

# Information Packet and Request for Support

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul Parish Special Collection

September 28-29, 2019



St. Vincent, patron of all charitable associations and father of those who are in misery, come to our assistance. Obtain from Our Lord help for the poor, relief for the infirm, consolation for the afflicted, protection for the abandoned, a spirit of generosity for the rich, grace of conversion for sinners, zeal for priests, peace for the Church, tranquility and order for all nations, and salvation for them all. May we be united in the life to come, by your intercession, and experience joy, gladness, and everlasting happiness. Amen.

Dear Pastors and Vincentians:

Earlier this year, the SVdP Development Advisory Committee met to discuss this year's opportunities for financial support of Council. Based on the success of the parish special collection at Blessed Sacrament Church and St. Timothy Church that raised more in this appeal than had been collected previously at designated masses, it was decided to again request permission from Bishop Foys to allow for a parish special collection in all Diocesan parishes. As an additional benefit, the special collection weekend offers an opportunity for Vincentians to share with the congregation how this special collection helps the Conference to serve more of their neighbors in need.

The special collection will coincide with the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul at all masses the weekend of September 28-29 with a 50/50 split of proceeds between Conferences and Council at parishes that include a SVdP Conference. With parishes that do not have a SVdP Conference, 100% of the proceeds will benefit our centrally managed programs to serve those in need. There also exists the incentive from The Butler Foundation match. Incremental increases over and above last year's collection will be matched at 100%.

**We are requesting your participation in the special collection at your parish.** We realize that each parish supports SVdP at different levels and at various times of the year. **Therefore, we are asking each parish to opt-in or opt-out of the special collection by Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>** via emailing Karen Zengel at [karen.zengel@svdpnky.org](mailto:karen.zengel@svdpnky.org) While Bishop Foys has approved this special collection, there is no obligation for pastors to participate.

What follows is an introduction outlining the value of Council to Conference and the strategy to prepare and implement the St. Vincent de Paul Special Collection at parishes during the weekend of September 28-29, 2019. If you have any questions regarding the special collection or the materials, please contact Lou Settle, Advancement Director, at [lou.settle@svdpnky.org](mailto:lou.settle@svdpnky.org) or 859-446-7727. Additionally, this packet of material is available in Microsoft Word at <https://www.svdpnky.org/vincentian-activities/>

Together, we can meet the needs of those suffering in our community. Thank you on behalf of those served for considering this important request, and for making it possible to provide emergency assistance to Northern Kentucky families since 1911.

Best,



Karen Zengel  
Executive Director

## Introduction – Council Support for Conferences

While it is important for Conferences to strengthen themselves, it is also necessary for Council to continue operating in support of the Conferences. Council, represented by the Executive Director, the assistance office and our thrift store enterprises, supports the local work of the Conference in the following ways:

- Taking phone calls for assistance and assigning cases to the appropriate Conference based on where the person in need lives
- Assisting Vincentians with Client Management Suite (CMS) software
- Funding and administering our voucher program for clothing, furniture and household items. The thrift stores offer quality clothing, household goods and furniture that people may not otherwise be able to afford.
- Funding and administering our Sweet Dreams Beds program to children, the disabled and elderly in need of a bed, as identified by the conference Vincentians
- Funding and administering our Summer Breeze program to neighbors in need of relief from the heat and humidity, as identified by our conference Vincentians
- Providing medical equipment to those in need, as identified by our Vincentians
- Providing food and hygiene items to those who live in areas not served by an active conference
- Providing supplemental food to conference food pantries
- Providing supplemental funds for emergency assistance when the conference is not able to meet the financial needs within its parish boundaries
- Mining assistance cases to understand the needs of our community and learning from these needs to structure our support appropriately
- Filling referral requests from partnering agencies to help with food, clothing, furniture, household items and emergency financial assistance

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH SPECIAL COLLECTION

### Calendar of Important Dates

Wednesday, June 5	Introduction of special collection at Council meeting and request for Conference participation
Monday, July 15	Deadline for Conferences to notify Karen Zengel by email regarding intention to participate
Monday, July 29	Letter with supported material to pastors/parishes with no Conference sent by Council
Monday, July 29	Letter with supported material to pastors for Conferences that have agreed to participate sent by Council
Monday, August 12	Conferences to follow up with their pastors regarding intent to participate in special collection
Monday, August 12	Karen Zengel and Lou Settle to follow up with pastors/parishes with no Conference
Weekend Sept. 7-8	Bulletin insert
Weekend Sept. 21-22	Bulletin insert with announcement
Weekend Sept. 28-29	Pulpit announcement by conference representative or pastor

**NOTE:** Special collection will take the form preferred by the parish. Options include a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection, collection in the back of church after mass, or in-pew envelopes (please contact [lou.settle@svdpnky.org](mailto:lou.settle@svdpnky.org) or 859-446-7727 at Council for remittance envelopes)

**SAMPLE BULLETIN INSERT:  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SPECIAL COLLECTION**

There will be a special collection *during/after* masses the weekend of September 28-29 to support St. Vincent de Paul. 100% of your donations will be used to feed, clothe and house your brothers and sisters in Christ struggling to make ends meet. Your generosity will ...

- feed your neighbors who don't have food to eat
- provide a bed to a child now sleeping on the floor or in a chair
- assist with rent or utilities for a neighbor on the verge of losing their home
- supply clothing, household goods and furniture to a family who has lost everything in a fire

Person-to-person visits by Vincentian volunteers set St. Vincent de Paul apart from other organizations and provides hope that tomorrow will be a brighter day. Last year, St. Vincent de Paul helped over 33,000 in Northern Kentucky. We cannot do this without your financial support! Please join us in making Northern Kentucky a special place to call home.

*(Vincentians: Please feel free to customize with specific facts regarding your Conference ie. number of members, types and amounts of assistance, etc.)*

## **SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PULPIT BY CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE**

Good Morning, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul conference here at \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

I would like to thank \_\_\_\_\_ our pastor and \_\_\_\_\_ for allowing me to take a few minutes of your time to speak to the St. Vincent de Paul Special Collection on the weekend of September 28 and 29. That weekend serves as a particularly special time for over 500 Vincentian volunteers in the Diocese of Covington as we celebrate the feast day of the Society's patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization that helps those in need or those living in poverty. We grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to people in need because we see "the face of Christ" in those we serve as Jesus taught us when he said, "whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do to me."

Today, the need to serve those who are living in poverty is very great even in our own parish. (It is important to share some examples of impact: number of families served by Conference, the works that the Conference does: home visits to assist with utilities or rent, distribution of food, clothing or furniture thrift store vouchers, beds provided, etc.)

However, we cannot do this alone. It is through your generosity and compassion that the Society can provide funding and programming to help our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. Through your donations, you can change lives. Please partner with us today in continuing to feed, clothe and heal others. Not only will you be helping those in need but you will also find yourself growing in God's love and the desire to share that love with others.

After Mass, there will be members of the parish conference in the back of church to collect financial donations and/or there are envelopes in your pew. Thank you for your generosity to the Society's work. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Vincentian volunteer, please **see me after mass or contact** \_\_\_\_\_

God Bless

## **SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PULPIT BY PASTOR**

During the weekend of September 28 and 29 there will be a special collection for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Northern Kentucky. That weekend serves as a particularly special time for over 500 Vincentian volunteers in the Diocese of Covington as they celebrate the feast day of the Society's patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The Society is a Catholic lay organization that helps those in need or those living in poverty. Last year, they served over 33,000 families in Northern Kentucky with rental and utility assistance, food, furniture, clothing and other assistance.

Today, the need to serve those who are living in poverty is very great even in our own parish. Person-to-person service is what sets St. Vincent de Paul apart from other organizations. (It is important to share some examples of impact: number of families served by Conference, the works that the Conference does: home visits to assist with utilities or rent, distribution of food, clothing or furniture thrift store vouchers, beds provided, etc.)

However, they cannot do this alone. It is through your generosity and compassion that the Society can provide funding and programming to help our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. Through your donations, you can change lives. ***Today/next weekend*** there will be a special collection, please give generously so they can continue to feed, clothe and heal others. Not only will you be helping those in need, but you will also find yourself growing in God's love and the desire to share that love with others. Thank you for your generosity to the Society's work.

God Bless