

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL • ST. TIMOTHY CONFERENCE

# A Servant's ♥ Heart

CELEBRATING SERVICE, COMPASSION & GOD'S LOVE • MARCH 2024



## Sponsors Bring Joy to Children

**S**t. Vincent de Paul caseworkers teamed up with parish sponsors in the Blue Envelope Project to make certain that children in ten local families had gifts under the Christmas tree! The caseworkers coordinated the gift lists and delivery of items while the sponsors enjoyed shopping and wrapping the gifts. Here is a glimpse of a few of the Blue Envelope projects that took place:

A family with 8 children were generously sponsored with gift cards from the St. Timothy Outreach Craft group, a Christmas tree delivered by the Knights of Columbus, and children's coats from St. Clare of Assisi Church in Clifton. A group of women mall walkers, sponsored a family of 4 children, delivering games, toys, stuffed animals, jackets, and gift cards to Costco and Walmart. Several extended families pooled resources to go above and beyond. When one sponsor found a baby sleeping on the floor, she provided a toddler bed and bedding. Another sponsor helped furnish a bare apartment and added homemade cookies and a gift basket for the single mother. A single mother, with one son, expressed their gratitude receive an NFL jersey of his favorite quarterback and a football!

The Blue Envelope Project will be seeking sponsorships next year for 15 families. Advent is certainly a busy time of year, but sponsoring brings joy to everyone!



“**Humility** is nothing but **truth**, and **pride** is nothing but **lying**”

-St. Vincent de Paul



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

General SVDP information:  
Sandy [svdp.st.timz@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.st.timz@gmail.com)  
Food Pantry Information:  
Peggy [proberts8@cox.net](mailto:proberts8@cox.net)  
To Volunteer:  
Vivienne [cammras@gmail.com](mailto:cammras@gmail.com)



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

## Message from the President

Whether it's planting seeds of kindness, finding prayers in loved one's keepsakes, answering the helpline and taking time to visit, remembering families in need at Christmas, or making sacrifices during Lent—our parishioners and SVdP members—are working together to reflect Christ's love on earth, as He would want us to do.

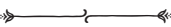
Join us, if you will, in carrying out our mission of charity. Learn more about our ministry, keep us in your prayers and donate when you can, to keep us moving forward.

Yours in Christ,

*Sandy*

You listen, Lord, to the needs of the poor; You encourage them and hear their prayers.

Psalm 10:17



### Want to give?

Donations gratefully accepted!  
Mail or drop off checks payable to SVdP, St. Timothy Conference, go to parish website food pantry tab, or use the QR code on the front page.



Artist: Bro. Francois Carbonnier, 1865

*St. Louise de Marillac*

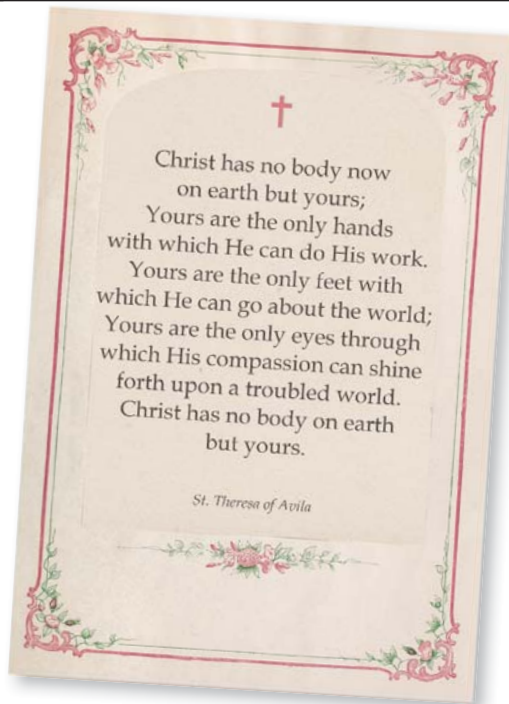
## Reminded of the Poor

During the Lenten season, we become more attuned to the needs of the poor which often sparks acts of service. There are many Saints in the Vincentian family who devoted their lives to the poor and St. Louise de Marillac (1591-1660) was certainly one of them.

St. Louise was a widow with a troubled son when St. Vincent de Paul became her spiritual director and friend. Their combined gifts and talents greatly impacted the lives of the poor. They transformed groups of peasant laywomen into traveling missionaries who served the poor throughout France. These 'Daughters of Charity' were often funded by the Ladies of Charity, a goodhearted group of noble women who funded many of their missions. St. Louise and St. Vincent were zealous in creating and overseeing numerous groups that nurtured orphaned babies, educated poor children, tended to galley slaves, and comforted the sick and the poor. Whenever a need presented itself, they seemed to find a solution. St. Louise relied on the Holy Spirit and Divine Providence, pouring herself out to the suffering.

All must be done with gentleness of heart and humility, as we consider the interests of those with whom we are working rather than our own.

— Louise de Marillac



## Christ's Body on Earth

This beautiful message was discovered by a St. Vincent de Paul member, among her mother's keepsakes; recalling how her parents lived these words during their lifetime. This prayer magnifies the message.

Lord God, I offer you: My mind, that it may be open to your understanding of the meaning of life;  
My mouth to speak your words of peace;  
My feet to follow where you would lead me;  
My eyes to see the world as you do – and to see you;  
My sensitivity to the pain of people around me;  
My faith to believe in God, as my father in the midst of suffering;  
My hope to heal those that you would heal through me;  
My love of others to reflect your love of everyone.  
My whole being so that I might grow through your Spirit. Amen

(Closing Prayer at Cornerstone Retreat, St. Ann's Parish, Ossining, NY)



"Thank you for your kind works for us. Your words are wise indeed."

"We are very appreciative of your kindness, along with the church." —A Neighbor



We rallied for The Friends of the Poor Walk on September 23rd in spite of bad weather. The rain didn't put a damper on the fun and we received close to \$5800 in donations.

# Thank you



## Planting a Seed

Last fall, the America Heritage Girls Troop VA 1148 held a drive for baby items to benefit the SVdP food pantry. The items they collected fit the most desired categories for baby items, in a recent survey. The survey of pantry families with babies showed that 57% preferred diapers, 19% baby food, 19% baby formula and 5% baby wipes. We are thankful for the troop's support in fulfilling this need and their true heart for community service. We hope they will blossom into future Vincentians some day!



## Home Visits: Not A Thing of the Past

It's hard to imagine back in the day, when medical doctors used to make house calls. Yet, did you know that members of St. Vincent de Paul still make home visits today, just as they did when the Society began in 1833? This practice is hard to find in most service organizations. A friendly home visit is a place where trust and relationships are built and neighbors feel comfortable sharing their burdens. Caseworkers strive to reflect God's divine mercy.

"Visiting people in their homes is at the very center of the Society's work. Person-to-person contact is the main distinguishing feature of SVdP."

(SVdP Member Handbook).

## Community Connections

You have probably seen our SVdP helpline number in our newsletter or parish bulletin and wondered how others outside of the parish connect with us. Those in the community find us through referrals from call centers, agencies, non-profits, companies, and nearby SVdP conferences, including: VA 211 call center, Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, utility companies, other nearby SVdP conferences, and just 'word of mouth'.

The SVdP helpline receives numerous calls every week on our English and Spanish recorded lines. This vital link connects us with the needs of our neighbors. We are grateful to be of service to so many and to make an impact in our community.



## HOW WE HELPED OUR NEIGHBORS

*August 2023 through January 2024*

Utility Bills	\$ 50,469
Rent/Mortgage	\$ 48,307
Food Assistance	\$ 42,598
Car Payment/Repair	\$ 3,807
Other SVdP Support	\$ 6,454
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 151,635*</b>

\* \$10,781 more than the same period last year



### FOOD PANTRY

*Number of Families Served*

<b>August '23</b>	<b>178</b>
<b>September '23</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>October '23</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>November '23</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>December '23</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>January '24</b>	<b>127</b>

**An average of 5,500 pounds of food is distributed monthly with a value of \$9,000. About \$7,000 per month is spent to stock the pantry with food and non-food items.**

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