

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

Date: 2/21/2012

Annual Report Update, 2011.

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 or religious affiliation.

Hello Fellow Parishioners,

- We have just finished our inaugural quarter in the newly formed Saint Vincent de Paul Conference as part of the Christian Service efforts at SJN. We have had a very active group thus far with 25 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 Pill. The committee has been lead by Lorraine and Don Zaksek, (President and Treasure), 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 thorough background check, a review of personal finances and financial budgeting, and assist them in procuring the social service benefits they are entitled to. Since our formation in September of 2011 we have provided \$6,397.00 to respond to 95 requests for assistance from families/individuals to prevent evictions, termination of utility services, meet medical needs, and provide emergency car repair, and food / household needs. In addition to the clothes and other donations to the SVdP store we have received a grant from United Way grant and generous support from parishioners, outreach efforts, "Top Hat Sundays", and other parish fund raisers. A number of individuals volunteered for the "Friends of the Poor Walk, in September in Detroit, and donations came from the women of the Ancient Order of Hibernians from their nativity set display in December.

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 and send needy children to the area Camp Ozanam summer camp. Our members are committed to professional standards and demonstrate transparency and accountability in fiscal matters and conference activities.

We meet at 7.00PM on the second Tuesday evening of the month in the Conference room. We look forward to new members and your continued support. Those interested in being members call the Parish office and leave your name and phone number.

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

Daniel Faoro,
Secretary