

The Society Page

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

March 9, 2016



A Lesson from God

A reflection by [Mike Calorie](#), Director of Conference Formation

My first home visit was on a chilly Tuesday night in January 2001. I was a new Vincentian so I wasn't sure what to expect. I made a silent vow to keep quiet and try to be as inconspicuous as humanly possible. Butterflies were performing an aerial show in my gut. My heartbeat increased and my feet felt like I was wearing boots made out of concrete.



As my Vincentian brother took the lead heading up the short, uneven sidewalk attached to three wide porch steps, I - without any shame -- started to take a visual inventory of the contents outside of this yellow brick home.

The first thing that caught my scanning, critical eyes was the car resting on a car pad. It was a cream color Cadillac with a dark roof. I made a note of it on my mental inventory list.

As I stared at the car, a lady opened the front door. I was so distracted by why someone who could afford a contemporary Cadillac would call our St. Philip SVdP Conference for help that my usual keen observational skills failed to notice the physical signs of distress on her face.

Continue reading by clicking [here](#).

In This Issue

- A Lesson from God
- The Power of the Home Visit
- What would you like to see in The Society Page?
- Stations of the Cross
- Upcoming Event: Spiritual Advisor Training
- SVdP Sells Mattresses
- Friends of the Poor Walk 2016

Quick Links

- [Vincentian Reflections](#)
- [Bulletin Announcements](#)
- [Store Locations](#)
- [Donation Box Locations](#)
- [Make a Tax Deductible Contribution](#)
- [Voice of the Poor](#)

[Join our Mailing List!](#)

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 **Al Bannon**, Vincentian, St. Philip Conference, Crafton

After our weekly meetings, some of our members pick up furniture, appliances, and clothing that have been donated by families in our community. The items are then stored in a building owned by the Knights of Columbus to await delivery.

Approximately 12 times a year, St. Philip conference members load a truck and deliver some of these items to Preston County Hope House in Tunnelton, West Virginia - a program we have supported for over thirty years. In between trips to West Virginia, the conference provides furniture and appliances to local families in need.

A while back, we received a phone call from a local 20-year-old woman who was in need of food.

This article is part of a new series, *The Power of the Home Visit*, that will be featured in every issue of *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.

What Would You Like to See in *The Society Page*?



There's still time!

Vote for what you would like to see in 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!](#)

We want to make sure that it is providing you with the information you need and answering any questions you may have -- please take a few minutes to fill out this quick survey.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross reflect our service and our journey as Christians who love Christ and seek to serve Him in the poor.

Join us at various locations throughout Lent to meditate and reflect, as Vincentians, on the connection between the people we serve and the Cross of Christ. Following Stations, we'll serve light refreshments and enjoy fellowship - this is a great opportunity to introduce potential new members to The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.



Friday, March 11

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

[Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Duquesne University](#) (Downtown)

Friday, March 18

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

[St. Patrick](#) (Canonsburg)

For more information, contact [Mike Calorie](#) at 412.321.1071 (x-203) or email him by clicking [here](#).

Upcoming Event: SVdP Spiritual Advisor Training -- April 9th



Saturday, April 9
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
St. Conrad Friary (Allison Park)
No Fee - Continental breakfast provided

Facilitated by SVdP Spiritual Advisor, Father Scott Seethaler & SVdP Executive Director, [Keith Kondrich](#), this session is designed to help spiritual advisors move from simply leading the opening & closing prayers at meetings to proactively helping conference members embrace and incorporate Vincentian spirituality in their daily lives and grow in holiness.

Presently, the daily demands placed on a parish priest are overwhelming. Often even the most supportive pastors find it difficult to fulfill the role of Spiritual Advisor. Sometimes the best person to serve as Spiritual Advisor is a devoted lay person who is steeped in Vincentian spirituality.

Whether you're a priest, religious, or layperson, this session will provide you with the tools and resources you need to start or continue the exciting, fulfilling, and critical ministry of a Spiritual Advisor for The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

To register, please call [James Taylor](tel:412.321.1071) at 412.321.1071 (x-204) or email him by clicking [here](#).

St. Vincent de Paul Stores Selling Mattresses, Box Springs, & Frames



March is a great time to buy a renovated bed from St. Vincent de Paul! Every Thursday during March, you will receive **double loyalty points** on your purchase of a renovated mattress, box spring, or frame!

What is a renovated mattress? Every year, millions of mattresses end up in landfills, causing major headaches for waste management. Our supplier, Chicago Mattress Company, takes used, high-quality name brand mattresses, removes everything but the springs, and refurbishes them – giving them new cushioning, a new cover, and a second life.

Buying a mattress and box spring from St. Vincent de Paul not only keeps these potentially harmful items out of our nation's landfills, it assists your neighbors in need by providing support for a number of programs.

Renovated mattresses, box springs, and frames are available at our [Castle Shannon, Coraopolis, Monroeville, Penn Hills, and Sharpsburg locations](#). There are three quality levels to choose from: Promo Plus, Promo Quilt, and Memory Foam. Mattresses, box springs, and bed frames are available in all sizes.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Friends of the Poor Walk 2016



Once again this year, *The Friends of the Poor 10,000 Step Walk* will take place in September. Last year, 40 conferences participated, raising a total of \$53,000 to assist local families in need.

The Friends of the Poor 10,000 Step Walk is designed to meet the busy schedules of people who care about their community and want to help others. Instead of scheduling the Walk on one specific day, during a specific time, at a central location, *The Friends of the Poor Walk* allows participants to **CHOOSE the day (or days), time, and location to walk that is most convenient during the month of September.**

100% of the money raised stays with the local parish conference. As an added incentive, a percentage of the total sponsorship dollars will be divided equally among participating conferences to help meet the needs of the poor in your community.

We are looking for companies that would be interested in sponsoring this year's Walk. There are a variety of opportunities to highlight your company's support – ranging from logo and name recognition on all Walk signage to acknowledgement at our Annual Bishop's Mass & Brunch with Bishop David Zubik on October 2, 2016. [For more information regarding benefits, click here.](#)

If your company is interested in sponsoring this year's Walk, please contact [Brittany Barnicott](#) at 412.321.1071 (x-202) or email her by clicking [here](#).

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