



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul St. Jerome Conference — Waco July 2022 Newsletter



A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and in service to people in need.

Founding Members Installed February 22, 2022.



Where Do Your Donations Go?

Since we met with our first “Neighbor” on May 10, 2022, our members have conducted “Home Visits” with a total of 10 Neighbors and provided a total of \$3,655.57 in financial assistance, more than 500 pounds of food and groceries from our food pantry, and dozens of articles of clothing. Financial assistance has gone to help with electric bills, gasoline, residential rent, car repair, and water bills. The largest categories of assistance have been residential rent assistance (\$2,625.39) and payment of water bills (\$671.91). Without this assistance, our Neighbors might be without housing or water supply under the extreme heat conditions we have seen lately. So far, the majority of requests have come from Neighbors outside our parish boundaries. This is where we need your help. If you know of a parishioner or any “Neighbor” within our parish boundaries whom you think might need material assistance or maybe a home visit from someone who truly cares about their wellbeing, encourage them to call our phone number (254-214-7493) and allow us a chance to help them.

Testimonial From One of our Neighbors

The following is a testimonial from one of our Neighbors whom we helped with a rent payment:

“I cannot thank you enough! This is a huge relief. I have been so stressed about this for weeks now. I am crying tears of joy right now. Thank you so much for everything you all have done for me and my babies. Y'all showed me kindness in a moment I was so depressed and that meant more to me than you may know. Sometimes people help others but they make them feel bad about it and I have experienced this recently. It's not a good feeling when you feel like someone is looking down on you because you're asking for help. I never once felt like that with y'all. You've continued to be so kind and uplifting. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!”

****The Vincentian House is currently in need of an upright or chest freezer to store food for our Neighbors****



Feeding the Hungry — For many years, St. Jerome's Social Awareness Ministry assisted Mission Waco in feeding breakfast to the those they serve. The SSVdP has continued that service as our ministry has been charged by Fr. James with taking on the Social Awareness Ministry projects. We serve scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits, and fresh fruit twice a month on the second and third Fridays. If there is any interest by parishioners to help with this project, please call us at 254-214-7493. A new team could be formed and our mission to help those in need could expand to meet our Neighbors' needs.

Panera Bread and St. Vincent de Paul Share Bread with the Community — For several months, our SSVdP conference has been blessed to receive "end of the day" bread donations from Panera Bread. This bread has helped serve recipients of Meals on Wheels, provided bread to a food pantry sponsored by St. John the Baptist parish, and most recently helped to feed residents of Compassion Ministry. We're simply finding places where there is a need and using our resources.

Connecting with Catholic Charities of Central Texas (CCCTX) — CCCTX has aspired for some time to open an office in Waco to better serve this area. With recent indications that this day may be coming in the not too distant future, our SSVdP conference invited the CCCTX leadership to meet with us on June 23 in Waco to share a meal, to get to know each other, to exchange information on the services we can best offer, and to discuss how we can collaborate to most effectively serve our Neighbors in the Waco area. We feel the meeting was a big success and a springboard to future cooperation.

Food Donations — Our Food Pantry needs any and all non-perishable food items, preferably in non-breakable containers. We also need toiletries, baby supplies (formula, diapers, wipes, etc.) Leave your donation in the boxes located at each entrance to the church.

Spiritual Advisor's Message — In the Gospel, the disciples are "sent ahead" of Jesus, not so much with a mission to do, as to be ambassadors for Jesus. The respect and honor that are due Jesus are extended also to Jesus' disciples and this is how God's kingdom is "at hand." When God's kingdom is present there is peace and healing. We do everything because we are disciples of Jesus and act in his name. It is in Christ's presence through us that peace and joy are spread. Mission is being sent to be Christ for others. (Living Liturgy, p.168)

Excerpt from the Rule of the SSVdP -

Statute 3: Membership and Admission The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States has three types of membership: the Active (Full) Member, the Associate Member, and the Contributing Member. Membership in the SSVdP is open to all ages; youth and young adults are encouraged to join. In the Society, youth (under 18 years of age) and young adult (18 to 30 years of age) membership is open to anyone who can make a sustained contribution to Vincentian work. Youth or young adults may be Active, Associate or Contributing Members.

Our St. Jerome Conference is actively seeking young adults to increase the age diversity among it's members so join today!

Financial Donations — We ask that you consider regularly supporting the SSVdP. Donations may be made in the "Poor Box" near the narthex main entrance, by online giving, by placing cash or check in a SSVdP envelope and dropping it in the regular collection, or by contributing to the second collection that is taken on the third Sunday of each month.

Clothing Donations — Please look for specific clothing needs listed in the St. Jerome church bulletin each week.

NEED HELP? Call Us!! Phone: 254-214-7493 or send us an email at: ssvdp@stjeromewaco.org