



St. Vincent de Paul Society NEWSLETTER



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"It is for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them." St. Vincent de Paul

The Face of Christ



*Convinced of the truth of the Apostle St. Paul's words, Vincentians seek to draw closer to Christ. They hope that someday it will be no longer they who love, but Christ who loves through them...
(Rule 1:2.1)*

In his recent presentation for our Lenten Morning of Reflection, Bishop Hying made the statement that each of our Vincentian acts of charity and in the living out of our mission, we become an extension of the Incarnation of Christ. What a powerful and eye-opening statement. So, what does it mean?

The Bishop's statement encapsulates the very mission that has been handed on to us. It is the mission of all disciples. We find that mission described in the Gospels. In John 14:23 Jesus responds to a question from Judas, "But Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" Judas was concerned that the good news that Jesus was sharing with the disciples was not going to be heard by everyone. His question was about our Lord's very mission.

Jesus' answer is simple and complete. He tells Judas that God the Father and the Son will come to the disciples and by extension to everyone through the power of the Holy Spirit. That extension is for all generations, including ours. In other words, the Father's showing of Himself to the world is through us. As God resides in us, we in turn reveal Him to the world.

St. Francis believed that it is in our doing and our daily living that we reflect Jesus to the world. Throughout his ministry, Francis challenged his contemporaries to go out and preach the Gospel and, when absolutely necessary, use words. He understood that how we live and act are the most authentic and powerful reflections of Christ and His mission.

Our reflection of God's faithfulness, love, and mercy serve as an extension of the Incarnation. When the Word became flesh and dwelt among us in the person of Jesus Christ, although divine, He was a man with just one life to live. But when He returned to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to empower and to fill us with grace and courage. In this way, the Incarnation continues through the Body of Christ which is the Church made up of the community of believers. In other words, we are Christ's body on earth.

Continued

The Face of Christ

Thus, God's work continues through His relationship with us and our relationships with everyone else – those in our parish, those in our families, those in our workplaces, those in our communities, those who we encounter casually, and, most importantly, in those whom we serve.

St. Teresa of Avila clearly understood the reality of being an extension of the Incarnation when she wrote:

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which he blesses the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body,
Christ has no body on earth but yours.

May each of us strive to understand that we are charged with the mission of showing others what we have seen and heard. To let them know how much God loves and cares for them. We are not only the hands, feet, and eyes of Christ; as Vincentians, we are called to be His face to everyone we meet but most especially to the needy and the vulnerable among us.

By Shirley Smalley



Newsletter Articles

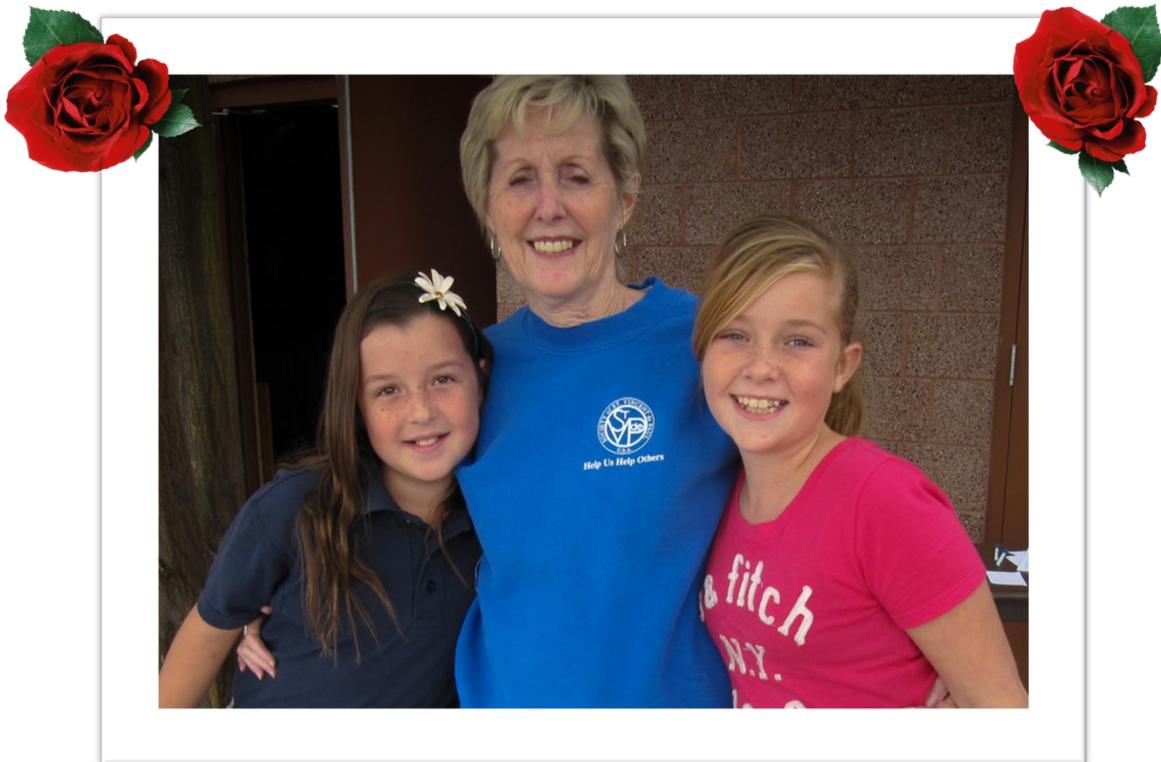
If your Conference would like to submit an article for the April Newsletter, please submit your article to Sandy Edwards by March 15, 2022.

Email to: sedwards@svdpaz.org



Dottie Sullivan

Those of you who knew Dottie Sullivan no doubt realize what a kind-hearted Vincentian she was. Sadly, she passed on March 13, 2022. Dottie joined SVdP at Saint Benedict in 2007 and was active until a few years ago when she was "slowing down" those were her words. For many years she helped the needy providing thousands of dollars through a program administered at the downtown SVdP called Family Assistance Ministry. She also worked endless hours leading the Phoenix program Adopt-A-Family, helping to match volunteers and families provide Christmas presents for needy families. We were blessed to have Dottie in our group and she was a disciple who always thought of other people and was there to help. I was fortunate to go on many home visits with Dottie and most of the time her first words were... "we need to find a way to help them." Please pray Dottie and her family, and in their grief hopefully they know that their mother, grand mother touched hundreds of people and made the world a little better place for those around her. Below is a photo at church - 2010 -with (I believe) her granddaughters.



Dottie, you will forever be in our hearts.



Remembering Beth Michelson



Beth Michelson, former president of The St. Daniel The Prophet Conference, was taken to heaven on March 19, 2022, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Beth was a true Vincentian, dedicated to carrying out the mission of St. Vincent de Paul.

While living in Williams, she was involved in the formation of the conference there.

After Beth returned to the Valley, she became a member of our conference and served as president for one and a half terms before resigning because of her illness.

Beth always thought "out of the box". After a home visit to a disabled widow, she gathered volunteers from our conference to thoroughly clean the widows home.

She worked closely with a representative from the City of Scottsdale to assist the homeless.

Beth also became a member of the Council's Spirituality Committee and had hoped to teach OFE classes.

Her dedication, organizational skills, leadership and resources were invaluable to our conference members. We were blessed to have her in our conference and as our leader.

We miss you and love you, Beth.
May you rest in eternal peace.



MORNING OF REFLECTION

(MOR)

On Saturday, March 5, 160 Vincentians attended a MOR at St. Gabriel Church in Cave Creek. The Most Reverend Donald Hying, Bishop of Madison, WS and Episcopal Bishop of our National St. Vincent de Paul, concelebrated Mass with Fr. Chad and Fr. David from St. Gabriel. St. Gabriel conference members then provided a wonderful continental breakfast to all before the Bishop's presentation. Each attendee was presented with the Bishop's book, Love Never Fails, before departing.

The Bishop arrived on March 4 and was given a tour of the Human Services Campus when lunch was just beginning. He was shown the block of tents along the streets which served as housing for our homeless friends. After meeting with Steve Atwood, Steve Zabilski, and Shannon Clancy he toured the Medical and Dental Clinics, the Chapel, Hall of Banners, Kitchen, Food Reclamation, farm (where he took pictures for his Instagram account), ministry building, and Ozanam Manor.

After the MOR and relaxing at a lunch with several Vincentians, he toured the Hope Chest store and even bought a book he had been wanting to read for a long time. He ended his time in Phoenix by visiting the Chris Becker dining room and watching as our friends entered for their meal. All along the way he met the administration or managers of each department. On the way to the airport, Bishop Hying commented that he thought Phoenix was not only a model for the United States but for the world. He was inspired by the many things he saw and the dedication of our staff and volunteers. We were inspired by him! He has agreed to return to Phoenix for another MOR in 2024.

A special "Thank You" to Fr. Chad, pastor of St. Gabriel, for hosting Bishop Hying the night of March 4. More thanks is extended to Ed Carpenter, District 11 President, Rosalee Walsh, St Gabriel Conference President, and the St. Gabriel planning committee and wonderful helpers who made the event extra special!!!



*Thank you,
St. Gabriel's Conference.*

*Mary Ann Hunter
Spirituality Committee Chair*

Jubilarian Honored At St. Thomas More Conference



Jennie Portonova has served SVdP for 20 years, serving St Thomas More Parish. Her Activities and Ministries include home visits, data entry, food drive, visiting the sick, bringing communion, and counting money. Jennie was our SVdP Conference President and Vice-President for a total six years. Finally, she was Vice President of District Four for three years. Jennie is an inspiration to all she serves and who serve with her. In attendance at her Award ceremony and prayer service were 17 Conference Members and her husband Nick.

News from St. Anthony of Padua

Service Awards

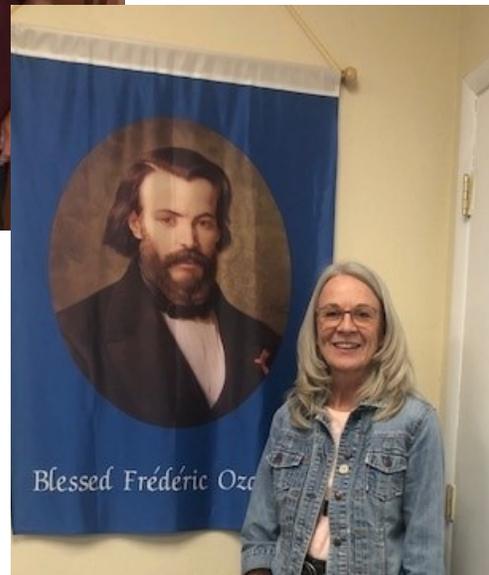
Celebrating five years!



Joel and Connie Mondry and Ken Hesketh



Nancy Zoulek



Thank you !





Congratulations to the following members for five years of service: Terry Dolan, Barb Baxter, Elvira Ramirez, Cheri Massie, Carol Cook/Waltz, Pam Frattallone, Jimmy Costanzo and Juan Anaya.

Members of the St. Anthony of Padua Conference received their service pins at the March 16th Conference Meeting.



Cecilia Laubenthal, Sue Heil and Sylvia Herndon.

Celebrating 20 Years

Thank you



Celebrating 10 Years of Service



Celebrating 10 years of service are Pete Hernandez, Martha Hernandez, Virginia Brinkman, Marnee and Ron Ballay.

Congrats
St. Anthony of Padua!



Celebrating 15 years of service -

Kathy McDonald was presented with her 15 year membership pin.



Sacred Heart Conference in Prescott Celebrates 99-year-old Volunteer Santé Ceolin

On March 2, 2022, Sacred Heart Conference Prescott celebrated the 99th birthday of long time volunteer Santé Ceolin and his nearly 40 years of service to SVdP. (See attached photo) Santé has been volunteering at SVdP since he helped found the Payson Conference in 1983 with three other members.

The Payson conference began with only seven retirees as volunteers and two of them were Santé and his wife, Odette. Santé's volunteer service included interviewing clients, packing food boxes, delivering food, and helping clients with utilities. At first, they didn't have a building and operated out of the priest's garage. If people came to the church needing help, the priest would make them a sandwich and then call SVdP. Since Santé lived close, he was usually the one called to help. Later, a builder from Payson donated a 24' x 24' building for their use on the church property.

The parish owned eleven acres of land with the church, so eventually SVdP was also able to purchase two mobile homes to place on this property for their food pantry and office. The Tonto Apache Indian tribe provided them with a walk-in freezer. When the Payson Food Bank went out of business, SVdP took it over. Santé relates that if they had \$200 in their treasury, they thought they were rich.



Santé is most proud of the sign he built in masonry for the Payson Conference (see included photo) and the outdoor stone garden he created depicting the Mysteries of the Rosary. (See photo) The Bishop of Tucson came to Payson for a ceremony to bless these construction projects. (See attached photo)

Odette developed Alzheimers in 1998, so four years later in 2002 when his grandson David and wife Tracy asked them to move to Prescott, Santé sold his Payson property and moved. He immediately joined the Sacred Heart SVdP Conference and relates that he was most impressed with its organization and dedicated volunteers. He has volunteered continuously over the years by attending weekly meetings, conducting home and office interviews, delivering food, working on special projects and most recently working in the pantry. Santé wanted to build another masonry sign for the Prescott Conference like he had in Payson but, after much investigation, the city inspectors and building rules did not allow for that to happen.

At Sacred Heart Church, Santé was involved with the monthly Supper Club providing meals for those in need, served several years as an adorer in the Adoration Chapel, and continues to serve as a Eucharistic minister twice a month. His wife passed away in 2009, donating her body to science. Four years ago he moved into a senior center in Prescott.



Santé has a very colorful history. He was born March 2, 1923, in Sant Vito al Tiglamente, Italy. He was the middle child between two sisters. When he was about seven, his dad, a mason, moved to France for work and to find a house for the family. About a year later around 1931, the rest of the family joined his dad in Les Clayes-sous-Bois, about 12 miles southwest of Paris.



Santé went into the Navy in May 1942 but was only there for about a year. When the Germans took over the south of France, the Navy was sent back home. After arriving home, Santé joined the French Resistance for 3 1/2 years. (See attached photo) He was a documented member of the Organisation civil et. militaire (OCM), a network of resistance in France during World War II. He received the Military Medal and Croix de Guerre in the name of the French Resistance. He organized information services and clandestine broadcasts, guarded radio stations to assure their broadcasts, participated in numerous attacks on German installations and rescues of allied parachutists, and sabotaged many airplanes, trucks, and other equipment. In July 1944, he demonstrated initiative by regrouping and arming his men to lead them to battle after the OCM was tracked down by the Gestapo, members scattered, and its leaders arrested. Santé continued to serve the French Resistance until France's liberation.

One of his most prized possessions is a military identification bracelet belonging to the late, burned American Pilot, Lt. Marvin Vinson of Ohio, whom his resistance group rescued. (See attached photo) The severely injured Vinson parachuted into enemy territory 16 days after the D-Day landing. Vinson spent his first night inside an outhouse some 115 miles from the Normandy beaches. This 22-year-old was in desperate need of a doctor, but he refused. He feared if he went to a hospital, he would be captured by the Germans. Santé and his resistance comrades tended Vinson's wounds for nine days. Santé was forced to cut the pilot's military bracelet off his arm because it was restricting circulation. Years later, Santé attempted to return the bracelet to a Vinson relative. A meeting was arranged; however, no one showed up. To Santé, this silver chain bracelet is the sacred testament to a young man's life and courage; a constant reminder to him to always give one's best to others.



Santé married his wife, Odette, on Aug. 7, 1945. Odette was the same age as his younger sister, and he had known her since she was eight. They attended the same school and church but, at that time, he thought she was a silly, skinny girl. However, after he came back from the Navy, he saw her as a beautiful woman and married her. While in the Navy, he saved money and was able to buy two lots in France where he wanted to build a house; however, Odette did not want to get a loan to build. Her dad was a wounded Veteran from World War I and had a GI loan. She remembered her mother always worrying that they weren't going to be able to make their loan payments and would lose everything. She didn't want anything to do with a loan.

Santé worked as an apprentice tool and die maker prior to enlisting in the Navy. After he returned, the Germans controlled the industry and he didn't want to work for them, so he took on several odd jobs. When he heard that Canada had jobs available in the tool and die industry, he decided to move there to earn money to buy a house. Santé, his wife and their child, 5-year-old Monique (born Aug. 7, 1947), moved to Canada in 1951 and lived there three years. In 1954, when Ford was recruiting tool and die makers to make the engine of the Saber 100 plane used in the Korean war, Santé and his family moved to Detroit, MI.

Santé came with a special Visa into the United States and recalls that people were extremely wonderful and welcoming to them. The immigration officer that checked his papers when they arrived was incredibly nice and awaiting them with a sign. When the officer met them, he asked them to wait on a bench. He told them he would be right back and returned shortly with a lady smoking a cigarette. She asked Santé where they were staying that night. Santé's English wasn't that good at the time, but he was able to tell her he didn't know. She said, "You are coming home with me and staying at my house." Santé and his family stayed with this kind lady for two weeks. In the evenings after work, she escorted them around Detroit and helped them look for an apartment.



Santé stayed in Detroit for a year and a half and developed asthma. The doctor told him it would be better for him to move someplace like Arizona. On Nov. 12, 1955, they moved to Phoenix, AZ and he recalls that it was raining the day they arrived. He went to the unemployment office at 2 p.m. and by 4 p.m. he had a job as a tool and die maker. Around 1958, after about two years, he went to work for Motorola on McDowell and 48th. He worked for Motorola for about 20 years and retired in 1976.

Santé and his wife were always campers. They started out backpacking, riding bikes, and staying in tents. Then they purchased a Ford truck with a slide in camper. Eventually, they upgraded to a 30-foot Rex Air Motorhome. While living in Phoenix, Santé had bought property about 16 miles north of Payson where they would go camping on weekends or for vacations. After he retired, they moved to Payson and built a cabin on their property while living in their camper. The cabin was 24' x 32'. It had a kitchen, living room with fireplace, bedroom, and bathroom on the main floor. The upper area had two loft bedrooms. They stayed in the cabin for about two years; however, to get to this property they had to ford the East Verde River about three times. Once Santé saw how much snow the area would get - sometimes more than three feet - he felt it would be safer to get property in Payson. He sold their cabin, purchased a lot in the town and built a house.

In the meantime, their daughter, Monique, married and had a son, David Moore, Santé's grandson. They were living in Phoenix until David and his new wife moved to Prescott. They have two children - a boy and a girl - Santé's great grandchildren. (See attached photo) The boy, Nathan, is now 15 and the girl, Shae, is 13 (in 2022). They still live in Prescott near Santé.

Santé is a role model for dedicating your life to God and his service. Even his name, Santé, brings to mind the word "Saint" - this description truly fits Santé and his humble life of service.

News from St. Elizabeth Seton Conference

St Elizabeth Seton conference had an all Full Member commissioning. We also commissioned in four new Spiritual Advisors that will work on a monthly schedule to be our SA. Those members are Veronica French, Denise Steffen, Joan Murphy and Sandy Morford. We are looking to grow in our Spirituality element.

We celebrated with cake and refreshments. Father Kilian McCaffrey honored us with the Commissioning. Our Associate members were gracious enough to serve and help make our celebration very enjoyable.
Thank you





From the Desk of the Conference Resources Committee

Tithing

Recently, several conferences have inquired how they can go about exempting grant or other restricted funds from our Diocesan tithing requirement. While it is possible for the tithing on such funds to be rebated back to the conference, there is no provision for such funds to be exempted from the tithing requirement at either the conference or district level.

According to Article 9 – Solidarity Contributions of Member Councils and Tithing of the current District Council bylaws:

Conferences will contribute 10% of their income to their respective District Council. Payments shall be made on a quarterly basis and shall be submitted with the Conference's Quarterly Report disclosing income, expenditures, and Conference activity.

District Councils will contribute 10% of their income to the Diocesan Council. Payments shall be made on a quarterly basis and shall be submitted with the District's Quarterly Report disclosing income, expenditures, and District activity.

This requirement for tithing on income is reflected in our conference quarterly and annual reports. On the receipts page of the conference report form, the only line that is exempt from tithing is Line 4. That line is limited to SVdP contributions and twinning, because those funds have already been tithed on; pass through funds, because they are going to be passed through to another SVdP special fund or cause; and co-pays for a specific client coming from another group or organization.

After paying their assessed tithing, conferences are always free to ask for a certain amount of their tithing to be rebated back to them by the district council. The decision concerning any such rebate rests with the district council not with the district president or any council officers. The funds once accessed become property of the council as a whole and thus only the council can rebate them.

Examples of incidences where conferences have asked for a rebate on tithing on specific funds include bequeathments, grants, capital campaign donations, and restricted large single donor contributions. In each case, the districts involved have voted hands down to refund/rebate the tithing on the income in question. Please note that if a single donation is placed in an investment account, the conference would pay the tithing as the funds were drawn out of that account to be used by the conference.

It is important when we think about tithing that we keep in mind that as Vincentians, we are members of one family. A family responds to the needs of each of its members and this is certainly true within the Diocesan Council of Phoenix. Tithing is our responsibility to ourselves and to one another.

Out and About with Jerry...in Kingman



Members of the Arizona Cardinals recently visited our Thrift Store in Kingman. Big Red and his entourage helped to sort clothes, and packed bags of food to be distributed to our neighbors in Kingman.

Thank you !





REPLACE A BIN

OUR VALLEY THRIFT STORES ARE IN NEED OF NEW BINS. CAN YOU HELP?

**STORE BINS ARE USED TO COLLECT
DONATIONS, SORT ITEMS, AND TAKE
GOODS OUT TO THE FLOOR.**

Our old bins are tired and worn out and we are in need of 20 new ones. Each bin costs \$350 each. Individuals, conferences, and councils can assist our stores by purchasing a bin or two. Contact Marc Anderson at manderson@svdpaz.org for complete details on ways to make a donation.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our stores!

***Words of Inspiration
From Our Patron
St. Vincent de Paul***



If we act in this manner (give women their rightful place in the Church) God is glorified and served. All of this is done in fulfillment of God's plan. For God sent His Son Jesus into the world to serve the poor. Yet Jesus organized a group of women to help Him in this work. How blessed are we when we help in the organization of these women. In this way they render service to God and to the Church through their work with the poor.

"On the end of the Congreg. of the Mission," 12/6/1658



BRICKS to build the foundation

Two by Two

Have you ever wondered why Vincentians go out in pairs as opposed to going out on calls or visits alone? On the surface the answer to this question may appear simple. As Vincentians, we know that we never go out alone for a variety of safety and legal reasons. Each of us can logically deduce that there is more safety in numbers and protection in having a witness, thus going in pairs is a reasonable safety precaution to take.

While safety and protection concerns are strong supportive reasons for requiring Vincentians to work only in pairs, neither appears to have influenced Frederic Ozanam and the founding members of our Society. From the very beginnings of our organization, Vincentians have served in teams of two or more, but why?

The first members of our Society had a strong sense that it was necessary to go out to spread the Gospel just as Jesus had sent out his apostles two by two. During Ozanam's day, many charitable groups including the Daughters of Charity went out into the streets and worked among the poor alone. This begs the question of why the Society placed so much value on going out two by two.

If we look at the concept of two by two in the Bible, we find this practice rich in meaning and practice. This scriptural mandate served as the model for the first Conference of Charity and helps the Society define who we are and what we do. The number two conveys and articulates community. When we work or minister alone, we are tempted to see that work as something we own. When we enter into the community of two or more, we experience a deep sense that our work represents something bigger than ourselves.

As Vincentian teams, we are representatives of the Society and a symbol of God's abiding love for all. The work is not about us. It is about bringing the Gospel to life by enfleshing the Good News. The money is not our money. The glory is not our glory. The work is the work of our Conference, not of our hands alone.

Our Rule directs us as Vincentians to minister in twos. Nowhere in the Rule of the Society does it say that there are exceptions to the two-by-two requirement. We do home visits in pairs. We deliver food in pairs. We meet our families to pay their rent in pairs. We visit institutions in pairs. We go together and by doing so we bring God's love to others in a way that is truly unique to our Vincentian mission. Being a Vincentian means that we fully consent to living and working through the Body of Christ; a Body that is always and forever based in a community of two or more joined together in mission, love, and service.

As Vincentians, let us remember the spiritual value of community and that we, like the apostles, are being sent into the world two by two to spread the Good News of God's love to all people.

THE JOURNEY TO SUCCESS!



The Surprise Thrift Store at Crossroads Towne Center in Surprise, had its opening ceremony on November 6, 2013. The ceremony was held at its location in the corner of the shopping center at the west side. The location was not too visible from Grand Avenue so it took a while for people to be aware of it, but it became successful. There were donations galore and staff and volunteers kept it priced and on the floor on a daily basis. Sometimes, because the donation area was not very large, clothing had to be put on racks and priced outside—even in the summer. It was a fun place to work and everyone knew it was for a good cause.

Because a larger store was needed, a search began and it just happened that a mattress company was going out of business at the east end of the shopping center and our leaders pursued looking into renting that space as it was large. It was much more visible to the public as well. It had an ideal area for displaying our goods and even a large area in the back to receive donations, sort, test, and price items for sale. Our corporate leaders decided this was the way to go and so the journey continued on a more successful basis.

The transition began with clearing out the original store and moving all the merchandise to the new location, together with all the office equipment so our managers could restart. This took several days and was mostly accomplished by employees. At the direction of corporate leaders and managers, volunteers from District 3 Conferences of St. Clare of Assisi, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Clement of Rome, St. Joachim & St. Anne and St. Elizabeth Seton were called in for three days before opening to set up racks, shelving, cashier counters, office space and kitchen areas. Merchandise was sorted and priced and then placed out on the floor and so the fun began on opening day: **February 17, 2018.**

Continued

THE JOURNEY TO SUCCESS!

There have been some incidents that have caused disruption such as an above the ceiling rain leak, someone breaking into a glass door and stealing jewelry and, of course, the pandemic. During the pandemic, we were closed for two months and economically that set the store back. Our bathrooms were closed and when men came to ask to use the bathroom, the greeter would tell them there was a bush around the corner. That brought a lot of laughs. It did not take long to recuperate our sales once customers knew we were open again.

To this day, the store has been very successful, even reaching a million dollars in sales for the fiscal year of 2021. Customers are well-pleased with the service and merchandise.

It is with great gratitude that our Society thanks all involved, from full-time managers and employees to the many steady volunteers who put their love and care in bringing about the success of, "surprise!", the Surprise Thrift Store!



Out and about with Jerry...in beautiful Sedona



Members of our very own Arizona Cardinals spent the day in Sedona helping to bag and distribute food at our very own St. John Vianney Conference. Albertsons/Safeway donated hams and peanut butter.



Current Volunteer Needs

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.

We need your help!
At St. Vincent de Paul, 95% of our workforce are volunteers-like YOU! We really can't do our work without our volunteers. The community works best when we all do it together!

Kitchen Crew

Help our kitchen prepare 4,500 nutritional meals to distribute to our 5 dining rooms and other partner agencies. Volunteer duties may include chopping vegetables, opening cans, packaging food, and cleaning up.

Watkins Main Campus | 2120 S. 3rd Dr, Phoenix 85003

- Monday-Friday 6:30 AM – 11:30 AM, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, or 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Meal Services

Our goal is to serve a warm, nutritious meal with love to 4,500 guests daily. Volunteer duties may include set up, guest greeting, waiting on tables, bussing tables, plating food, and cleaning up.

Family Dining Room | 2120 S. 3rd Dr, Phoenix 85003

- Monday-Friday 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Phoenix Dining Room | 1300 W. Harrison St, Phoenix 85007

- Daily 9:30AM – 1:00 PM
- Monday-Friday 6:00 AM – 8:30 AM
- Fridays 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Sunnyslope Dining Room | 9227 N. 10th Ave, Phoenix 85021

- Daily 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM
- Monday-Friday 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Dream Center

Our Dream Center provides tutoring and educational activities for children who visit our Family Dining Room. Volunteer duties include set up, helping with homework, and assisting with educational activities.

Family Dining Room | 2120 S. 3rd Dr, Phoenix 85003

- Monday-Friday 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

For questions and sign-up information, please contact volunteer@svdpaz.org.

NEWS FROM CUERNAVACA

A visit to Loma Esmeralda

Every time I visit the Society in Cuernavaca, I find that it becomes a new adventure. Each day is taken up in activities that are done on a regular basis by the Vincentians and the volunteers at the SVDP Center. On a Thursday during our visit in January, 2022 we went with the Vincentians to the Rosario Castellanos Primary School in the community Loma Esmeralda.

Loma Esmeralda is a community (barrio) that was created about eight years ago by the federal government from undeveloped land in the municipality of Tepotzlan on the outskirts of Cuernavaca. Its population is mostly Mixtec-Zapotec-Aztec indigenous people who have been resettled from the Sierra de Guerrero Mountains in the State of Guerrero. These indigenous people were seeking better living conditions; but, given the undeveloped state of this area to be settled, it began as a community in extreme poverty. Since there was no government assistance, it became necessary for the new residents to look for services to provide to this new community.

Years ago, at the Community's request, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul began to donate food to their Primary School for lunch for the students. Subsequently, SVDP has taken a major role in improving the school buildings and school grounds. Also, the conferences secured sponsors to assist many of the students with scholarships to help with expenses such as clothes, books, and materials. In addition, seeing the need for food among families there, the SVDP Center began providing food to about 150 residents on a monthly basis. In interacting with the students at the school, it was discovered that there was no library in the school nor in any neighboring communities. Many children had not read or even seen a picture book. To remedy this, SVDP began the Biblioteca Movil (Mobile Library) to bring books to the community on a regular basis.

So, on that Thursday, we were able to observe and participate in a day of activities at the Primary School. About 12 of us traveled by car and van to the area. The group was broken up into teams to distribute food to 150 families, to assist with the Biblioteca Movil, to visit the students in the classrooms, and to dedicate the new sixth grade classroom that had been recently remodeled.

Feeding the families in Loma Esmeralda

The food line



Once a month, the SVDP van brings food for the families. They form a line on the street next to the school. Each family has a card which is stamped as they receive their package.

A package for each family.



Biblioteca Movil day at Loma Esmeralda

The books are brought from the SVDP Center and are sorted by age. Each child returns the books that he or she has read and is helped to find some more. Since this program began several years ago, the Headmaster of the school has noted a significant rise in the reading ability of the students.

Young Vincentians ready to assist



Students are temporarily excused from class in order to return and check out their books, with assistance from The Young Vincentians

Books returned and checked out



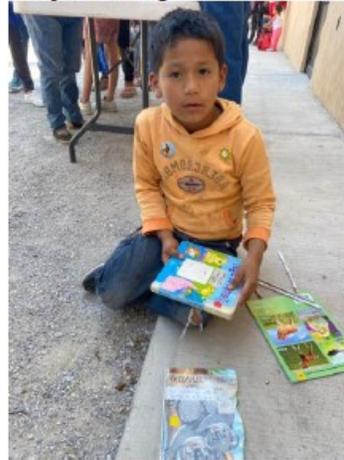
Ana Claudia Perez is in charge of the library. She checks in and out each book and also assists children in selecting a book. She maintains an inventory of books with the assistance of volunteers so that each time the Mobile Library comes to Loma Esmeralda, she is ready to go.

Let's check your reading level



Ana Claudia is checking the reading level of the boy to determine his level of reading...so he can check out the right books from the Mobile Library.

Got just the right books



Dedicating a remodeled classroom.

To remedy a deteriorating sixth grade classroom in the Primary School, donors from Phoenix and Cuernavaca provided funds to turn a dark classroom with no ventilation, except an open window and a leaky room, into a comfortable, well lighted, and ventilated learning space.

The SVDP Council recruited donors to build an additional three classrooms to the original Primary School which originally had only three. However, the sixth-grade classroom needed a make-over. On our Thursday visit, we were able to join the teachers, students, and Vincentians

in dedicating the new classroom. Donors in Phoenix and Cuernavaca provided funds to renovate the existing classroom into a comfortable learning environment.

This is the way to create eye-strain



The ceiling was raised; a new cement roof was installed; the room was painted; and new floor, lighting and a fan were added.

A major makeover.



Happy and more studious



The result: a new classroom and motivation to study. We all celebrated with gifts of school supplies, congratulations, and cake and ice cream.

Celebrating the classroom dedication.



On each visit to the Society in Cuernavaca, we are there to observe, participate, and absorb the way that Vincentians work with the people they serve. Each day of a 10-day visit is programmed so that our time is spent in interacting with the Conference members and staff and volunteers at the SVDP Center, meeting and serving the families and students, and getting to know the community of Cuernavaca.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Intercession Prayer Line

O God, our Father, You alone have the power to bestow those precious gifts of Yours which we rightly call miracles. If it be Your will, be pleased to grant such a gift on behalf of...

ALL SAINTS MESA
Judy Allard
Veronica Nord

**CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION**
Caroline Steele
Bob Bruce

HOLY CROSS
Rose Burmich
Sharon Smith
Martin (Lefty) Wolf

**IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**
James Reed
Mike Vize
Barbara Reed
Lindsey Plas
Lynn Treimer
Lee Martearler
Al and Regina Gilson
Pam Willis
Diane McCann

MOST HOLY TRINITY
Jackie Hennings

OLPH SCOTTSDALE
John Corcoran
Forrest Dougherty
Dale Nickekl
Mary Zarlengo

**OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE**
Joe DiGiovanni

OUR LADY OF JOY
Alan Cisar

**OUR LADY OF THE
DESERET**
Richard Gordon

**OUR LADY OF THE
VALLEY**
Pat Gerencser

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE
Cindy Smith

QUEEN OF PEACE
Susan Petrie
Mary Kay Dunlevy
Martina Bonilla

SACRED HEART—
Dora
Gloria Lopez

ST. BRIDGET
Cheryl Crame
Sandra Jarr
Joe Fellhauer
Vince Gutierrez
Bill Cowperthwait
Terri Lyn Gardner

**ST. DANIEL THE
PROPHET**
Phil Murphy
Don Fraiser

ST. GABRIEL
Jack McAward
Philip Longabardi
Tom Searfoss
Maureen George
Lois Zeph
Dolores Galligan
Carmine Lockwood
Robert Fitzer
Phil Longobardi
Louise & John Fullam
Martha Fitzer

ST. JAMES
Diane Stofko
Abel Noble

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY
SEDONA**
Betty Winick

**SACRED HEART—
PRESCOTT**
Richard Howell
Herb Bourgault

ST. MARGARET MARY
Mary Esquibel

ST. MARY'S BASILICA
Robert Nue

ST. TIMOTHY
Mike Anderson
Margaret Hewett
Karl Rusnock
Thea Podrybau

ST. LOUIS THE KING
Ed & Esther Escarcega
Mario & Mary Fierros

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI
Richard Jessen
Joyce Murphy

ST. GERMAINE
Joe Zambito
Kathy Ferguson
Joe Ferguson
Sandy Smith

**ST. MARGARET MARY-
BHC**
Rev. Peter Dobrowski

ST. MARY—KINGMAN
Patty Couch
Roger and Rita Gaumont
Diane Schatz

ST. MARY MAGDALENE
Nancy Weise

ST. JEROME
Nancy Barnes
Yvonne Hurley

ST. MATTHEW
Evelyn Guerra

ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE
Gene Harmeling
Lucia Mastroianni

ST. JOAN OF ARC
Paul Parent

ST. STEVEN'S
Pat Krause

ST. FRANCES CABRINI
Andre Carrillo
Rosemary McClair

**SVDP EXECUTIVE
OFFICE**

Gus Suhr
Melvin Goldstein
Dan Ricketts
Bill Mulholland
Pat O'Brien
Theresa Alejo
Margaret Pawlak
Dave Najor
Dominic Svorinic
Jon Ehlinger
Louise Kasmikha
Chris Lowrey
Paul Zabilski
Nathan Turner
Steve Howell
Marie Gallego
Greg Ryan
Lisa Eicher
Jagger Michael Diem
Nancy Phalen
Tom Van Boven
Jim Novotny
Joyce Zabilski
Evan Arriola
Ray Daoust
Barb Daoust
Jayden Southern
Robert Jacobs
John Jakubczyk
Peter McQuaid
Kathleen Nageotte
Ed Koval
Nicole Hazen
Mayuka and Family
David Park
Mary Jo Matthews
Lee Matthews
Lloyd Bach

**REQUIESCAT
IN PACE**



Dottie Sullivan

St. Benedict

Bill Tufo

St. Thomas Aquinas

Beth Michelsone

St. Daniel

***May the Angels lead them into Paradise,
may the martyrs receive them at their coming
and lead them into Jerusalem, the Holy City.
May the Choir of Angels welcome them
and, with Lazarus, who was also poor,
may they have everlasting rest.***



THE VINCENTIAN ANNUITY

Supporting
St. Vincent de Paul
not just
for a lifetime,
but **forever.**

SAMPLE ANNUITY RATES

	SINGLE LIFE	TWO LIVES
AGE 60	4.4%	3.9%
AGE 70	5.1%	4.6%
AGE 80	6.8%	5.7%
AGE 90	9.0%	8.2%

A gift through the Vincentian Annuity will give you the security of a fixed income over your lifetime and provide support for St. Vincent de Paul that will last forever.

As an example, Helen, an 80-year-old widow and St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, recently established a \$50,000 Vincentian gift annuity. For her age, the annuity rate is 6.8%, meaning she'll receive \$3,400 annually for the rest of her life. And, she may take an income tax deduction of about 50% of her gift this year. Best of all, her gift will support St. Vincent de Paul's work for generations to come. Annuity gifts start at \$10,000.

TO SEE IF AN ANNUITY IS RIGHT FOR YOU
visit plannedgiving.stvincentdepaul.net.

Take a look at our planned giving tools, including a benefit calculator. To discuss giving options, contact Donna Rodgers at 602-261-6884 or plannedgiving@svdpaz.org.

P.O. Box 13600 Phoenix, AZ 85002 | stvincentdepaul.net



**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.