

# A Servant's ♥ Heart

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



## Thanks to you...

**T**hanks to the generosity of you, our parishioners, a wonderful family was able to face an unexpected financial crisis without going into debt or falling into despair.

The SVdP Helpline received a message from Maria's\* coworker who said this young lady was facing a health crisis in her family which resulted in a financial emergency. We arranged a home visit with Maria to find out how we could help. Two SVdP members visited Maria and learned that she was a 24-year-old; carrying the weight of her household on her shoulders.

Maria's family included her parents and two younger sisters. Up to then, the sole providers of the household had been Maria and her father, and between the two of them, they were able to cover rent and all of their household bills.

Two weeks before, however, Maria's father was hospitalized, diagnosed with a rare and debilitating disease, and expected to be out of commission for a long period of time. When we spoke to Maria, her father was still in the hospital and her mother, who is not fluent in English, was staying by his bedside night and day. Maria was now the sole earner in the family; dividing her time between her full-time job, visits to the hospital, and taking care of her younger sisters and the household. Maria was feeling overwhelmed about keeping up with the bills, especially the rent and car payment. As we listened to Maria, we were impressed by her maturity and the obvious love she had for her family.

Thanks to your generosity, Maria was able to pay the rent and other bills. She no longer felt so alone and was able to plan for the future.

\* Names have been changed for confidentiality.



**“If God is the center of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.”**

-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

There are so many things to be thankful for; new members, fruitful training, neighbors being helped, fundraising and fellowship events. But mostly, we are grateful for the generous hearts of YOU, our St. Tim's parishioners, donors and supporters.

YOU have prevented an ever-increasing number of families from being evicted; from having their electricity, water, or gas shut off; from not having enough gas to get to a much-needed job; or from not having to choose between paying the rent or putting food on the table. Thanks to YOU, our neighbors can see Christ's love and mercy in action.

I am always reminded of St. Vincent de Paul's humble words: "Go to the poor: you will find God" and indeed, we do, we all do, whether it means becoming a member or donating your gifts to SVdP.

May YOU be always blessed,

*Sandy*



## A Blue (but Happy) Christmas

The Blue Envelope Project will return this fall to provide Christmas gifts for needy children. Thanks to our generous 2023 Sponsors, the program brought tremendous joy to 10 local families last year! Please consider being a 2024 Sponsor and look for an announcement in the bulletin in October! The program, coordinated by SVdP, makes it easy for Sponsors to participate. Together, we will bring smiles to needy children this Christmas. For more information, please contact us at [svdp.st.timz@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.st.timz@gmail.com)

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.

*The Rule of SVDP, 1.3*



### 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.

## New Members, New Blessings

SVdP members are a vital resource, when it comes to supporting the needs of our community, and newer members bring fresh ideas, energy, diversity, and joy!

A warm welcome to our newest members: James and Maria H., Mike and Marge P., Len R. and MaryRose V. These active members are serving others through our food pantry, monitoring helpline calls, and/or casework.

New members are gently guided into conference activities through a mentoring program, participation in conference meetings and a one-day Ozanam Orientation. This orientation, named after our founder Frederic Ozanam, provides an overview of the various aspects of the Society, including the history, spirituality, understanding poverty, and the home visit.



## Helping Others is Seeing the Face of Christ

New conference member, Mike, shares some impressions on his first home visit with a companion SVdP member. They joined in a Vincentian prayer, before knocking on the apartment door, as a reminder of why they were there. They encountered a young couple with an energetic puppy, but no other household members. After a brief explanation of the SVdP mission, he “immediately focused on the neighbors, to understand their situation, the composition of the household, and their needs.” By the end of their visit, Mike shared, “they were very receptive to our guidance and offers of further assistance. We left on a very cordial note, with an offer to provide food from the food pantry [as well].”

When asked how the home visit differed from other encounters with neighbors, Mike added, “while the encounters at the church offices were very [pleasant], open, and successful, the intimacy of the home visit felt more in the spirit of the founders.” SVdP founders placed emphasis on a Christ centered encounter, in which the Vincentian sees the face of Christ in the poor (a Vincentian charism) and the neighbor sees Christ in the Vincentian. Each encounter strives toward the Vincentian virtues of simplicity, humility, gentleness, selflessness, and zeal.

Thanks to you, our parishioners, we were able to deliver “immediate monetary relief for utilities, and food and gift cards for sustenance, but most importantly, we did open the door to the spirit of Christ.”

## HOW WE HELPED OUR NEIGHBORS

*February 2024 through July 2024*

Utility Bills	\$ 45,125
Rent/Mortgage	\$ 69,502*
Food Assistance	\$ 38,437
Car Payment/Repair	\$ 7,193
Other SVdP Support	\$ 4,721
.....	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 164,978</b>

\* April 2024 rental assistance of \$18,116 was highest monthly expense



### FOOD PANTRY

*Number of Families Served*

February '24	160
March '24	155
April '24	187
May '24	185
June '24	180
July '24	216

**Each month, an average of 180 families are served and 6,500 lbs. of food distributed.**

**To donate food, see the bulletin for a list of needed pantry items.**



# 17th Annual Friends of the Poor WALK

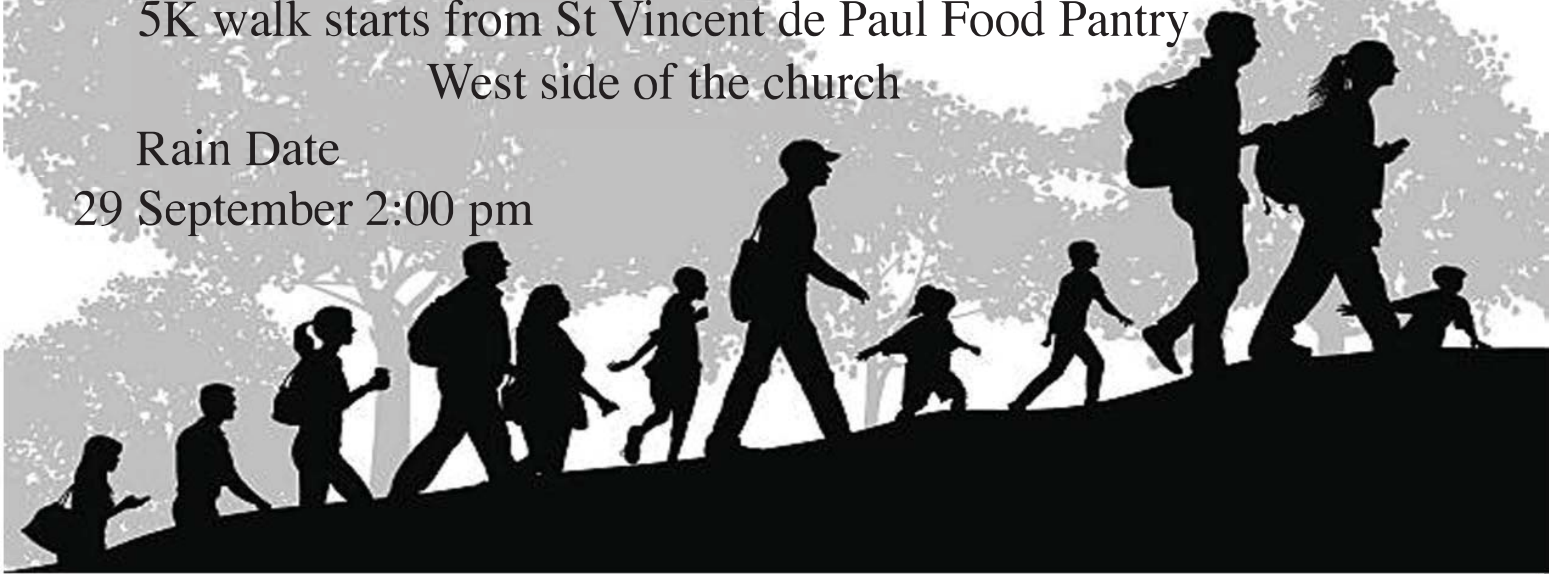
## 28 September 2024

Registration 9:30am Walk begins 10:00am

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

Rain Date

29 September 2:00 pm



Register online...[www.FOPWalk.org](http://www.FOPWalk.org)  
100% of donations go to help those in need...

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