Blanket Sunday Kicks Off October 10–11
Help us Blanket Neighbors in Warmth this Winter!

Since 1986, the Society’s annual Blanket Sunday drive has been crucial to SVDP’s efforts in providing much-needed blankets and beds to Northeast Ohio’s poor during the cold weather. What started as a winter blanket drive collection has grown into a major annual appeal that benefits thousands of local neighbors in need. Last year alone, SVDP purchased and distributed over 6,000 winter blankets to the homeless and 200 beds to low-income individuals and families.

The need is as great as ever! During normal times, the familiar blue and white Blanket Sunday donation envelopes could be found in parish pews across the Diocese each October. This year, the pandemic has caused a reduction in the number of mass attendees. Individuals, Conferences and parishes may donate securely online at https://www.svdp-cle.org/donate-today/blanket-sunday/ or mail a check to: St. Vincent de Paul Society Blanket Sunday, 1404 East 9th Street, 3rd Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114.

Please help us promote this important drive among your Conference members and others in the community. Thank you!

Register for Upcoming Virtual Trainings

When registering, please provide both your email address (to receive the Zoom link) and your home address (to receive the training’s accompanying guide/booklet).

Please allow 10 days for the printed materials to arrive. For more information and to register for either training, contact Gary Sole: gsole@svdp-cle.org

Ozanam Orientation
Tues. & Wed., September 22 & 23
7:00 p.m to 8:30 p.m

Home Visit Training
Saturday, October 17
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Annual Reports

Believe it or not, this is our last newsletter of the fiscal year. Please get ready for the reporting period, so that we can tell our story. Our numbers will be somewhat different this year due to the pandemic, but we still touch the lives of so many. Our story and our mission need to be shared. Thank you for your attention to this matter – and your timeliness helps us in our audit and IRS reporting!
A Message from Our Spiritual Advisor

Getting To Know You
By Sister Cheryl Keehner, CSA

Feast Days are part of our Catholic culture. I remember getting off school in January for the feast of St. Sebastian (our parish) and then the feast of St. Hilary (our pastor’s name day.) Indeed, those were the days!

This month the Church honors Blessed Frederic Ozanam on September 9 and St. Vincent de Paul on September 24, which falls on a Sunday. If you go to daily mass, on Monday you might find Vincent mentioned in the liturgy. Sundays are reserved for celebrating Jesus. Certainly we ought to thank our founder and patron (Frederic and Vincent) for supporting us in our ministry and for the witness of their lives.

I suggest that this month we take time to reflect on our vocation as laity in the Church. (Yes, Sisters are lay members of the Church too. Ordained ministers are the clergy.)

Pope Francis says this about YOU and ME as lay persons: WE are on the frontline of the life of the Church. WE take risks, are not afraid, and offer hope for the poorest, the excluded, and the marginalized...WE have a key role in transforming society.

WE must find ways to continue our ministries into the future...

I also suggest that WE take time this month to attract others to our ministry. WE need to make our presence known in the diocese in order to recruit new members and retain volunteers from the parishes. WE must find ways to continue our ministries into the future. Maybe Conferences should get together with parishes in their districts to talk about this. More people in the discussion may generate fresh ideas.

Conference Supply Center Updates

It has been over two years since the last time we adjusted the prices at our Conference Supply Center. With the new fiscal year approaching, it is time to reflect the adjustments set by our suppliers during that time period, which are at around 8 percent. The new prices will take effect on October 1. Even with this adjustment, our Conferences are still paying half the price that we pay.

Please note that we will be short staffed for a few weeks starting mid-September. Please keep Bob, our Logistics Coordinator, in your prayers as he undergoes a medical procedure – that he may have a speedy recovery. We ask for your patience as we try our best to schedule staff or volunteers to do pick-ups and deliveries. We thank you in advance.

Last call to register for the National Assembly!

If you haven’t submitted your registration yet, please do so here:

https://meetingssvdpusa.regfox.com/2020-svdp-national-assembly

It is virtual and free this year, so you can attend from the comfort of your own home. Get to know and listen to our National leadership, including our President, CEO, Episcopal Advisor and others. Strengthen your faith, refresh your concepts, expand your vision.

Hear about recruitment, succession planning and home visits during these challenging times. In an event like this, we always learn something that can be applied to our own Conference and Council.

We hope you can make it!

Helping to Bridge the Digital Divide

The start of a new school year is especially challenging for low-income families, as many are unable to afford personal computers, laptops or mobile Internet. This prevents them from keeping up in a world that increasingly relies upon digital communication for information delivery. The PCs for People Ohio curbside pick up provides affordable and free laptops, personal computers and mobile hotspots for families with children K-12.

To learn more, visit:
https://www.pcsforpeople.org/ohio/

If you or someone you know benefit from this service, please provide your feedback to Gary Sole at goole@svdpcle.org
Be Like Mike
(Part 1 of a 2-part series)

Mike has been the vice president of the St. Ladislas Conference for seven years. His experience with SVDP started 10 years ago when he was asked to participate in home visits. He also responded to the call to do the food pickups daily from Giant Eagle and Trader Joe’s. This food is then delivered to various locations on the west side of Cleveland, such as: St. Augustine hunger center; St. Herman House; Edna House for Women; North Ridgeville Community Center; the Jean Marie House; and the Ed Keating Center. Mike now manages this operation and has taken the responsibility of recruiting and scheduling the drivers 362 days a year. He is the ‘go-to-guy’ whenever the Conference receives urgent calls from Giant Eagle, Trader Joe’s, or any of the other food sources, and always handles the situation at hand and solves any issues. In fact, he is usually the one who steps up to fill in when a driver is unable to make a run.

At the St. Ignatius of Antioch food pantry, St. Ladislas Conference provides a three-day supply of food to approximately 160 families every month.

As part of this food distribution, Mike coordinates home deliveries for approximately 30 families. He has also helped with the Conference’s Share-A-Meal hot meal program twice each month.

In addition to his duties at the Conference, Mike is the Past President of St. Ladislas parish’s 50+ Club and also volunteers to clean the church with the other “Heavenly Dusters.”

Mike even shares his musical gifts with others by lending his voice to the Caritas Choir which sings at funerals, local nursing homes and other events.

Fellow Vincentians say that Mike Dickey is the “Larry, the cable guy” with the motto...

“Git er done!”

Thank you, Mike. In the words of Paul Harvey, “You will hear the rest of the story.”

Prayer Corner

We are starting a new feature in Holy Moments entitled “Prayer Corner.” This column will list the special intentions provided by our Vincentians and create an opportunity for those in need of the Lord’s intervention to be remembered in the many prayers of our St. Vincent de Paul Society community.

We encourage you to submit your special intentions by contacting Natalie Schrimpf at nschrimpf@svdpcle.org.

Please keep Vincentian Cheryl Davis in your prayers.

St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us.

“Prayer is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself.”

- Saint John Vianney

Embracing Our History in the U.S.

In case you missed it – a recent edition of National’s Frederic’s E Gazette featured a wonderful article by Ray Sickinger, Ph.D. and National Board Member.

Click here to read.