

**St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church Conference
Of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

God loves those who love the poor. (St. Vincent de Paul)

Our Mission:

Inspired by Gospel values, the local Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a volunteer Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

As a reflection of the whole family of God, active members, who are known as Vincentians, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group and economic level. Their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing unites Vincentians in a society of charity, which is nourished by prayer, reflection and mutually supportive gatherings.

Organized locally, Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ.

Our Services:

The activity of the St. Paul Conference is to bring aid and the comfort of the Gospel to the needy and the suffering within St. Paul parish boundaries and neighboring communities. This activity witnesses that Christ and his Gospel messages are alive today and being preached through action at the local level. All local Vincentians have completed orientation instruction in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, home visit and Virtus training.

The Ministry of the local conference is predominantly in person-to-person relationships. Vincentians make Christ's healing presence felt through their personal presence to those who are needy or are suffering. Home visits and limited office hours are utilized to support these person-to-person relationships.

Vincentian support services include but are not limited to:

- Material assistance to meet a short-term crisis need. Material assistance includes food, household items and gas/gift cards. Vincentians may distribute material assistance whenever needed and as available.
- Financial assistance to meet a short-term crisis need. Financial assistance is pledged to pay rent, utilities and other items to the agency due. Vincentians are limited to a total of \$500.00 in pledges per applicant or family. The Conference may increase this limit for a particular applicant or family at a regularly scheduled Conference meeting.
- Person-to-person assistance provided by sharing of personal expertise in such areas as budgeting, nutrition, housekeeping, applying for employment, child care, home maintenance and the like.
- Providing information about services related to poverty, medical or emotional needs, family or personal problems, youth counseling, senior citizen programs and other activities.
- Transportation services to those who are unable to drive and need to visit the doctor, clinics and attend Church services or do their shopping.
- Referrals to other charitable, public or professional agencies where continuing assistance is indicated for long-term guidance.
- Friendship calls on homebound persons, lonely or alienated individuals who are being cared for in various medical institutions, and patients in hospitals or nursing homes.
- The promotion of social justice.

Parish Support:

The full community of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church is invited and encouraged to support the needy and the suffering through the local St. Vincent de Paul Conference. The community supports the activity of the St. Paul Conference by:

- Material assistance in donations of food, household items and gas/gift cards.
- Financial assistance in contributions of cash/check in the monthly envelope collection, depositing the contribution in the St. Vincent de Paul collection boxes or by sending their check directly to the Conference.
- Becoming an active Vincentian or volunteer to work a few hours a week in the office or food pantry.