

# Holy Moments



VINCENTIAN NEWSLETTER  
Summer 2025

## Executive Director's Notes: New Programs, New Faces, New Blessings

Welcome to the Summer edition of Holy Moments. Part of our Vincentian mission includes finding new and better ways to serve those in need. In this edition of Holy Moments, you'll read about the laundry ministry in place in the Akron District. It not only offers a much-needed benefit to Neighbors in Wadsworth and Barberton but allows patrons to come together, discuss their problems, and find solutions in a nurturing social environment.

In May 2025, under the leadership of Lorain District President Juan Diaz, we embarked on a ministry for the incarcerated. Longtime prison minister Sr. Rita Mary Harwood, SND has provided valuable guidance as the program takes shape. Recently, I was blessed to participate with Juan and Pat McGervey at the Lorain County Jail.

We spoke with about 60 inmates who had come voluntarily to share their faith journey, reflect on scripture, pray for their intentions, and share two hours of peace, reassurance, and hope. This was my first experience "inside" and I was struck by the inmates' openness, support for each other, and gratitude for the SVDP team being there. We'll cover the ministry for the incarcerated and highlight volunteer opportunities in the next edition of Holy Moments.

A big thank you to the students at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School (NDCL)! They raised funds as part of NDCL Lenten Almsgiving and purchased sheets and pillows in support of our beds and bedding program. So far in 2025, Vincentians have delivered and assembled 166 new beds to Neighbors. Good night!

By the way, Blanket Sunday will be October 12th. Please let me know if your church would like to be added to the long list of participating parishes.

Finally, Father Art Snedeker, our new Spiritual Advisor, is featured in this edition. Thank you, Father Art, for your willingness to pray with us, guide us, and share your many years of experience. Welcome!

In the spirit of Blessed Frederic Ozanam,



Jack Bedell, Executive Director

## Comfort and Care: NDCL's Heartfelt Donation

SVDP Cleveland Council sends a HUGE thank you to Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School! They recently donated over 60 sets of new bedding, which included a fitted sheet, flat sheet and pillowcases along with over 120 pillows to help our Blanket Sunday Campaign.

Every Lent, Campus Ministry, led by Tom Conkey and Nick Carillon, encourages

the student body do an Almsgiving project. This is a non-incentive fundraiser where they simply give from the heart. In honor of the Sisters of Notre Dame's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the goal was to raise \$1,750.

The idea to donate to SVDP came from Conkey, Campus Minister, while he attended mass at his local parish, Communion of Saints. That day, they held a collection for SVDP. He decided that we were the Catholic community organization that would be most fitting. It would also be a great way to honor his father and late uncle who were long-time Vincentians.

Their generosity and giving will help those in need to sleep much more comfortably.

THANK YOU, NDCL!





## One Load at a Time: The Akron Laundry Ministry

We are excited to highlight a successful new program at SVDP, the Laundry Ministry. Recently, our Sacred Heart of Jesus conference in Wadsworth started offering free laundry service to individuals in need. St. Augustine Parish in Barberton also has a laundry ministry and works closely with the SVDP conference. Holy Moments spoke with Tiffany Leonard from Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mike Moore from St. Augustine to learn more about this new ministry.



At Sacred Heart of Jesus, the financial benefit to those in need is meaningful. The cost of washing and drying clothing is more than most of us realize and having clean clothes makes us feel better and instills confidence. But one unexpected benefit was the fellowship and camaraderie that developed among the patrons. They help each other fold laundry, share ideas on stain removal, discuss what companies are hiring, play games, and share in each other's successes.

***"It's been a great service if you want to meet this basic need in your community."***

To get the word out, fliers were distributed to social service agencies in Wadsworth. People were informed of the program when they came to the Sacred Heart food pantry. Other churches were alerted, and the popularity of the free service continues to grow by word of mouth.



If you're looking to start a laundry ministry at your conference, Tiffany says, "It's been a great service if you want to meet this basic need in your community. Madeline Schwab leads this with me, and she has been able to secure grants to help fund it. I would advise others to look into that possibility. Team up with a laundromat who has a vested interest in the community. There are apps now that run the washers and dryers, so the process is easy once you get started."



If you know anyone that might need the Laundry Ministry in Wadsworth, available times include the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays each month from 6pm-8pm at College Street Laundromat.

In April, St. Augustine commemorated the 3rd anniversary of its Laundry Ministry. It was started when Common Threads Closet, which has donated clothes, sheets, walkers, and wheelchairs to SVDP, suggested it. They were facing a problem with people routinely taking clothes and throwing them out, instead of washing them.

Mike Moore agrees there are many benefits, especially knowing that students can go to school

no longer bullied about having dirty clothes. They have been told neighbors used to resort to washing their clothes in a nearby reservoir.

St. Augustine passes out fliers around the community and during food pantry hours. They too have received grants to help support the ministry and the elementary school donated a full year of laundry pods. Its congregation also donated \$20K to fund the program. SVDP conference members staff the laundromat during available hours. Our conferences in Wadsworth and Barberton are truly changing lives – one load at a time!



Donate  
Today



Click here to make a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



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

LEAVE A LEGACY



Please remember SVDP Cleveland in your will and estate planning.

## Faith, Fellowship, and 51 Years: Welcome Fr. Snedeker



SVDP Cleveland Council would like to welcome our new Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Art Snedeker! He has been a priest in the Diocese of Cleveland for 51 years.

Fr. Snedeker grew up in South Euclid, OH and attended St. Gregory the Great grade school. His family then moved to Independence where he graduated from Independence High School. He was ordained a priest in 1974 and first served at St. John Nepomucene in Cleveland.

From 1977-1988, Fr. Snedeker coordinated campus ministry at several colleges including Ashland University, College of Wooster, Wayne Technical College and the Agricultural Technical Institute. He next served at Baldwin Wallace College for 10 years while also becoming the Director of Campus Min-

istry under Bishop Pilla at the Diocese.

Following his time at BW, Fr. Snedeker was an associate pastor at St. Columbkille in Parma and then St. Martin of Tours in Maple Heights. He became a Pastor in 1995 at Immaculate Conception in Akron and remained there until 1998. Upon having open heart surgery in 1997, he asked to be relieved from his pastor duties. Bishop Pilla assigned him as chaplain at Metro Health Hospital, where he served for 12 years. Fr. Snedeker loved his work as a chaplain imparting his Catholic charism in a hospital serving the poor. The work was humbling and rewarding. Fr. Snedeker's ministry at Metro, meeting the spiritual needs of the marginalized and forgotten, developing a personal relationship with the poor, aligns perfectly with the mission of SVDP.

He retired in 2013 but still works part-time for Constellation Hospice Services. He continues to enjoy the ministry, taking time to get to know pa-

tients and hear their stories. He added it is like St. Vincent de Paul to sit with the ordinary and be present with one another. His first patient opened up to him under the pretense that they would play chess as he did not believe in God. Although they never played, they routinely prayed together until the man's passing. He loves this work and reflects that Christ walked with dirty, dusty feet among the poor as they were, just like St. Vincent de Paul.

As Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Snedeker looks forward to engaging with members of SVDP and its leadership, offering spiritual guidance, while preparing meditations, and reflections.

Father Snedeker enjoys reading, conversation, laughter and the company of family and friends.

Welcome Fr. Art Snedeker!

## New Talent, Shared Values: Meet the New Faces Behind the Mission



**Kelly Shaw**

**Fund Development Manager**

Kelly believes in the mission of SVDP and is committed to helping advance it. She has an MBA with a concentration in Marketing from Cleveland State University. Her 20+ year career includes marketing, communications, public relations and fundraising. She has worked for Fortune 500 companies and non-profits alike. Recently, she was the Advancement Director for St. Paschal Baylon Parish in Highland Heights. Outside of work, you can find her on walks with her husband and golden retriever rescue dog. She has sons studying at the University of Dayton and Cleveland State. In addition to marketing, development and conference support activities, Kelly will publish this quarterly newsletter. Kelly looks forward to collaborating and getting to know all of our Vincentians!

**Nate Gates-Petykowski**

**Summer Intern**

Nate comes to SVDP Cleveland as a summer intern studying at John Carroll University (JCU). Originally from the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Nate is a rising Senior at JCU. He will receive a degree in Marketing with a focus in Analytics in May 2026. He is a current member of the JCU Labre Project which helps prepare and distribute food and supplies to those experiencing homelessness. Nate will be helping to promote Blanket Sunday and updating our database of contacts, benefactors, and members, so you may hear from him!



To learn more about SVDP, how you can help, or to donate, visit [SVDPCle.org](https://SVDPCle.org)