

# Holy Moments



VINCENTIAN NEWSLETTER  
January, 2021

A Publication of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocese of Cleveland

To join our Holy Moments mailing list, view past issues, or to learn more about SVDP, visit us at [svdpCLE.org](http://svdpCLE.org)

Please send all emails to [holy-moments@svdpCLE.org](mailto:holy-moments@svdpCLE.org)

Please share this issue with your fellow Conference members who may not have email.

To unsubscribe, simply reply to the email from which you received this newsletter with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.



## Give Hope

DONATE A CAR  
GIVE HOPE TO THOSE IN NEED

Donate old vehicles to SVDP by calling 1-800-322-8284 or by visiting the webpage: [Click Here](#)

## Leave a Legacy

Please remember SVDP Cleveland in your will and estate planning.



[Click Here](#)

**CRAIN'S**  
**CLEVELAND**  
**BUSINESS**

SVDP Featured in

**Crain's Cleveland Business**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was one of the nonprofits featured in a December 14, 2020 *Crain's Cleveland Business* front-page story regarding nonprofit virtual fundraisers during the pandemic. The article was published in both the print and [on-line](#) editions.

[Click Here](#) to read.

## CEO Corner - Seek and Find the Poor

Dear Vincentians,

Cheers to a joyous New Year!

Yes, it was a difficult and challenging year. And yes, even though we would love for the 'switch' to happen and everything would go back to 'normal,' this will probably not happen – or at least not the way we wish, or when we wish.



Anelize Nader, CEO

Yet, we are a people of Hope. We believe in the presence of Jesus: Emmanuel, God with us. Let us never forget that He is with us at every step of the way. And because of that fact (and yes, this IS a fact!), we carry our Lord within us in our daily journey. We are His hands and face on earth, and we are tasked with sharing Him with everyone that we encounter.

Which leads us to our Vincentian vocation. Vincentians do not wait for the poor to come to us. We must be proactive. We need to 'seek and find the forgotten, the suffering, the deprived' so that we may bring them God's Love and Hope. This is our mandate.

There is an end in sight regarding the pandemic, but the signs of trouble to the economically vulnerable are just mounting. Let us not wait, but rather let us reach out to those in need. Trust in Divine Providence, as it never fails.

As the new year dawns, let us follow St. Vincent de Paul's and Blessed Frederic's lead and seek new and better ways to serve the Poor. Allow them to set our hearts on Fire!

May God's Presence be ever felt in your everyday living. Amen.

## SVDP Welcomes New Board Member, Helen Dumski

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Board of Directors is pleased to welcome its newest member, Helen Dumski, MS, RDN, LD.

Helen has held numerous leadership positions in the healthcare industry and at non-profit organizations. Most recently, she served as Interim CEO of the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland (on two occasions) and previously as President and CEO of the Diabetes Partnership of Cleveland.



Helen Dumski

She says that she thrives on networking, building relationships and forging partnerships, and is able to engage in this passion through her work at Case Western Reserve University, where she is an Adjunct Faculty member in the department of Nutrition. In this role, Helen matches public health dietetic interns with practicing registered dietitians who guide and educate the interns during their combined Masters in Public Health Nutrition Dietetic Internship.

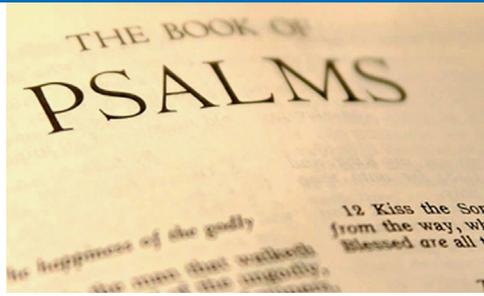
"Helen's unique blend of education, experience and spirituality bring a strong understanding of the needs of our friends we serve," said Ed Leszynski, Board president. "We are thrilled to have her join us."

She holds a Master of Nonprofit Administration from John Carroll University and a Bachelor of Science in Medical Dietetics from The Ohio State University. Helen has two children and three grandchildren and resides in Rocky River.

Welcome 2021

At the time of Jesus and continuing after the Resurrection, the psalms have remained a valued source of prayer in Christian life. Our liturgy uses the psalms in response to readings at mass. Here are a few suggestions that you might add to your list of New Year's resolutions:

- Ps. 16 *I will bless the Lord who counsels me.*
- Ps. 54 *Freely I will offer sacrifice.*
- Ps. 57 *I will give thanks to you among the people.*
- Ps. 88 *I will cry out to you Lord and in my morning prayer I will wait for you.*
- Ps 101 *I will walk in the way of integrity.*
- Ps.103 *Bless the Lord my soul and forget not all His benefits.*
- Ps. 119 *I love your law, O God. I hope in your word.*



IRS Charitable Contributions Guidelines



In order to comply with IRS regulations, donors who contribute \$250.00 or more directly to your Conference should be acknowledged with a thank you letter, which should subsequently be copied for your records. It is a best practice to indicate in the letter that contributions are deductible as allowable by law, and that no goods or services were provided to the donor as a result of the financial contribution.

There are also specific guidelines regarding documentation and substantiation of year-end contributions, which include:

\* Contributions received by mail must be POSTMARKED by December 31, 2020 to be acknowledged for the calendar year 2020. Careful consideration and handling of checks received after the new year is necessary. It is a best practice to retain the envelope with the post mark in the event there is an issue with acknowledgement.

\* Contributions received after January 1, 2021 and post marked in January would be recorded in 2021, regardless of the date of the check. Once again, THE POST-MARK is very important. When preparing acknowledgements for donors, you must list the date and amount of EACH contribution throughout 2020.

\* You cannot aggregate the amounts contributed on an acknowledgement to be used for tax purposes. It is permissible to send a letter stating an aggregated amount, but the letter must contain language that the document is not suitable for tax substantiation purposes.

\* For non-cash contributions, you should only list the item given and describe it in great detail. You should not value the items, as it is up to the donor to value the items contributed for their tax return.



Akron District Funding Received from Wayside Furniture Event

Congratulations to our Akron District as the recipient of funding from Wayside Furniture's recent annual "After Thanksgiving" charity event. Seven SVDP Conferences in this district will benefit from the \$6,000.00 raised during this matching gift campaign. A special thank you goes to District President, Bill Leahy, for helping to promote this event!



Ohio Catholic FCU Donates Funds to St. Francis de Sales Conference

Ohio Catholic Credit Union-Akron Branch Manager, Brian Breitenbach (left), recently presented a \$1,000 check to Father Jeremy Merzweiler, St. Francis de Sales-Akron administrator and Linda Berger, secretary and treasurer, for the parish's SVDP Conference. The funds may be used at the discretion of the Conference to help local people in need.

Prayer Corner



Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:

- Anthony B.**
- Mary Ann Cowling**
- Sister Cheryl Keehner**
- Juan Saul**
- Al Schiazza**
- Dave Swaysland**

St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us.

Please submit special intentions to Natalie Schrimpf: [nschrimpf@svdpcl.org](mailto:nschrimpf@svdpcl.org)

*"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."*

- Mother Teresa

## Vincentian Spotlight

Every month, we will try to feature a Vincentian from one of our Conferences, sharing what he/she does and the impact of this work on those we serve. Feel free to submit stories about your fellow Vincentians by contacting [nschrimpf@svdpcle.org](mailto:nschrimpf@svdpcle.org).

### Ray Daull, Communion of Saints – Cleveland Heights

Raymond Daull has been active for almost 30 years as a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society helping those in need. Ray became a deacon in the Diocese of Cleveland in 1993 and served in that role at Christ The King parish in East Cleveland. He was very involved with SVDP there and also in the establishment of the Fr. Michael Wittman Ozanam Center at Christ the King Church in 2004. The Ozanam Center has since moved to St. Philomena Church campus of Communion of Saints parish.

In 2010, four parishes serving East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights merged as one new parish known as Communion of Saints. Ray continued his ministry as deacon at the inception of the new parish and was instrumental in forming a St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference there. His commitment to SVDP runs deep with meetings, numerous client visits and the arrangement of help with rent, food, clothing and utilities for the needy.

He has also continued his involvement at the Ozanam Center with its weekly food and clothing distribution for the poor.

Ray deeply believes in the value of Home Visits, and regards this aspect as key to our ministry. He believes that, by making the personal connection at the neighbor's *own home*, Vincentians wholeheartedly represent the Lord's love and hope. By going to them (rather than having them come to us), we are humbling ourselves and dignifying those we serve. He also follows Jesus' direction to His apostles (and a Vincentian rule), and always visits in pairs.

Ray retired after many years of service from The Rose-Mary Center, which provides care and housing for children and adults with development and intellectual disabilities. He and his wife, Peggy, are involved with the Dorothy Day Dinner ministry in East Cleveland, where hot dinners are served to the poor and needy on the last Sunday of the month.



Ray Daull, Communion of Saints

Ray has a quiet and welcoming personality. His is a life of faith and of being a man of service to those in need. One could say that he is a prime example of a true Vincentian sharing God's love and friendship.

by Bill Conkey

### Remembering My Mentor, Don Spence of St. Ladislav Conference

Don Spence's recent obituary published in *The Plain Dealer* did not include the fact that he and his wife, Arlene, were the 2012 recipients of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Ed Worley Award for outstanding hunger-relief efforts in the community. I want to pay tribute to this amazing Vincentian couple from St. Ladislav Conference, as they were a strong example of what a good husband and wife team can accomplish.

Don served as president of the St Ladislav SVDP Conference for many years. Under his and Arlene's leadership, nearly 33,000 visitors received food and 47,000 hot meals were distributed at the St. Ignatius of Antioch food pantry in Cleveland over an approximate 15-year-period. St. Ignatius of Antioch is the sister parish of St. Ladislav as part of the "Church in the City" program created by Bishop Anthony Pilla.

Thanks to Don's relationship with Trader Joe's and Giant Eagle in Westlake, St. Ladislav Conference volunteers were able to pick up and distribute food 362 days of the year. Don was the one who organized volunteers to complete this task.



2012 GCFB Award Winners, Don (right) & Arlene (3rd from left) Spence

This food is still being distributed these days to St. Herman House, St. Augustine hunger center, St. Michael the Archangel church, The Ed Keating Center, Edna House, Jean Marie House and others.

Don also organized furniture and appliance deliveries, distributed coats in the fall, and oh yes, toys at Christmas. He was even a major recycler before it was in vogue. To him, cardboard and cans were never to be put in the trash barrels.

With the numerous stories and events I witnessed over the years, an entire book could be written about Don and Arlene. Oh, did I mention they have 13 children?

Don was a convert to Catholicism and was eventually asked to become a Eucharistic Minister. He was my mentor. I have so much respect, love, and appreciation for both him and Arlene. I once told him that I worked harder for him as a volunteer than I did when I was a paid employee before I retired. He reminded me that I was working **for God**.

Rest in peace, my dear friend. I get tired just thinking about what you and Arlene accomplished.

by Ed Leszynski