



Spring 2022 NewsFlash

Message from Executive Director, Karen Zengel



One of my favorite St. Vincent de Paul memories is the Feast Day Mass hosted at St. Henry in 2019. The moment that stands out the most in my mind was when Bishop Foys commented on the enthusiasm that you could literally feel in your heart during the mass. He was absolutely right. You could “feel” it loud and clear in the volume of the responses of those participating. The love for Christ that is the outcome of the friendship and service that takes place through St. Vincent de Paul was tangibly evident. It was impossible not to smile that day. If you’ve never experienced a Feast Day mass, I encourage you to attend. Our Feast Day Celebration this year is September 24 and St.

Therese in Southgate is our host. Jesus is there, all around you!

In this month of April, we have celebrated a few things that are important to the Society. On April 23, we celebrated the birthday of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. If it were not for Frederic’s passion to live out his faith, we would not be here today as a Society. On April 24, we celebrated the birthday of St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent de Paul’s compassion for the suffering and his gift of motivating others to serve **together** inspired Frederic Ozanam. St. Vincent de Paul galvanized Frederic and his seven friends to lay the foundation for what the Society is today – a **network of friends** in over 150 countries, **serving together** to share hope with the less fortunate, supporting each other in our faith journeys along the way. Last but not least, we celebrate our Vincentians and volunteers who enable us to reach so many neighbors in need in Northern Kentucky. April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and the work of the Society is only possible because of these special people who give freely of their time to serve, sharing the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ with everyone they encounter.

Thank you to our special Vincentians and volunteers, filled with enthusiasm and love, who share and see the face of Christ in those we serve daily. I felt it in my heart that day in 2019 and I am thankful for the opportunity to experience it over and over again in my own encounters with these wonderful, faith-filled people.

SVDPNKY Impact Summary: October 2021 through April 2022



**Rent & Utility
Assistance**
\$452,000



Food Assistance
\$275,103



**Volunteer Hours
Served**
16,398

Serving With "Astonishing Generosity"

Message from Council President, Casey Guilfoyle



The last couple of months have been a whirlwind of individual parish Conference visits as Sr. Judith and I continue in our efforts to revitalize membership across the Diocese. On one of these visits I had the pleasure of listening to a spiritual reflection based on one of Matthew Kelly's recent books, "The Generosity Habit." I listened intently --being a huge Kelly fan myself-- as this Vincentian expressed how in our ministry of service to those experiencing hardships we are called not to an ordinary, basic generosity but to an "astonishing generosity." He was truly on fire and it was clear he was feeling blessed to be able to give generously to his neighbors in their time of crisis.

As I listened, it struck me that the real "astonishing generosity" that I witness first-hand, again and again, as I visit many of our Conferences emerging from the pandemic, is that of our Vincentians. It is not a generosity measured by bags of food or dollars expended, as vital as those are to our neighbors, but an "astonishing generosity" measured in time, in prayers offered, and in the compassionate commitment to being present to our neighbors in distress.

As I make these Conference visits, I always walk away feeling blessed and renewed myself as I witness the astounding generosity of our Vincentians throughout the Diocese, in particular our tireless conference presidents, treasurers learning new systems, and home visitors returning to "home visits." We all continue to respond to the pressing needs in our Northern Kentucky community. Some of these Vincentians are emerging with grief at the loss of loved ones, including spouses or fellow Vincentians and yet continue to give with "astonishing generosity."

I'll close with a quote from St. Pope John Paul II (again borrowed from Mr. Kelly's book): "The measure of your success will be the measure of your generosity." May our Vincentian mission forever remain one of astonishing success based on astonishing generosity!

Conference Spotlight

St. Mary of the Assumption

St. Mary of the Assumption in Alexandria, KY is one of 29 SVdP parish Conferences that helps serve our neighbors in need. Established in December 1965, this Conference serves neighbors residing in Alexandria, inner city Newport, and Butler. Conference President, Keith Hill, has been in his role for over 10 years and has been a Vincentian for roughly 35 years. His dedication to the ministry is admirable.



St. Mary's members go above and beyond the call to serve. Neighbors, Tim and Susan, received assistance with groceries. During the home visit, Susan commented that she loved the end of the visit when they all prayed together. She expressed interest in attending church again and becoming more active in her Catholic faith. So, the two Vincentians invited Susan and Tim to attend mass with them later in the week and picked them up as they didn't have transportation. It was a joyful and heartwarming experience to see the couple so engaged during the mass. Afterward, Tim and Susan were treated to lunch at Frisch's nearby before returning home. It was the first time Susan and Tim had eaten Frisch's and they were so thankful for a meal out and the experience of feeling special and loved. This touching story shows how St. Mary's Conference members are living out the gospel and our mission of "a network of friends growing in holiness."

Many of the current members joined St. Mary's SVdP Conference as a result of Bill Biery's efforts. Bill passed away this past February and was one of the most giving and dedicated Vincentians. We were blessed that he chose to share his kindness and generosity as a Vincentian in the SVdP community and we will miss him dearly. We appreciate all the good works he has done for his neighbors and our organization, especially his efforts in expanding St. Mary's SVdP Conference.

St. Mary's Conference is successful with the help of their generous parishioners and the parish school. The 8th grade boys' basketball team often helps with delivering food donations to the Conference pantry. The parishioners are always eager to help in any way they can. During Christmas, they are very generous with providing toys, gift cards, hygiene items, socks, and underwear to their neighbors in need. St. Mary's parish ministry "Faith in Action" is an outreach group that "educates the parish about social concerns and offers opportunities for various collections for those in need throughout their area." This ministry is a valuable asset to St. Mary's Conference offering assistance and filling in the gaps when needed. Another ministry from which the Conference receives support is Care Mission, run by Main Street Baptist Church. The Care Mission supplements St. Mary's outreach with food and personal hygiene items. With the help of the Alexandria community, St. Mary's

Conference provides help to anyone who reaches out, never turning away a request for assistance.

St. Mary of the Assumption, we are blessed and grateful for your time and effort to help our neighbors struggling to make ends meet. With your help, we have served over 36,000 NKY neighbors in need in the last year. THANK YOU!

All of the 29 SVdP Conferences are seeking Vincentian volunteers and we invite you to reach out to Sister Judith, SVdP Conference Relations Manager, if you would like to join your local SVdPNKY parish Conference and start making a difference in your community. Her contact information can be found below.

Sister Mary Judith Niewahner, SND
Conference Relations Manager
859-446-7721
smjudith.niewahner@svdpnky.org

Bill and Vicki Biery Food Pantry

Bill Biery (pictured in the middle) was a Vincentian with the St. Mary of the Assumption Conference and started a food pantry out of his garage roughly 30 years ago because he saw a significant need for food assistance in inner-city Newport. His wife, Vicki, helped keep the garage food pantry stocked and helped distribute food to neighbors in need. She shares that Bill was “the most charitable person in my life.” He was always looking for ways to give back to the community. Eventually, he advocated for St. Mary’s Conference to establish an onsite Conference food pantry.



St. Mary’s Conference food pantry has been in existence for 20 years. Recently, the Conference members named the pantry “The Bill and Vicki Biery Food Pantry” in memory of Bill and in honor of Vicki. Vicki recalls a time delivering food to a family and the children were so overcome with excitement that they yelled “we get to have breakfast this week!” She and Bill knew at that moment how important the food pantry was to those in need; and more importantly, how being a Vincentian meant so much to the both of them. The need for food assistance has grown and now St. Mary’s serves neighbors in Alexandria, Butler, and inner-city Newport.

Bill served as the first Eastern District President, representing our Campbell County Conferences from 2012 to 2018. Bill along with Joyce Lyman and Dennis Coyne served on the recruitment committee that hired SVdPNKY’s first Executive Director, Ralph Bradburn.

In 2014, Bill and Vicki were honored with the Norb DeJaco Vincentian Service Award. This dynamic duo has always been dedicated to helping those in need, not only as active members of the St. Mary Conference, but also in their commitment to helping those

struggling neighbors who live in Newport, an area of concentrated poverty within our region.

Bill was an active member of the Assistance Office task force responsible for drafting and publishing documentation guidelines for assistance and played a role in the set-up of our centralized Call Center. He later became a regular Call Center volunteer, forming deep friendships with his fellow volunteers and spoiling our staff and volunteers with fresh baked goods and farm fresh eggs from his chickens. He became known as the “donut man” and probably encouraged many Vincentians to volunteer in the Call Center on the day he was there.

Bill was the founding member and chairperson of the Vision Committee through 2015, having played an active role in the expansion of the ministry through the opening of our Florence store and various programs/partnerships that provided our Vincentians many opportunities to be and see the face of Christ in our community.

Bill will be missed by many in our organization and his acts of charity will live on through his fellow Vincentians.

Volunteer with Us!

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” -1 Peter 4:10-11

St. Vincent de Paul has been very blessed to have many kind, caring and compassionate individuals who selflessly share their time and talents to assist our neighbors in need. Our volunteers are inclusive of all ages and backgrounds: students (middle school, high school, college), families, retirees, youth groups, and businesses just to name a few.

We frequently receive very positive comments from volunteers regarding their experience.

- *Volunteering went great! Everyone was kind and very helpful!*
- *We enjoyed volunteering, it was a positive experience. Everyone was very kind and appreciative.*
- *It was a great experience and we will be back!*



The last comment is a testament to our staff and their interaction and engagement with volunteers to create a welcoming environment. Our volunteers look forward to returning! In fact, approximately 19% of our volunteers have volunteered more than 10 times and 52% have volunteered more than once.

Whether it is a special event (coat distribution, Vincent’s Angels) or assistance in our thrift stores or food pantries, our volunteers are supportive of our mission and share their time and talent to assist those in our community. Oftentimes, they are surprised by the scope of our outreach and are interested in how they can further assist.

Increased awareness of our volunteer needs through our social media as well as continued

interaction and communication with schools, organizations, and businesses has yielded very positive results. Likewise, positive experiences have contributed to referrals for new volunteers who we excitedly welcome. We look forward to continuing to share our positive message with the volunteers to increase awareness and involvement with St. Vincent de Paul to help those in need.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact Mark Bradley at mark.bradley@svdpnky.org or 859-426-2649.

"I ask you to build the future. Make the world a better place. Please don't see life from afar. Live it. Jesus didn't stay out in a balcony. Instead, he got involved. Follow Jesus' example."
-Pope Francis 9/15/2017

Vincentian Formation

Providing as much support as possible to our Vincentians through opportunities to grow spiritually and resources to prepare our servant leaders is an important objective of Council. St. Vincent de Paul would not exist without our Vincentians and we believe it is critically important for our Vincentians to have many different opportunities to grow in their faith and to feel



supported in their commitment to the ministry. Sister Judith Niewahner, Conference Relations Manager, has worked very hard in establishing a calendar of events throughout the year and developing content in partnership with other Vincentians to deliver on this objective. Thus far, Council has hosted two events: New Presidents' Welcome and Ozanam Orientation.

New Presidents' Welcome is a new program designed to provide resources to Conference presidents so they have a clear understanding of their role and how to engage their conference members to serve in friendship. Our first Presidents' Welcome was hosted at Blessed Sacrament in February. We had 8 presidents attend, providing all in attendance to learn and to network with one another.

Ozanam Orientation is an existing program that introduces new Vincentians to our heritage and reacquaints existing Vincentians of our mission and values. We hosted our first Ozanam Orientation of the year in March, also at Blessed Sacrament, where 25 Vincentians from 11 conferences gathered in fellowship to learn more about the Society.

Future events include the New Member Orientation in May and a Spiritual Advisors' Gathering planned for late summer. We hope all Vincentians are able to participate in these sessions and find them helpful!

News and Events

New Member Welcome! Calling all conference members new and experienced!

What: An overview will be provided of how our NKY Council works to support our Conferences so that our Vincentians can better assist our neighbors in need. While it is primarily positioned to explain Council supported activities to new members of the Society, all are welcome. We will have a “Voucher Immersion” experience to understand the voucher system. Vicki Dinterman will share more about the vouchers and our Sweet Dreams bed program and Jackie Kyle will share about the Call Center as the first point of contact when our neighbors in need call for assistance. Jamie Hahn and one of our store managers will share information about the operation of our stores.

We look forward to a great turn out and being able to answer many questions about the operation of St. Vincent de Paul in Northern Kentucky.

When: Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Our main office in Erlanger. Our address is 2655 Crescent Springs Road, Erlanger, KY 41017.

R.S.V.P. by Monday, May 9, to Sister Mary Judith Niewahner at 859-446-7712 or smjudith.niewahner@svidpnky.org

Creative Compassion: A Night of Art for Our Neighbors in Need

Our live event, presented by Trivaco, on March 31 at Drees Pavilion proved to be a success!

We were pleased to have Kelly Rippin from WLWT as the emcee for the night and Chris and Janeen from 103.5 WGRR as our live art auctioneers.



Special thanks to those of you who attended the live event! We appreciate your support. A very big THANK YOU and shout out to Donna Wilmhoff for providing desserts for the event. They were delicious and presented so elegantly. A huge THANK YOU to Carrie Hanscom for her silent auction efforts and being a member of our Creative Compassion committee. Thanks to Carrie's initiative, we were able to have 10 beautiful silent auction baskets.

We were impressed with the over 50 art entries from student and professional artists from all over the tristate. All art entries were created from items donated to our thrift stores! The top 10 art entries for the live art auction were chosen by three professional artist judges: Tim Gold, Jennifer Baldwin, and Bill Dirkes. Each art piece was very different in the medium used and the inspiration behind the beautiful works of art. We are so grateful to these artists for taking the time to create and share their talents to support our ministry.

This was our second year hosting Creative Compassion and we hope to bring it back again in the future! A night of art, food, drinks, a silent auction, and the unique boutique of thrift store finds were fun for all in attendance!

If you are interested in joining the planning committee for this special event, please contact

Blessings for Bourbon Sold Out Raffle Winners!

Congratulations to the following winners:

1st Place: Tim Pieper
2nd Place: Chris Kanoza
3rd Place: Jackie Kaiser

Thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket(s)! All proceeds from the raffle helped to provide assistance to neighbors struggling to make ends.



Be on the lookout in 2023 for our next Bourbon Raffle that will be posted on our website and social media pages, and print advertisement.

Special thanks to Amy Goetz, Creative Compassion Committee member and Blessings for Bourbon Raffle chairperson and Mark Guilfoyle, SVdPNKY Development Committee member, for their efforts in making our 2022 raffle a success!

Our Cold Spring Thrift Store and Donation Center Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary!

On April 16, we celebrated one year of operation at our Cold Spring location! The day was filled with fun! We hosted Curbside Sweet Shop and Campbell County Public Library Book Bus for our customers, and special store deals throughout the day.



A special thanks to Becca Gerding, Cold Spring Site Manager, and Jamie Hahn, Thrift Store Director, and the rest of the Cold Spring crew for the success of our new store and donation center!

If you have not stopped by the Cold Spring location, we encourage you to do so! The Robert and Mary Besse Choice Food Pantry is next door and is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Come out and say hello!

Hunger Walk & 5k Run

Join us on Monday, May 30 at 9:00 a.m. at the 19th Annual Hunger Walk & 5k Run! There

will be a post walk/run celebration with live music and food in Smale Park until noon!

Join our SVdPNKY team and learn more about the 5k or if you can't make it and want to donate online to support our two choice food pantries visit



<http://fsfb.convio.net/goto/Stvincentdepaulnky>

For every person who signs up to do the Hunger Walk as part of our team, SVdP pantries will receive a credit to purchase significantly discounted food from the Free Store Food Bank. The Free Store has become an important partner to ensuring we can keep our pantries well stocked.

Summer Breeze Reminder

Our seasonal program, Summer Breeze is set to begin on June 1 this year and will run through August. Please be aware of the change in the start date. Neighbors in need of a fan or AC unit can call our Assistance Phone Line at 859-341-3219, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.



KY Gives Day 2022

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 10, for 24 hours of giving in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We invite you to support our ministry and participate in #KYGives22. Be on the lookout for our emails, social media posts, and live Facebook videos throughout the day. Give us a follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and NEW LinkedIn! Join thousands of other Kentuckians giving back to their local organizations in their communities.



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