

A Servant's ♥ Heart

CELEBRATING SERVICE, COMPASSION & GOD'S LOVE • SEPTEMBER 2023



Photo by Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

Welcoming the Stranger

Fereyba met with SVdP case-workers, recalling her former days as an oral surgeon in Afghanistan; before the emergency Visa, before running to a helicopter for safety, before evacuating to the U.S. through Refugee and Immigration Services with Catholic Charities. Being targeted because her father was a General in the Afghan army.

Fereyba arrived with her husband and young daughter; bearing a child in her womb to be born in a foreign land. They arrived with the clothes on their backs and a bag of belongings. They started in a refugee camp in NJ and relocated to NC where their son was born in a high-risk pregnancy. They came to Fairfax, VA to be closer to a brother, who helped them with a car. Fereyba was quick to learn English and obtain a driver's license. She is studying for a dental exam to practice dentistry. Her husband works as a dental hygienist to pay rent on their small apartment.

With the help of SVdP and friends, they are current with rent

and have received clothing, diapers and gift cards for basic needs. SVdP makes home visits and advocates for other eligible resources.

Jovil and his family came from Haiti and reside in a basement apartment. This Christian family depends on the SVdP food pantry each month for food, diapers and hygiene products. Jovil had once started a school for needy children in Haiti with a master's degree in education. His wife was a registered nurse. Since their degrees do not transfer in the U.S., they take lower paying jobs. His wife is a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and will work after they find affordable child care.

The biggest challenges facing these families are: affordable housing, an adequate income, food, child care and baby products. Gift cards are provided as needed. The SVdP home visit provides hope and stability to overcome many obstacles. SVdP mediates God's grace in the midst of uncertainty and loneliness.



“Be careful to give no credit to yourself for anything; if you do, you are stealing from God, to whom alone every good thing is due..”

-St. Vincent de Paul



If you need help:
1-800-873-0613

General SVDP information:
Sandy svdp.st.timz@gmail.com
Food Pantry Information:
Peggy proberts8@cox.net
To Volunteer:
Vivienne cammrasm@gmail.com



Please use this QR-Code
to donate to SVdP
at St. Timothy's

Message from the President



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) is “A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.”

I first want to thank our dear parishioners, families, and friends who donate to our St. Timothy Conference in a most generous way. We could not provide the current level of help without your assistance. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

This issue highlights how we assist refugees and other conferences who are struggling, provides an inside look at the food pantry, and invites you to the 16th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk on Sept. 23rd.

SVdP is seeking volunteers who are willing to see **Christ** in those in need and **reflect Christ** to those we meet. What are the benefits?

- Growing in holiness together as we serve Our Lord.
- Forming friendships. Not only with those we serve but also with each other.
- Carrying out the Corporal Acts of Mercy through our work: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.

I joined SVdP about seven years ago. Through this group I have come to realize that although we are not all in the same place physically or spiritually, we are all willing to give our time and talents to help our neighbor. Consider joining us and please keep us in your prayers.

If you wish to learn more: svdp.st.timz@gmail.com.

Gratefully,
Sandy



Want to give?

Donations are always gratefully accepted. Drop off or mail check or cash donations to the Parish Office. Please make sure that it is labeled for SVdP. We accept credit card or EFT donations through the parish website. Use the QR code on the front page of this newsletter to access the donation site.



SVdP Twins with St. Michael Parish in Arizona

Part of our work includes lending a helping hand to other SVdP conferences in lower income areas. St. Michael's Conference in Gila Bend, AZ is one that we assist or twin with. Their Conference has 9 members who serve a 100-mile radius. Located next to the St. Lucy Indian Reservation, they primarily serve its residents, many of whom struggle with addictions. St. Michaels provides water, snacks and a hose around back to shower off. They cover some rent and utility expenses for families, as well as clothes and extra food through their food pantry which serves about 90 families a month. There is no other means of support in their area and the nearest Walmart is 40 miles away.



Pantry Day: A Joyful Mission

The SVdP food pantry opens its doors on every 3rd Saturday to feed the hungry. Pantry day is a beehive of activity for volunteers. There are traffic monitors, greeters, baggers, stockers, cart runners and car loaders. No job is too small and each one joyfully accomplished.

In the 1990's, a couple of registered nurses operated a small outreach ministry to provide groceries to parishioners. A nurse still volunteers with SVdP today, providing food and essentials to about 143 families. Many long-standing volunteers are 'regulars' on pantry day and their generous spirit fuels the camaraderie of this joyful mission.

The pantry has operated on a drive-thru basis since Covid. The system runs efficiently yet pauses for meaningful interactions with visitors. As pantry visitors loop around the parking lot they are greeted with smiles and

encouraging words. Their cars are loaded up with non-perishable food, fresh fruits and vegetables (courtesy of the Knights of Columbus), bread, cereal, baby products and household and hygiene items.

Diapers and formula are always in great demand. We accept diaper donations in all sizes, in the wooden box at the back of the church. The acquisition of baby formula has its own story. During a card game, a parishioner learned that the postal service was disposing of large quantities of canned formula samples. An industrious husband and wife team devised a plan to rescue the formula from the Lorton postal distribution center to sort and distribute on pantry day. Another dedicated pantry couple promptly delivers any left-over cans to the Fredericksburg Food Bank. Newly expired cans feed puppies at local animal shelters.

"St. Vincent de Paul Society has been a great blessing.

They are demonstrating the love and mercy of Christ in action. They have brought joy and comfort when we needed it the most. They were there for my family when we needed it the most. I'm so grateful for the support. It's a critical ministry touching hearts and lives in the name of God. We will be forever grateful." —A Neighbor

HOW WE HELPED OUR NEIGHBORS

Oct. 2022 through July 2023

Utility Bills	\$ 75,803
Rent/Mortgage	\$ 78,063
Food Assistance	\$ 60,487
Car Payment/Repair	\$ 4,671
Other SVdP Support	\$ 5,939
TOTAL	\$ 224,962*

** \$28,408 more than the same period last year*



FOOD PANTRY

Number of Families Helped

October '22	117
November '22	203
December '22	216
January '23	117
February '23	125
March '23	142
April '23	142
May '23	142
June '23	131
July '23	140

Note: Families served in August increased to 178

For a list of needed pantry items to donate, see the bulletin.



16th Annual Friends of the Poor WALK

23 September 2023

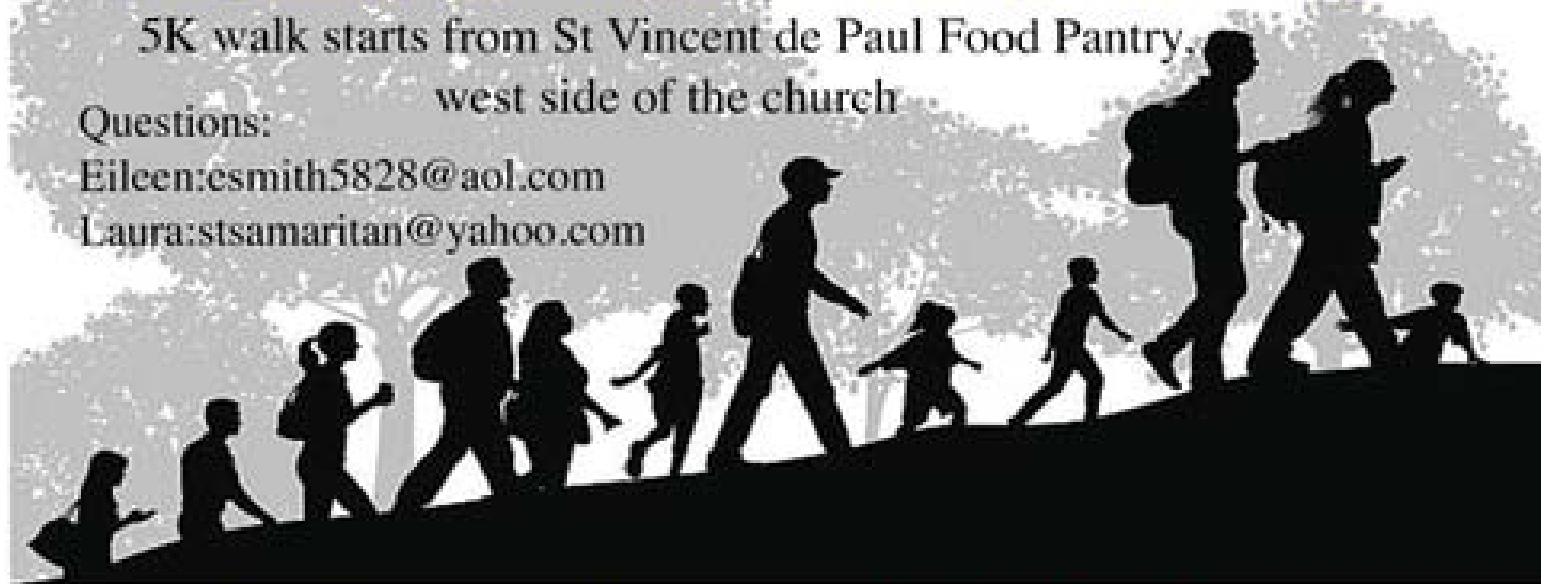
Registration 9:30am Walk begins 10:00am

5K walk starts from St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry,
west side of the church

Questions:

Eileen: esmith5828@aol.com

Laura: stsamaritan@yahoo.com



Register online...www.FOPWalk.org
100% of donations go to help those in need...

St Timothy Catholic Church
13807 Poplar Tree Road
Chantilly, VA 20151

