



THE VISITOR

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www.svdppitt.org

Dear friends,

As the summer sun warms our days, I am filled with gratitude for the strong support and generosity our community has shown during our spring campaign. Your donations have not only provided immediate relief to those in need but have also uplifted spirits and instilled hope in countless lives. On behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you. Your commitment to our mission is inspiring.

June has been a particularly special month for our community. We were honored to witness the National Eucharistic Procession as it made its way through Pittsburgh, passing right by our Brookline neighborhood office. Many Vincentians and friends of the Society participated during this sacred event, which served as a powerful reminder of the unity and faith that bind us together. It was a moment of profound reflection and renewal, reinforcing the importance of our work and the strength of our collective efforts.

To our dedicated Vincentian volunteers, your tireless service and unwavering compassion are the foundation of our organization. Your efforts ensure that we continue to reach those who need us most, offering not just assistance, but also dignity and respect. To our generous donors, your contributions make all the difference. It is through your support that we can extend our reach and deepen our impact.

Thank you for your steadfast patronage and for being a vital member of our St. Vincent de Paul family.

Your brother in Christ,

Ricardo

Ricardo Luckow
Executive Director

THE NATIONAL EUCHARIST REVIVAL

Have you heard about the National Eucharistic Revival? If so, you may be wondering, what is it? What's the history behind it? Why are so many people talking about it right now? Let's break it down:

A Concern

In 2019, the Pew Research Center released survey results indicating that only 31% of Catholics in the United States believed that "during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually becomes the body and blood of Jesus." Rather, the Pew survey indicated



that 69% of Catholics believed that Communion “are symbols of the body and blood of Jesus.”

A Hope

In 2023, the Diocese of Pittsburgh conducted a wide-ranging survey in every parish, the Disciple Marker Index Survey. The results indicated that 91% of Catholics in our Diocese strongly agree or agree that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ! This is a vast difference from that national survey only a few years prior!

[READ MORE](#)



A JOURNEY OF FAITH: THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL WALK PASSES THROUGH PITTSBURGH

From June 12 to 19, 2024, Pittsburgh witnessed a profound expression of faith and community as the Eucharistic Revival Walk passed through our city. This spiritually uplifting event, part of the National Eucharistic Revival initiative, brought together believers from all walks of life to celebrate and deepen their understanding of the Eucharist.

On June 13, many local Vincentians joined in the Eucharistic Revival Walk portion that took place between Resurrection Church and St. Pius X Church (both part of St. Theresa of Kolkata Parish in Beechview/Brookline), ending right next door to our office in the Brookline neighborhood of Pittsburgh. After gathering at the church, not only Vincentians but many other Procession participants joined us at our office for fellowship and refreshments.

Thank you to all who participated in this much-needed and welcomed revival walk with our Lord Jesus Christ! The procession has since moved on outside of our diocesan borders on its way to

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS: A REMARKABLE SPRING CAMPAIGN

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that, thanks to your incredible generosity, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's annual Spring Campaign has successfully raised \$40,000! This achievement would not have been possible without the steadfast support of donors like you, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission.

Your contributions will have a profound impact on the lives of those in need within our community. The funds raised during this campaign will be allocated to several key areas, ensuring that we continue to provide essential services and support to those facing difficult times.

One of the primary uses of the funds will be to bolster our **emergency assistance programs**. These programs provide critical support to individuals and families who are struggling to meet basic needs such as housing, utilities, food, and medical expenses. With your help, we can ensure that no one in our community face the threat of homelessness or go to bed hungry.

Additionally, we believe **access to nutritious food is a fundamental human right** and your donations will help us keep our food pantries well-stocked. Every day, we distribute food packages to those who might otherwise go without. The funds raised will enable us to expand these services, reaching even more people in need and providing them with the sustenance they require.

Stable housing is also crucial for the well-being of individuals and families. The funds will support our housing assistance programs, which provide rental assistance, security deposits, and help with housing searches. By ensuring that people have a safe and stable place to live, we are laying the foundation for a brighter future.

Health issues can be both a cause and a consequence of poverty. Your generous donations will help us facilitate access to healthcare services, including medical, dental, and mental health care. By covering the costs of necessary treatments and medications, we can **improve the overall health and quality of life** for those we serve.

We cannot express enough how much your support means to us and to those we serve! Your kindness and generosity have a ripple effect, touching countless lives and bringing hope to those who need it most. Each dollar donated is a testament to the compassion and solidarity that define our community.

If you missed our Spring Campaign or can contribute again to support our vulnerable neighbors, please go to www.svdppitt.org or contact Jennifer Thoma at 412.321.1071x1204 or jthoma@svdppitt.org. You can also watch for The Pittsburgh Foundation's **#ONEDAY Critical Needs Alert on August 6, 2024**, and commit to supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and for partnering with us in our mission to provide help and hope to our neighbors in need. Together, we are making a tangible difference and building a stronger, more compassionate community.

EXCITING GRANT AWARDS PROPEL OUR MISSION FORWARD

We are thrilled to announce several recent grants that will significantly enhance our ability to serve our community more effectively.

Enhancing Food Access

[EQT](#) has awarded a generous \$5,000 grant for our emergency food access initiatives in Washington County. This support will help us provide nutritious food to families and individuals in need, ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry.

Expanding Our Fleet

We are immensely grateful for the combined \$160,000 in grants from the Massey Charitable Trust (\$40,000) and the [DSF Charitable Foundation](#) (\$120,000). These funds will be used to acquire new trucks, enabling us to distribute more goods and reach more people efficiently.

Building a Better Online Presence

Thanks to a \$40,000 grant from the [Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation](#) and a \$5,000 grant from the [AJ and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust](#), we will develop a new website. This upgrade will enhance our digital presence, making it easier for those in need to find us and for our supporters to stay informed and engaged.

Addressing the Area of Greatest Need

A heartfelt thank you to the Calligan Family Foundation for their unrestricted grant and to the [Nazareth Family Foundation](#) for their support of the Regional Emergency Direct Assistance Fund. This flexible funding allows us to promptly address urgent and unforeseen challenges, ensuring we can provide timely assistance where it's most critical.

These generous grants empower us to continue our mission of serving the community with dedication and compassion. We extend our deepest gratitude to all the foundations for their trust and support. Together, we are making a significant difference in the lives of many. Thank you for standing with us in our mission to uplift those in need.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A FUN-FILLED DAY AT THE BALLPARK

Mark your calendars for an exciting day of baseball and fellowship! The Society of St. Vincent de Paul invites you to join us for the Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Cincinnati Reds game on **August 25 at 1:35 PM at PNC Park.**

Exclusive Offer:

- Discounted Tickets: \$20/ticket for the first 100 reservations (\$26 thereafter)
- Free Parking: Available for the first 50 ticket purchasers at our private lot at 668 W General Robinson St. (next to Red 5 Garage on the North Shore).
- Private SVdP Tailgate: Starting at 10 AM in the private lot, enjoy lunch and drinks on us!

Tickets are in section 311. Paper tickets will either be mailed to your home in advance of the game or available for pick up during the tailgate. **Deadline: Reserve your tickets by Wednesday, July 24. [Please complete and return the attached form to us to reserve your tickets and parking!](#)** Questions? Please contact Karen O'Keefe at kokeefe@svdppitt.org or

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to enjoy a day at the ballpark with fellow Vincentians. Reserve your tickets today and be part of the fun! We look forward to seeing you there!

Note: The discounted tickets offer is made available to our Vincentian volunteers and their family members only. Thank you for your understanding.

JOIN US FOR "ART WITH HEART: AN EVENING OF CHARITY"

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new fundraising event, "Art with Heart: An Evening of Charity," to benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh. This special evening promises to be a delightful celebration of art, community, and compassion, all while supporting our mission to assist those in need.

Event Details

Date: September 26, 2024

Time: 5-6pm (VIP and Sponsor Preview Reception); 6-9pm (Main Event)

Location: Pittsburgh Shrine Center

"Art with Heart" will feature a diverse collection of artworks, including pieces from our Thrift Store Art collection and works by local contemporary artists. Guests will have the opportunity to browse and purchase these unique creations, knowing that every purchase helps support our vital programs and services.

Silent Auction and More

In addition to the art sale, we will host a silent auction with a variety of items generously donated by local businesses. Whether you're interested in exclusive dining experiences, luxury goods, or unique local services and experiences, our silent auction will have something for everyone.

Enjoy Music, Food, and Libations

No celebration is complete without great music, delicious food, and refreshing beverages. "Art with Heart" will feature live musical performances, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and a selection of wines, beer, and spirits. It's the perfect setting to connect with friends and fellow supporters around a shared sense of compassion and community spirit.

Call for Volunteers

Join us in making a difference! The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh is seeking dedicated and passionate volunteers to serve on the committee for our upcoming "Art with Heart" event. This exciting initiative combines the beauty of art with the power of philanthropy to support our mission of helping those in need.

As a committee member, you will have the opportunity to contribute your skills, creativity, and enthusiasm to help plan, organize, and execute a memorable event that will impact countless lives in our community. Whether you have experience in event planning, marketing, fundraising, or simply a heart for service, we invite you to be part of this meaningful cause. Join us in bringing art and heart together for a purpose that truly matters! Interested? Contact Jennifer Thoma at 412.321.1071x1204 or jthoma@svdppitt.org.

Call for Art Donations

To make this event truly spectacular, we need your help! We are seeking donations of artwork. These pieces will be showcased and sold during the event, with all proceeds going directly to benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

If you have art that you would like to donate, please bring your pieces to any of our St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores. Alternatively, you can contact Tom Duxbury at tduxbury@svdppitt.org to arrange a pickup or discuss your donation.

Supporting Our Mission

"Art with Heart" is more than just an evening of art and entertainment; it's an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. The funds raised from this event will support our programs, including emergency assistance, food pantries, housing assistance, healthcare access, and educational support. Your participation and generosity will help us continue providing these critical services to individuals and families in need.

Join Us

We invite you to join us for an unforgettable evening of art, music, and community. Together, we can celebrate the beauty of art and the power of compassion, all while making a positive impact on our community. Please be on the lookout for tickets, which will be available soon. Please contact Jennifer Thoma at 412.321.1071x1204 or jthoma@svdppitt.org with any questions, sponsorship and donation interest, or to be the first in line for tickets.

**YOUR DONATIONS HELP US
SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS**

DONATE TODAY

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR GREAT DEALS IN OUR STORES + STAY UP-TO-DATE ON WHAT WE'RE DOING TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED EVERY DAY!



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