

The Society Page

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

January 29, 2016



Have You Had The Class Yet?

A reflection by **Keith Kondrich**,
Executive Director

During my five-and-a-half years of study and formation for the permanent diaconate, my dad would occasionally ask me **this** question. . .



"Did you have **THE** class yet?" I would say, "What class?" and he would respond, "You know, **THE** class!" And again, I would reply, "What class? What are you talking about?" My dad would end the conversation by saying, "Well, you must not have had **THE** class yet but you'll know. . .you'll know when you have it!"

His little riddle went on for a couple of years; every now and then he would ask me how deacon classes were going and then he would always pose the question: "Did you have **THE** class yet?"

After a while I just couldn't take it anymore! So the next time he asked, "Did you have **THE** class yet?" . . . I lost it. . . I broke down and said "WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? YOU'RE DRIVING ME NUTS! **WHAT** CLASS!?"

Continue reading by clicking [here](#).

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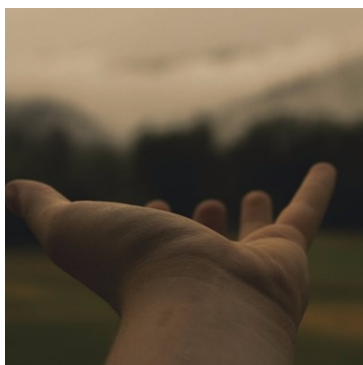
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The Power of the Home Visit

*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***



A reflection by Marie Capezzuto, **Vincentian, Madonna del Castello/Word of God Conference, Swissvale**

A few days before Christmas, my home visit partner, Rose, and I were invited to visit a fifty-six year old woman who needed some help with her rent. We prayed the 'Prayer Before A Visit,' climbed the stairs, and were greeted by a woman with a kind smile and a wonderful spirit.

She had been living in her modest, well-kept two-story home for sixteen years and was on good terms with her landlord. As a bus driver she had been able to raise two good children and still care for herself -- even as cancer crept into her body. She had battled it before, but it had reared its ugly head once again. Because of the treatments, she was no longer able to drive a bus and she was not yet eligible for disability assistance or Medicare. Her family helped her as best they could but she was running short on cash to pay her rent. Fortunately, she had a good landlord who was willing to work with her, but she did not want to fall too far behind.

Continue reading by clicking [here](#).

*This article is the first in a new series, **The Power of the Home Visit**, that will be featured every month in **The Society Page** as well as on our website at www.svdppitt.org.*

Call for submissions: *If you are interested in contributing a Home Visit reflection, please email **Brittany Barnicott** at brittanyb@svdppitt.org.*

Hosting a Bundle Drive at Your Conference or Organization

As the New Year begins, we want to invite you to participate in an exciting new "twist" on an old and reliable program.

For many years now, The Diocesan Council of Pittsburgh has sponsored "**bundle drives**" in partnership with local parishes, businesses & companies, and schools, colleges, & universities.

A bundle drive works like this:

- You pick a convenient date to host the drive and publicize it in your parish bulletin, newsletters, Facebook, or website -- letting people know what items you are collecting.
- We park a St. Vincent de Paul truck or leave donation bins at your location. Along with donation receipts you can hand out to donors.
- On the day of the drive, you and your volunteers will collect dropped off items and help load them into the truck or donation bins. At the end of the event, we come and haul the donations away -- it's as simple as that!



Bundle drives are one of the most cost effective and efficient ways that we can increase our inventory of conference voucher and thrift store items as well as generate surplus revenue to support St. Vincent de Paul programming throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Continue reading by clicking [here](#).

Contact **Jim McGinley** at 412.321.1071 or email him by clicking [here](#) for more information or to set up your bundle drive.

Also, check out our Frequently Asked Questions regarding bundle drives [here!](#)

Holiday Wrap-Up

This holiday season was a busy one for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. December started off strong with another great Pittsburgh Gives Critical Alert Campaign for Homelessness. Through your generous donations & the matching funds provided by the Pittsburgh Foundation, nearly \$20,000 was raised to support the important mission of **Michael's Place**.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry located in Manchester on the Northside, received 1,215 donated gifts for the 2015 Christmas Program. The gifts were distributed to 436 people (2-3 gifts each) who are members of our Northside food pantry, residents of Michael Place and their children, and the Steelworkers Tower Senior High Rise (Northside).

These generous, beautifully wrapped gifts were donated by the following sponsors:

- Babst, Calland, Clement and Zomnir
- Christ Episcopal Church - North Hills
- St. Catherine of Sweden
- The James Taylor Family
- St. Joseph (O'Hara)
- St. Sebastian Parish
- St. Thomas More
- St. Peter Parish
- St. Mary Church
- Mary of the Assumption



Thank you to everyone who supported the Society of St. Vincent de Paul this Christmas season -- your support gave hope to many!

What would you like to see in *The Society Page*?



As we begin a new year, we are looking for your input for future issues of *The Society Page*. What would you like to see more of? Is there something of particular importance to you?

[Click here to vote in our poll!](#)

Your input is vital to the future of this eNewsletter. We want to make sure that it is providing you with the information you need and answering any questions you may have.

We can't wait to hear from you!

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The Christmas season may be over, but it's never too late to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul when you purchase items through Amazon.com.

Click on the above link to sign up -- it's fast and easy! For every qualifying purchase you make via AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Society of Saint Vincent De Paul
Council of Pittsburgh
1243 N. Franklin Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412.321.1071
council@svdppitt.org
www.svdppitt.org