

For inclusion in the SJN Bulletin and SVdP Website.

Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, Saint John Neumann Parish, Canton, Michigan.

"They bruise the heads of the poor upon the dust of the earth, and turn aside the way of the humble..."
Amos, 2,7 ([Douay-Rheims Bible](#))

Date: 4/14/2012

1st Quarterly Report Update, January- March, 2012.

Hello Fellow Parishioners,

- We, the newly formed Saint Vincent de Paul Conference as part of the Christian Service efforts at SJN, have just finished our first quarter in 2012 . We have had a very active group thus far with 20 members joining as full or associate members. We are an all- volunteer group supported by the church with meeting space and endorsement from the parish priests, Fr(s) Ron Richards and Mark Prill. The committee has been lead since Sept. 2011 by Lorraine and Don Zaksek, (President and Treasurer), and Gerry Gutkowski. (Vice President), and Daniel Faoro (Secretary). We have been blessed to be lead in Prayer by Deacon Pat (Spiritual advisor) at the start and close of our meetings.
- We serve the poor after providing a review of personal finances and financial budgeting, and we assist them in procuring the social service benefits to which they are entitled. Since January of 2012 we have provided \$8,152.00 in support to respond to 54 requests for assistance from families/individuals to prevent evictions and termination of utility services, to meet medical needs and to provide emergency car repair and food / household needs. In addition to clothes and other donations to the SVdP thrift store, we receive generous support from parishioners on "Top Hat Sundays" and other parish fund raisers. A number of individuals volunteered for the Soup and Bread suppers this lent,. The Christian Service Committee agreed to forward all donations to SVdP.
 - *The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a worldwide Catholic organization of laypersons, open to all who wish to live their faith by loving and serving their neighbor in the name of Christ. Generally on a person-to-person basis, members of the Society help those in need, regardless of creed , race , or religious affiliation.*
 - *Mission Statement of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society.*

Members of SVdP are engaged in a variety of other activities. We hosted an Ozanam orientation for new SVdP members this April 14. Our next Bundle Days collection is on 4-21/22-2012. On May 1st we'll have a sign-up registration after each mass to enroll parish members in the scrip programs with Holiday Market and Kroger Stores. Up to 3% of monthly purchases will be returned to SVdP in donations. Our members have attended numerous training sessions in the Detroit area to become familiar with skills to serve area residents, learn how to help families apply for social service programs and state and federal assistance programs for the poor. In addition to serving area families, we jointly support the poor in surrounding areas with other parishes, and we support international aid societies for disaster relief. This summer we will send several needy children to Camp Ozanam, a residential summer camp. Our members are committed to professional standards and demonstrate transparency and accountability in fiscal matters and conference activities.

The quote from Amos above marks the nature of an unjust society. Many social critics and writers consider this to be the present condition. The economic data indicates they may be correct as the increase in people being reduced to poverty is growing nationwide. "As of Sept. 2011 recent news reports indicate that "The ranks of the nation's poor swelled to nearly 1 in 6 people last year, reaching a new high as long-term unemployment woes left millions of Americans struggling and out of work. The number of uninsured edged up to 49.9 million, the biggest in over two decades. Detroit, Mich., Cleveland, Ohio and Buffalo, N.Y., were the three poorest cities in the U.S. in 2009, new Census data in 2009, Detroit's poverty rate was a startling 36.4 percent in 2009."

Our information and web site is managed by Matt Dame, it can be found at our web site http://www.stjohnneumann.us/st_vincent_depaul.html. We meet at 7.00PM on the second Tuesday evening of the month in the Conference room. We welcomed Eleanor Hoag as a new member this year and we look forward to new members at varying levels and ability, full, associate, and our youth group. Thank you for your continued support. Those interested in being members call the Parish office and leave a message for Lorraine Zaksek with your name and phone number.

Thank you for your support of the poor in the name of Christ,

Daniel Faoro,
Secretary