at [tdcd40@comcast.net](mailto:tdcd40@comcast.net)



# Why I am a Vincentian

I have been a member of St. Thomas Church since I went through the RCIA program and became a Catholic in 1998. I am a Vincentian because I Believe that serving our neighbors in need is a way of drawing closer to Christ.

Faith Pratt Hopp



As part of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Thomas Catholic Parish, I do home visit ministry with another Vincentian. This practice follows the tradition of the early founders, and working in pairs is a key part of our mission. By working together, we can prayerfully discern the best way to approach a visit, share our strengths, and begin and end every visit with prayer. Even when challenges come up, such as when I had a flat tire on the way to a visit, my partner was there to ensure we could still reach the family we were serving and that I could return home safely.

Part of our ministry involves delivering “blessing bags,” which contain essential items such as diapers and dishes for families who have received other forms of assistance, like rent or utility support. On one recent visit, we met “Jane,” her child, and a close friend. We spent nearly an hour together listening with patience and empathy as they shared their struggles and their gratitude for the support they had received, including a permanent home arranged through a local nonprofit housing organization. We ended our time together by praying with Jane and her family and asking for God’s help in meeting the family’s needs.

These experiences remind me that Vincentian ministry is not just another volunteer opportunity. Instead, it is also a deeply spiritual program rooted in the Catholic ethic of helping people experiencing economic challenges that helps all of us grow together in faith. I am grateful for being part of this vital spiritual ministry that deepens my walk with Christ, strengthens my connection to our parish, and allows us to walk with families as they cope with challenging situations through listening, compassion, and prayer.

## Fellowship Events

**November 27** - Annual Thanksgiving collection to help us help others

**November 30** - Advent Tree with ornaments (gift cards, paper products, etc.) to benefit our Neighbors in Need. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

**We’d like to have you as a member too!! Please consider this opportunity to serve.**

## Quote of the Quarter

Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands.  
— Frédéric Ozanam



## By the Numbers

ASSISTED	1st QTR 2025	2nd QTR 2025	3rd QTR 2025
Households	98	99	126
Adults	118	115	157
Children	86	97	196
Home Visits	28	37	40
\$ Provided	\$22,605	\$31,594	\$39,843

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

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



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.