

Holy Moments

VINCENTIAN NEWSLETTER
May, 2020



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

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**PRAY FOR
THE WORLD**
COVID -19

A Message from Anelize Nader, CEO

Dear Vincentians,

I am praying that you are all keeping safe and well during this time. How I miss seeing you all!

As you know, the need for Vincentian work has never been greater. What are we all about? Providing Hope. **First and foremost it is the Love and the Hope, provided by our Lord, to us and through us, that we offer to those we serve.** We should never forget that the material and financial assistance are secondary to the Love and Hope. This is our charism, this is what makes us unique. Each one of us should be deeply grounded in our Faith, in Love and Hope ourselves, so that we can be the most effective conductors of God's love for His people. During this time of uncertainties, may He always bless us in our roles as Vincentians.

Hunger Relief Matching Gift Campaign Now Through Midnight on May 16



RACE FOR RELIEF
Emergency Matching Gift
Campaign for our
Hunger Centers during
COVID-19 crisis

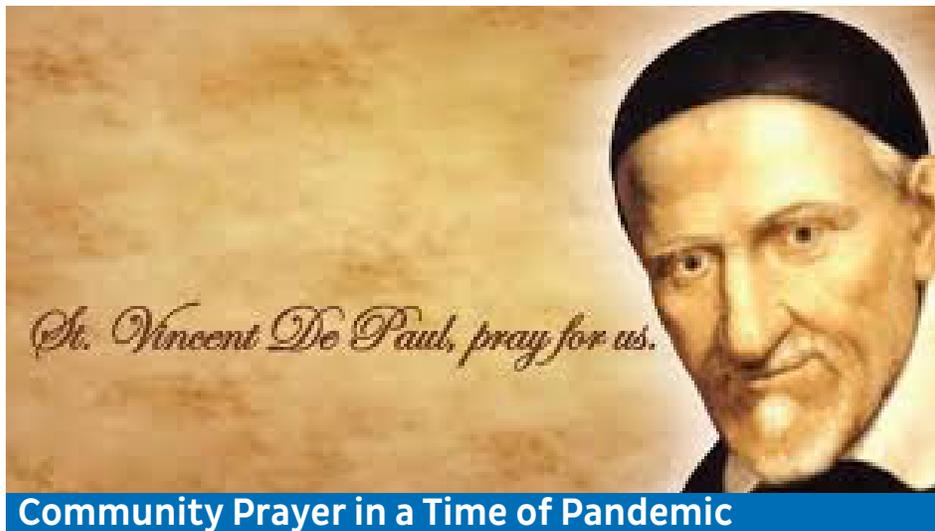
The other aspect of being a Vincentian is to provide Service to those in need. Although we are able to provide in-kind products and services as well, the vast majority of our work does require financial support. [Click here](#) to see a one-page summary of our impact in the community last year.

I just wanted to share one of the many initiatives we've been working on in this regard. I am sure you have seen the online campaign that is currently going on. For the past 20 years, Great Lakes Brewing Company in Cleveland has supported a major fundraiser for the hunger centers - the annual Kentucky Derby Party. Because the event was cancelled - yet the need is great and it is still here - they have suggested an on-line **Race for Relief** fundraising campaign to benefit our hunger relief program. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, gifts up to \$20,000 are matched for double the impact.

This is a wonderful example of a collective effort to our common good. The more we raise with this campaign: 1) the more people we will be able to serve at our Ozanam Centers and hunger centers; and 2) the more funds will be available to the Central Office to support our Conferences in their own works.

In case you would like to participate in this effort, the campaign ends Saturday, May 16 at midnight. To donate, [click here](#) or visit svdpcl.org.

P.S. One touching story I just heard from James, our Operations Manager: last week Tim, a 'regular' client at Brookside, approached him and gave him two dollars. "I just want to help," he said. How moving! And such a good example of the Good in people; and that, no matter how much one contributes, what matters is that it comes from the heart. God bless him!



God of love and compassion,
throughout all generations you have been our hope.
In times of trouble, you have sent men and women
to be instruments of your mercy.
You gave us St. Vincent de Paul, who preached that,
“Love is inventive, even to infinity.”
Help us to sense your love and care for us now
as the coronavirus disease threatens the human family.

Let those who suffer know the depths of your infinite love.
Heal the sick and allow them to feel your presence
in their suffering and uncertainty.
Enfold those who die in your embrace,
and strengthen and console those who grieve.

Protect and defend all medical professionals and researchers
as they put their own lives at risk for the good of others.
Guide them as they must find creative approaches
to stop the spread of this disease.

Source of mercy,
we entrust to you the poor and the vulnerable,
who we know suffer even more during times of crisis.
Lead us to be more innovative in finding them the resources they need
and provide care to those who suffer discrimination during this pandemic.

We, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul community,
place all of our concerns into your hands.
Be with us as we navigate through the many ways
that our lives have been altered in these days.
Help us to feel near to you and connected with one another,
even when we are unable to gather in our communities.
Give us the patience and ingenuity to meet these challenges.

God of all goodness,
through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul,
our patron, patron of hospitals and saint of charity,
we ask that you heal our sickness, calm our fears,
and in place of anxiety, send us your peace.

Amen.

Conference Supply Center is Still Open



Our Conference Supply Center is operational, so feel free to order items at <http://www.svdpcle.org/resources/conference-supply-center-order-form/>, or visit svdpcle.org and click on Vincentian Resources, Resources for Supplies to order supplies from our Conference Supply Center.

Please note that until further notice, our driver will leave the requested items on the lawn by the curb, so make sure arrangements are made for bringing the items into the homes.

These items are available:

- Beds (single, full, bunk)
- Blankets
- Towels and wash cloths
- Diapers
- Refurbished laptop computers

For questions, contact either:

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Pentecostal Reflection

By Sister Cheryl Keehner, CSA



In the Scripture readings between Easter and Pentecost, we see the early church acting on a mission passed on to them from the apostles. The mission, detailed in the Gospel accounts of the Ascension, is known as “the Great Commission.” Jesus says to the Apostles, “Go out to all the world and bring the good news.” Anticipating their success in this endeavor, Jesus predicts “You will do all that I have done, and even more.”

In the Book of Acts, we see the Christian community grow, meeting together in their homes, sharing in the Lord’s supper and responding to the material needs of the community. The apostles worked signs and wonders among the people and in spite of threats made toward them all, they continued on in their good works. Following Paul in his travels, we find communities in Greece and Turkey. We witness fundraising attempts to support the believers in Jerusalem and to increase the ministry to the poor in new locales, with this encouragement: “God loves a cheerful giver.” Leaders of the communities are encouraged in their zeal, to “fan the flame” while being “strong, courageous and wise.” In Antioch, people notice how they loved one another and call them ‘Christians’ for the first time.

Against this backdrop, we can witness the growth of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, founded by Frederic Ozanam in 1833. The values of spirituality, friendship and service, as well as the commission to “go out to all the world” and serve the poor is central to our story, too. With over 800,000 lay members around the world, Vincentians work together in 150 countries serving the poor, and giving respect and compassionate care to all in need.

In preparation for the feast of Pentecost on May 31, let’s spend time reflecting alone and together: What drew you into the Society? How has being a member enriched your life? How do the bonds of friendship in the Society sustain our ministry? How is the Holy Spirit directing our growth and that of the society?

At this time of unbelievable needs brought on by the pandemic, what needs are we being called to address? How can we speak to the needs of the poor who seem to be “forgotten” in the economic and political instability of our times? What is our part in working with the Holy Spirit to “renew the face of the earth?”

Conferences Adapt to New Ways to Help in the Social Distancing Era

“Love is inventive, even to infinity.”

– St. Vincent de Paul

The ability to provide person-to-person emergency assistance to good people in need has always been a cornerstone of SVDP assistance. Unfortunately, the current health crisis prevents Vincentians from conducting both home visits and in-person Conference member meetings in an effort to maintain the required social distancing.

But in the spirit of our patron, St. Vincent de Paul, who encouraged the discovery of creative ways to help others, Vincentians are continuing to provide help and stay connected to each other in these unprecedented times while still living our three pillars of Spirituality, Friendship and Service.

For example, instead of home visits, these days Conferences are “meeting” people in need over the phone, whether it is with a conventional phone call, Facetime or even a Zoom call. And when neighbors request food or other items, Vincentians deliver to their doorstep instead of providing the help in their living rooms. Documents to support the assistance are provided via fax or email, copies are left at an agreed site, or pictures are taken and sent via text. As we’ve heard from other Vincentians, it is important not to relax our standards and best practices.

When it comes to membership communication, Conferences are staying connected with their members via phone calls, on-line meetings or with outside meetings that adhere to social distancing guidelines. These include maintaining at least six feet apart, refraining from shaking hands and limiting the amount of shared paperwork.

Although the types of requests for emergency assistance have not changed much since the pandemic began, some Conferences have noticed an increase in parishioners wanting to help. **What an opportunity for recruitment!** Some Conferences have received substantial financial donations from parishioners and anonymous donors, in addition to in-kind donations, such as grocery store gift cards.

As new details of the health crisis continue to evolve and CDC guidelines change, our Vincentians will continue to adapt in order to help some of our most forgotten neighbors in need.

