

VINCENTIAN *NewsFlash*



Special Features

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CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT
ST. BARBARA

INVITATION TO SERVE
SUMMER BREEZE HEAT RELIEF





MESSAGES

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KAREN ZENGEL
AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT CASEY GUILFOYLE



In May, my husband made a trip to Pittsburgh to attend a high school graduation party for twin children of a college buddy. He's seen these kids only a few times in their 18 years of life, but when Johnny called with an invitation, he did not hesitate to make plans for the visit. The need to reconnect with a group of guys he lived with for 4 years was compounded by the isolation and lack of human connection caused by the pandemic. It was well worth the drive to celebrate with these old and dear friends. He came back relaxed, refreshed and happy to have spent time with people who played an important role in his life.

We hosted our first IN PERSON Council meeting on June 2 for the first time since February 2020. While technology was a blessing to keep us connected, this time has reinforced that there is no substitute for spending time together, next to one another. We are happy that the Vincentian essential element of friendship can once again be forged and strengthened by in-person interaction and fellowship.

In addition to in person meetings, home visits will also return. We are excited and anxious to spend time with the neighbors we serve, to offer that truly personal connection that means so much more when we can physically be together. We have a deeper appreciation of the situations our neighbors are facing when we have the opportunity to visit their homes. In turn, our presence can remind them that they are supported and not alone. There is healing power in that human connection and we are all ready to be renewed!

We thank you all for your continued support and encouragement during this pandemic. We cannot wait to see you all!

- Karen Zengel, Executive Director

There's an excitement in the air as we begin to return to some semblance of "normal" and re-engage with each other on a more intimate, in-person basis. We are beginning to emerge from a virtual presence to real presence, and the energy and lifting of spirits is also "real" and palpable. On June 2 our Society was blessed to meet face-to-face as a Council with our leaders throughout the Diocese of Covington for the first time in over 14 months. By the providence of God, we celebrated in a very real way our friendship, our spirituality and our service and even an unplanned sheet cake!

I also had the opportunity recently to attend some "regional" workshops presented by our larger Society of St. Vincent de Paul. One of the workshops was led by our very own Deacon Mike Lyman who serves as both our Council Spiritual Advisor as well as the Mid-East Region Spiritual Advisor. Deacon Mike's spiritual reflection to begin the meeting focused precisely on what we missed most during the long months of the pandemic: the sense of presence and the intimacy of personal contact. It was a beautiful tapestry of words that captured so much of why we celebrate a return to intimacy. He gave me permission to share his some of his words:

"God calls us to deep intimacy and true presence with all of our brothers and sisters – both our Vincentian family and the poor and hurting that we encounter along the way. . . . It necessitates a return to person to person contact walking alongside others where they are at in their lives. When we truly become intimate with one another vulnerabilities are exposed, trust is established and sacrifice is embraced."

Throughout the next few months, Sr. Judith Niewahner and I will be visiting many of our conferences as part of our efforts on "Revitalization." This Council effort to bring our conferences "back to life" after a weary pandemic is going to rely primarily on all of us as Vincentians being present to each other in "real" friendship.

- Casey Guilfoyle, Council President



IN THE NEWS



On April 14 we celebrated the opening of our new Campbell County Thrift Store and the Robert and Mary Besse Choice Food Pantry! The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and Msgr. Gerald Reinersman, Pastor at St. Joseph Cold Spring, offered the blessing.

Our new thrift store located at 3970 Alexandria Pike in Cold Spring opened its doors to the public on April 15. Thank you to everyone who helped to get the two new facilities ready and to those who celebrated the opening with us. **We are forever grateful for you!**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FEAST DAY MASS CELEBRATION 9/25/21

We will be celebrating St. Vincent de Paul's Feast Day Mass this year on September 25 at St. Paul's Church in Florence. We host the Feast Day Mass every year to honor and celebrate the dedication, faith and hard work of our Vincentian volunteers. The celebration rotates to a

new parish each year. We are excited to share the return of the Feast Day Brunch this year after the mass! During the brunch, we will recognize a dedicated Vincentian for the Norb DeJaco Vincentian Service Award and the Jubilarian anniversaries of those Vincentians reaching very special milestones in their service. We cannot wait to spend time in fellowship and see everyone's smiling face! Please stay tuned for ongoing communication to share more details about this special event.

Join Deacon Mike Lyman, our Spiritual Advisor, for the upcoming in-person Ozanam Orientation on **August 14 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** It will be held at St. Joseph Church Cold Spring. Ozanam Orientation is a program designed for all Vincentian volunteers, not just new members. It is a day of learning the

history of SVdP, Vincentian values, our ministry and virtues. Lunch is provided. Send a text to Deacon Mike at 859-806-4440 or an email at deaconmikelyman1@gmail.com to confirm your registration. RSVP by August 9. **Limited space is available!**



OZANAM ORIENTATION

PARTNERS FOR PROSPERITY ENCOURAGING SUCCESS



Think of someone who helped you along life's path and the encouragement and support that they provided you. How truly meaningful their help was to ensure your success. **The Partners for Prosperity mentorship program of St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky** was created to fulfill this very need and purpose, and provides volunteers the opportunity to serve as mentors.

In partnership with the Life Learning Center located in Covington, mentors are paired with graduates who complete a 12-week education and care continuum. As part of this 12-week program, the candidate is provided educational

and emotional support, computer training, health, fitness and job readiness skills. Onsite childcare is also available for candidates while they complete their required classes. The goal of the LLC is to provide candidates, "everything that they need so they can focus on their own personal transformational change."

The Partners for Prosperity mentorship program is offered to graduates of the LLC program to assist them in their promising new path forward by offering a shoulder to lean upon when or if their pathway becomes uncertain. We provide the graduates continuous encouragement and support as well as assist them with problem solving and goal setting to help them as they move forward in achieving self-sufficiency.

Our mentors have a variety of backgrounds and life experiences which provide a wealth of skills to help others with continued success. Life experience is the greatest resource and an amazing gift we can offer others.

Call or email Mark Bradley (mark.bradley@sverdnpky.org, 859-426-2649) if you are interested in learning more about Partners for Prosperity.

INVITATION TO SERVE

By serving our neighbors in need we are serving God. We see Christ in the poor because Jesus told us “whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do for me.”

At St. Vincent de Paul, we know the need is great in our community and we could not meet that need without our Vincentians. To meet the needs of our neighbors, we need friends who are willing to answer the call to serve. One way that we “recruit” is through an Invitation to Serve process in our Diocesan parishes. This is an important, ongoing effort that ensures the vibrancy of our ministry in NKY.

Becoming a Vincentian offers not only the opportunity to serve, but just as importantly, the opportunity to grow in spirituality (to know God) through friendship and service. One way we are able to do this is by making home visits. The home visit is a trademark of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Even more important than material assistance is the friendship and spiritual support we share with those

we serve. We go in pairs into the home of the neighbor, listen to their stories, talk with them and then assist in the best way possible. Prayer with the neighbor at the beginning and after the visit is the hallmark of the assistance given.

The Invitation to Serve process involves sharing details of our ministry through bulletin announcements, a talk during mass and a more detailed meeting that follows for anyone interested in learning more about being a Vincentian. Through this process, you have the opportunity to learn more about the SVdP outreach in your own parish, the needs in your own community and how you can get involved in serving your neighbors. By serving our neighbors in need we are serving God. We see Christ in the poor because Jesus told us “whatever

you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do for me.”

SVdP Conference Relations and our Extension/Revitalization Committee helps provide support to parishes in hosting these Invitations to Serve. These events can take place in a parish where there is an existing conference or in a parish where the church family is interested in starting their own SVdP conference. St. Augustine, Augusta and St. James, Brooksville are beginning the process of becoming a conference. Holy Cross, Latonia will host an Invitation to Serve in August to welcome new members to their existing conference.

If your conference is interested in planning an Invitation to Serve or if someone is interested in being a Vincentian, please contact Sister Judith Niewahner at 859-446-7721 or email at smjudith.niewahner@svdpnky.org

ST. BARBARA CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT



St. Barbara has a very active parish conference and is instrumental in helping spread love, hope and help to our neighbors in need. John Kramer, president of St. Barbara’s conference, shares how Vincentian volunteers have rallied together, especially this past year, with the help of prayer and the support of their parish. Every in-person and virtual home visit that our Vincentians make ends with a prayer with the neighbor(s) we are assisting. John said “most of the time the neighbors we help don’t have a preference on what they pray with them. However, one neighbor who has been helped continuously this past year decided to lead. She couldn’t stop sharing how grateful she was for St. Vincent de Paul and praised the work that we do. These kinds of moments really make what our organization does so much more rewarding and moves us to do more in the community.” Although a simple prayer only takes a few minutes of time, it’s the personal connection, along with the in-person home visit, which we are starting back this summer, that really is what sets us apart from others.

As president of St. Barbara’s conference, John works closely with the pastor of their church, Father John Sterling, who encourages the work of their

Vincentians and brings new cases to them. One case that was brought to John by Father was a family who had lost a loved one were subsequently evicted from their home. The family was staying in a hotel at the time and St. Barbara was on top of the case, reaching out to the family, getting them an extended stay at the hotel, providing food and connecting them with resources to find permanent housing.

The assistance provided for this case and many other cases are funded by the generous donors of our organization. John shares that their conference has never run out of funds to provide assistance thanks to their gracious parish members, who always give during a time of crisis. St. Barbara also has a fully stocked food pantry where Vincentians can pick up a variety of groceries for neighbors in need. The pantry is stocked with the help of donations throughout the year. The conference works every day to help many in need and is grateful to have two dedicated Vincentians who make home visits Monday through Friday. John said “**our conference members just keep coming and when they realize what SVdP is all about, most stay for the long haul.**”

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: L&L NIPPERT FOUNDATION

Louis and Louise Nippert founded the L&L Nippert Foundation in 1981 to provide assistance to worthy organizations in the tri-state area. Their funding strategy is diverse. They provide gifts to a wide-range of nonprofits for many different projects. Within the past two years, St. Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky has been the recipient of two grants: one to help pay for the roof of our Erlanger facility and the other to partially fund a new information system that will help us improve our understanding of those we serve and the needs they face.

According to Dr. Carter F. Randolph, the foundation board chair, “The L&L Charitable Foundation is happy to support

the mission and vision of St Vincent de Paul. How we treat those in need reflects our values. **The Nippert’s believed in Grace and the G.N.P. – Good Neighbor Policy** – the L&L Nippert Charitable Foundation continues to honor those beliefs by supporting organizations like St. Vincent de Paul.” We are grateful to the L&L Nippert Foundation for considering us worthy of their investment.



OCTOBER 2020 - MAY 2021 IMPACT

4,396 NEIGHBORS ASSISTED



\$183,000
UTILITIES



\$245,000
FOOD



\$256,000
RENT

REMEMBERING & HONORING

Donations received December 2020 through May 2021

IN HONOR

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Monica France Barnett
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Karen Elfers
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Deceased members of Morrison, Jentz & McKeeve Families
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Rosalia O'Brien
Susan O'Brien
Andrew Piaskowy
Phillip & Katharine Piaskowy-Clayton
Ernest Pieper
Anita Sanford
Alfred Porciello
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Patrick & Joseph Nare
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Norma Rebholz
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Norb DeJaco
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Clarence & Rose Kleier
Paul & Beverly O'Daniel
Noel Trout
John & Ellen Zembrodt

We sincerely apologize for any omissions or spelling errors.

Thank you to all who chose to honor and remember friends, family and loved ones by gifts to St. Vincent de Paul.

SUMMER BREEZE HELPS TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORS HEALTHY AT HOME

Tricia heard about the Summer Breeze program from one of our community partners. Her son, Max, had been hospitalized several times due to asthma complications. After we received a letter from Max's pediatrician, Tricia picked up an air conditioner and fan from St. Vincent de Paul. Several weeks later, we received a note of thanks from Tricia letting us know how grateful she was that Max was having a healthy summer at home with no trips to the emergency room.

At St. Vincent de Paul, we are the lucky ones. Thanks to the generous financial support from the community for the Summer Breeze program, we hear so many wonderful, life-changing stories from our neighbors with chronic respiratory illnesses who received air conditioners. These stories truly make our day!

One of the goals of the program is to keep those with chronic breathing conditions healthy at home by providing new a/c units to those who can't afford them. Air conditioning and fans can help prevent emergency room visits and hospitalizations. This year, we received financial support from St. Elizabeth Healthcare to purchase air conditioners and fans. "St. Elizabeth Healthcare is proud to support St. Vincent de Paul's Summer Breeze program. Many of us take relief from the summer heat for granted, but a lack of access to air conditioning can be a debilitating health concern for many of our friends and neighbors in Greater Cincinnati.

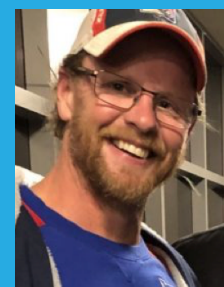
We thank St. Vincent de Paul for being right here for so many during these hot summer months."

Additionally, we received several private donations and grant funding from foundations including The Agnes Nordloh Charitable Trust. St. Vincent de Paul is the only organization in Northern Kentucky that annually operates a heat relief program. Our Summer Breeze Program runs through August and allows neighbors who have been diagnosed with medical conditions such as COPD, asthma, or lung cancer, to receive a free air conditioner. Fans are provided to anyone upon request.



EXTEND YOUR MERCY TOWARD OTHERS, SO THAT THERE CAN BE NO ONE IN NEED WHOM YOU MEET WITHOUT HELPING.
-ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We remember and honor these Vincentians that have recently passed away. May their souls rest in heavenly peace.



Steve Elmlinger
St. Paul
SVdP Conference



Shirley O'Mera
Mary Queen of Heaven
SVdP Conference



Louis (Lou) Smith
Divine Mercy
SVdP Conference



Sydney (Syd) Terrell
St. Augustine
SVdP Conference



Fr. Mario Tizziani
St. Cecilia
SVdP Conference



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