

The Society Page

The E-Newsletter of The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Council of Pittsburgh



August 3, 2016

Weeding Frenzies!

A reflection by [Keith Kondrich](#),
Executive Director

My first apartment out of college was a carriage house above the garage of a very wealthy and well-to-do retired couple in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, near the University of Pittsburgh campus.

It was the ultimate bachelor "pad" in the heart of Pittsburgh's academic, cultural, and music scene. I was in my glory!

The best part of the deal was that the apartment was rent-free! In lieu of rent, the couple had me do various household tasks and errands. Once a week they would leave a list chores for me to complete such as cutting the grass, washing the cars, watering household plants, and weeding the garden.

When "weeding the garden" appeared on my weekly chore list for the first time, I gathered up my metal rake and hoe and attacked the overgrown garden plot with zealous abandon.

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Friends of the Poor Walk 2016



The 6th Annual Friends of the Poor 10,000 Step Walk is scheduled for this September 2016!

The Friends of the Poor Walk is a 21st century walk designed to meet the busy schedules of Vincentians while raising funds to help meet the basic needs of the people you have been called to serve. Instead of scheduling the Walk on one specific day, during a specific time, at one location, we have created an event in which you choose the day (or days), time, and location to walk.

100% of the money you raise stays within your parish conference!

In order to be more effective and efficient with our sponsorship dollars, we are asking participating conferences to pre-order t-shirts and sponsorship cards for your participants by Friday, August 5th. If you need a registration form, please contact [Brittany Barnicott](#) at 412.321.1071 (x-202) or via email by clicking [here](#).

We hope that you will consider participating this year and we look forward to helping you make this event a big success for your conference!

SVdP Thrift Stores Expanding!

Exciting changes are coming to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store operations!

This fall, we will open a brand new thrift store in Swissvale, featuring everything our customers have

come to expect from our stores - a vast variety of quality items at great prices!

The new store will be located in the Swissvale Shopping Center and will not only strengthen our vital programs (including utility assistance, transportation, food, housing, and indigent burial) but also our presence throughout the Pittsburgh area.

"Our thrift stores serve a variety of people and we're so excited to be opening this new location in Swissvale," said Executive Director, Keith Kondrich. "Bargain hunters will find great deals on quality furniture, clothing, and mattresses. Treasure seekers will find rare and unique items. Best of all, the surplus revenue generated by our stores is used to fund a variety of programs for local individuals and families. In addition to finding great deals, your thrift store purchase helps our community thrive and grow!"

To continue reading, click [here](#).



The Power of the Home Visit

A reflection by Mark DeAndrea, Vincentian, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Conference (Carnegie)

It's my second home visit that still burns in my memory and my soul. I was training with a Vincentian at my parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, in Carnegie when we made a house call to this particular couple.

They were about to be evicted from the house they rented. The landlord lived across the street and would, without fail, pound relentlessly on their front door every morning looking for his rent check.

It was a pretty desperate situation and time was running out.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

The **Power of the Home Visit** is featured in every issue of **The Society Page** as well as posted to our website at: www.svdppitt.org. If you would like to submit a reflection, please email Brittany Barnicott at brittanyb@svdppitt.org.

From the Society's beginning, the central and most basic activity of Conferences has been the visitation of the needy in their homes. This is the clearest symbol of our Vincentian charism, which dictates the highest respect for the dignity of the poor. It symbolizes our Vincentian commitment to reach out to the needy, rather than require them to report to an outside service site. In the home, needy persons feel most free to confide their stories of struggle. In that family setting, Vincentians are asked to listen, offer humble advice, and render assistance. (The Manual, Section 2.1)

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in; I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me; I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Matthew 25: 35-36

Questions & Answers



Question: How do I set up a bundle drive?

Answer: Setting up a bundle drive is pretty simple. Call the warehouse at 412.321.1071 (x-1). The warehouse can only accommodate 3 bundle drives per weekend, so please plan ahead. After you set up your date, publicize your drive in your parish bulletin, by hanging up flyers, or on the parish website or social media.

On the day of your bundle drive, the warehouse will drop off a truck and donation receipts. All you need to do is schedule volunteers to help donors place their items in the truck. Once the drive is over, the warehouse will pick up the truck. That's all there is to it! If you have any questions regarding bundle drives, contact [Jim McGinley](#) at 412.321.1071 (x-350).

Questions and Answers are featured in every issue of *The Society Page*. To submit a question, contact, [Brittany Barnicott](#) at 412.321.1071 (x-202) or email her by clicking [here](#).

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