



THE VISITOR

Vol. 2 - September 2023

www.svdppitt.org

Dear friends,

Welcome to our second edition of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh's monthly newsletter, which now has a name, ***The Visitor***. The new name was proposed by SVdP volunteer extraordinaire Pete Hutchinson of Mt. Lebanon.

It is in a Vincentian's very nature to visit the forgotten neighbor, the sick, the hungry, the dying. God's own emissaries, angels, visit us to bring news. Who knows, angels may be the ones that carry this newsletter to many, many email inboxes across a vast geography. And that's how it becomes a Visitor in its own right, waiting for you to read the news it brings. We thank Pete for his thoughtful idea and help in service to our friends in need, and all who are associated with the work of our Council.

September is a month of change. Summer turns into fall, a season of drastic metamorphosis. Much of nature goes dormant or dies. It is a season that reminds me of humanity's own transient nature on Earth. It also lends me the chance to reflect on what needs to die in me. A bad habit, an indifference, an unnecessary comfort, a cold heart. And the list could go on -and on. I find that the love of God makes dying of our own selves much easier. And how do we receive God's love? Mostly, through our brothers and sisters. And here, again, is where Vincentians come into the picture, carrying that saving love with them wherever they go, especially into people's homes. A door opens and love walks in, starting a fire called hope. It is this hope that allows for new beginnings.

Accompany us this month by inviting the Visitor into your living room. Pour a cup of coffee or tea and sit back while you read about your Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Yours in Christ,

Ricardo

Ricardo Luckow
Executive Director

HELP THY NEIGHBOR WALK A SUCCESS!

The *Help Thy Neighbor Walks* took place last Sunday, September 10th, in North and South Parks, Allegheny County. Vincentian volunteers turned out to celebrate outdoor mass and the annual awareness and fundraising events which were generously sponsored by [UPMC Health Plan](#), [Jeffrey Associates](#), [Bulldog Advertising Company](#), [Chicago Mattress Company](#), [Herbein Company Inc.](#), [Henderson Brothers](#), [PA Health & Wellness](#), [The Binkley Kanavy Group](#), [Minuteman Press South Hills](#), [J.W. Peters Electric](#), [Steidl & Steinberg](#), [John A. Cochran, Esquire](#), [Linmark](#), and [Waste Management](#).

Please consider supporting the sponsors that partner with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

DESIGNATE A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COUNCIL OF PITTSBURGH

Planned giving is a noble and impactful way to ensure that the values you hold dear are perpetuated beyond your lifetime. One such avenue for making a lasting difference is by designating a bequest to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh. This act not only reflects your commitment to helping those in need but also serves as a beacon of hope for the less fortunate in our community.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh (SVdP) has long been a steadfast presence—171 years young—extending a helping hand to individuals and families facing adversity. Through its dedicated volunteers and compassionate initiatives, the organization has touched countless lives, providing essential resources, support, and comfort to those navigating challenging circumstances.

The process of making a bequest is relatively straightforward. After consulting with your legal and financial advisors, you can include a provision in your will outlining the specifics of your bequest. This might involve a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, or even the residue of your estate after other obligations have been fulfilled. The bequest can be directed towards a particular program or initiative that resonates with you, ensuring that your values and intentions are honored.

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DISCOVERING PURPOSE AND IMPACT

THE OZANAM ORIENTATION

The Ozanam Orientation is an inspiring and transformative experience that everyone should consider attending. Named after Frédéric Ozanam, the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, this orientation program offers valuable insights into the principles of Catholic social justice, community service, and personal growth.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh will host an Ozanam Orientation on October 7, from 9AM to 3PM, at [St. Mary's Church – Holy Spirit Parish in New Castle](#). All are invited to participate. For more information and to register, please contact Karen O'Keefe, director of formation, at 412.321.1071x1203 or [email](#).

At its core, the Ozanam Orientation is a platform for individuals to explore and discover their

unique role in making a positive impact on society. Here's why you should attend:

- **Deepen Your Understanding:** Ozanam Orientation delves into the principles and values of social justice and spirituality, shedding light on the root causes of poverty and inequality. By attending, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the issues that affect our communities.
- **Inspire Action:** The program is designed to motivate attendees to act. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or someone new to community service, Ozanam Orientation equips you with the knowledge and tools needed to make a difference.
- **Build Empathy:** Empathy is a powerful force for change. The Ozanam Orientation encourages participants to step into the shoes of those less fortunate, fostering a sense of empathy that drives meaningful connections and compassionate action.
- **Create Lasting Change:** The insights gained at Ozanam Orientation empower individuals to initiate sustainable change. You'll learn how to contribute to long-term solutions, rather than merely providing short-term assistance.
- **Join a Community of Change-Makers:** Attending Ozanam Orientation introduces you to like-minded individuals who are passionate about social justice and community service. You'll become part of a network of change-makers dedicated to making the world a better place.

The Ozanam Orientation is a powerful catalyst for personal growth and social impact. It's a stepping-stone towards a more compassionate and just society, and attending one can be the first step on your journey to making a meaningful difference in the world. Don't miss the opportunity to embark on this transformative experience.



INTRODUCING THE SOS COLLABORATION

A GROUNDBREAKING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, OFF THE FLOOR, & SKYLINE RECOVERY

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh, Off the Floor Furniture Bank, and Skyline Recovery Pittsburgh are excited to announce SOS Collab, a groundbreaking collaboration aimed at strengthening community support for individuals and families in need. By joining forces, these three charitable organizations aim to address the interconnected challenges of poverty, homelessness, and addiction, and provide comprehensive assistance to those seeking to rebuild their lives.

Recognizing the shared vision and complementary missions of these organizations, SOS Collab seeks to maximize their collective impact and create a seamless continuum of care for individuals facing multiple challenges. By combining resources, knowledge, and expertise, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh, Off the Floor Furniture Bank, and Skyline Recovery Pittsburgh will enhance their capacity to meet the complex needs of those they serve.

[READ MORE](#)



COMING UP

THE FISCAL YEAR ENDS
SEPTEMBER 30TH

As the fiscal year draws to a close on September 30, 2023, there is a compelling opportunity to make a significant impact by [giving to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul](#).

Your donation during this crucial time can help transform lives and uplift communities in need. By contributing before the fiscal year's end, you're enabling St. Vincent de Paul to allocate resources effectively, plan for upcoming initiatives, and continue our mission of providing essential support to individuals facing poverty, homelessness, and other challenges.

This time of year, we see a significant increase in the numbers of friends in need. Your generosity will not only create immediate positive change but also sow the seeds for a brighter and more equitable future for them.

Join hands with St. Vincent de Paul today and be a driving force behind positive, lasting transformation in the lives of those who need it most.

[DONATE TODAY](#)



TIME'S RUNNING OUT

PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE
TICKETS TODAY!

[Register today](#) for your chance to win \$5,000, \$2,500 or FIVE chances at \$1,000. Seven total winners (one for \$5,000, one for \$2,500 and five for \$1,000) will be randomly drawn by Bishop David Zubick live during the 2023 Bishop's Brunch.

Winners will be notified on Sunday, October 15, 2023, from all entries received between June 21, 2023, through Sunday, October 8, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased by [going online](#), visiting one of our [local Thrift Stores](#), or asking your local conference representative.

All proceeds from the raffle will support our friends in need through the critical efforts of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and local conferences.

[PURCHASE
HERE](#)



SVdP representatives, including Michelle Schillig (pictured), welcomed Senator Devlin Robinson (R-37, pictured) and his chief of staff Jeff King to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Coraopolis in August to talk about the SOS Collab. The Senator toured the site and engaged in lively conversation with every staff member present at the store, particularly with those who were at one-time members of the US Armed Forces. The Senator is a military veteran with two foreign tours of duty.

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SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS**

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ON WHAT WE'RE DOING TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED EVERY DAY!



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