



SVdP: St. Francis of Assisi Conference - Steuben Co. Community Update Spring, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Loving Bags of Comfort (Food)

Hopefully the picture says it all. This SVdP conference really feels supported by our parish. Our February project provided some wonderful meals for those in need. Thank you for filling these meal bags for the Blessing Box.



St. Louise de Marillac Feast Day May 9

St. Louise de Marillac was born August 12, 1591. She married Antoine LeGras on February 5, 1613, had a son named Michel, and was widowed on December 21, 1625. St. Vincent de Paul then became her spiritual director and, under his guidance, she became active in caring for the poor and in visiting the Confraternities of Charity. With Vincent, Louise cofounded the Daughters of Charity on November 29, 1633. She died March 15, 1660, and was canonized in 1934. In 1960, Pope John XXIII proclaimed her the patron saint of all Christian social workers. (from: [Feast Days - SVDP USA](http://FeastDays-SVDPUSA.org)org.)



Reflection on Being a Vincentian

From John Lemon

If you are interested in paying it forward, please keep reading.

If you are interested in discovering the peace of Jesus, keep reading.

If you are questioning your faith because you are a fraudulent Christian, keep reading.

These were three reasons that I wanted to become a Vincentian. So, I was going to help others because this theme is repeated throughout the New Testament and perhaps I could redeem myself as a Christian. On August 26, 2012, I emailed Fr. Fred Pasche, asking if a St. Vincent DePaul group existed at St. Anthony's. Coincidentally, a few others had a similar desire. So, we met as a small group a month later and started a bold adventure into the unknown. We had visions of a soup kitchen, secondhand store, and providing Christmas trees to our neighbors in need. The reality of the needs was not what I envisioned.

Twelve years later, I realized that I had much to learn. Now I am so grateful for being able to help our neighbors in need because I am working towards my original three goals plus how to "grin like Vin." The adventure has not been as I originally imagined, it's been way better because it is life changing for both our neighbors in need and me.

Please consider being a Vincentian, I promise you will not regret it.

John Lemon
March 30, 2024

Note from Annette: There are many ways one can serve as a Vincentian. John is one of the members who responds to the calls from the help line. It can be challenging, frustrating and very rewarding. More people are needed to help. Interested? Even Curious? Just let our conference president know. SVDPs-Angola@hotmail.com

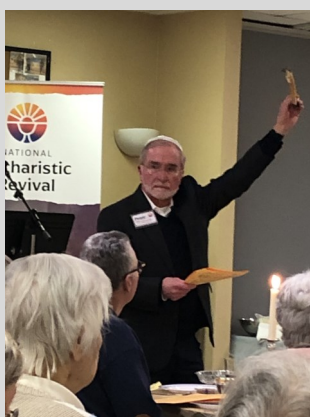
MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Ecumenical Dinner

On March 4, Monday, the conference hosted our second annual ecumenical dinner for all the various churches, government agencies and local charities we collaborate with when serving the poor. In true collaboration Fr. Tom Adamson, Holy Family Episcopal Church, opened the gathering, Fr. Osman gave the benediction and everyone shared. The event served as a way to continue to grow our understanding of the challenges we face in this ministry while developing our ties to each other.



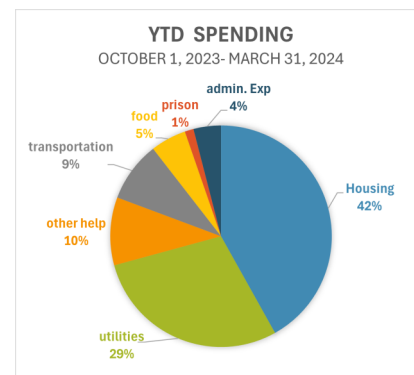
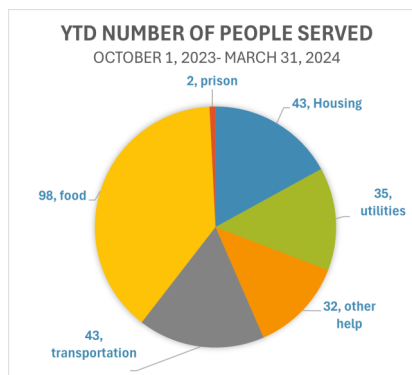
Seder Celebration



Shout out to our conference president, Peter Walters, for leading the parish seder supper as part of the Eucharistic Revival celebrations.

Financial Review

By Annette Calloway



St. Francis of Assisi conference truly values the trust that you show us when you give support through prayer or financial donation. That is why we work hard to communicate with you how the resources that have been placed in our care are used. That is the mission of this newsletter.

Thank you for all you do. There would be nothing without the trust and support you show us.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF OUR SERVICE

Rule of the International Confederation of SVdP

- 1.2 **The Vincentian Vocation:** The vocation of the Society's members, who are called Vincentians, is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Members show their commitment through person-to-person contact. Vincentians serve in hope.
- 1.3 **Any form of personal help...** No work of charity is foreign to the Society. It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions.
- 1.4 **...to anyone in need:** The Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions.
- 1.5 **To Seek Out the Poor:** Vincentians strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity.
- 1.6 **Adaptation to a Changing World:** Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. It seeks to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. It gives priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society