

## 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

### Mistaken for Jesus!



Matthew Kelly, a popular Catholic writer, opens his book *Rediscover Jesus* with a touching example of Christian kindness. In this story, a businessman and his team members are running out of a building in Brooklyn after a successful meeting. In their haste to catch an available taxi, they knock over a fruit stand. One of the team members named Paul notices that the owner of the stand is blind and has tears running down her face. He tells his team to go on without him and he turns around to help the woman pick up her stand and collect the fruit that has fallen on the ground. He carefully sorts the damaged fruit from the fruit that is still good enough to be sold and hands her enough money to cover the cost of the damaged fruit.

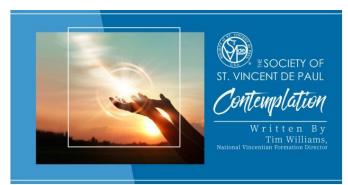
As he walks away in search of another taxi, the woman calls out to him inquiring if he is Jesus. Somewhat startled he replies, "No, why?" The woman explains that she was just wondering because as she heard her fruit falling on the sidewalk, she prayed and asked for Jesus to help her and in an instant he was there.

This team member did what Vincentians across the globe do everyday. We receive a call or see someone or some group in need and respond by stopping and offering whatever assistance we can give. The man in this story did not change the woman's blindness or provide her with a better source of income, but he alone stopped and reached out to do what he could to help her in that moment. His teammates and hundreds of other people simply went about their own business with little thought of this woman and her needs.

As Vincentians, we often lose sight of how much impact even the simplest act of kindness can have on others. Many of the families who reach out to us have physical and financial needs far beyond what we can provide. It can seem like we are doing very little to help them if we can only pay part of a utility bill or rent, bring them a modest food box or sit and listen to the story of a family torn apart by illness, death or deportation. But in that moment, like this young man, we can bring them the love of Christ and the compassion of other human beings.

We have all heard how the greatest gift we bring to the poor and needy is the gift of ourselves, but do we really believe that? If that is true why do we so often struggle when all we can give to a family is a visit and a prayer? In the example above, Paul's greatest gift was turning around and offering a helping hand. It is simple but powerful when we take the time to stop and care. St. Teresa of Calcutta reminds us that we are not called to do great things but simple things with great love.

Love, kindness, respect and compassion must always be the gifts we offer first. Let us keep in mind that when we go out on a home visit, work in a dining room, a thrift store, one of our clinics or the ministry to the homeless, that many of the people that we encounter have prayed for Jesus to help them. Will they see Him in us? Are we bringing the joy and peace of Jesus to everyone we encounter? Ask yourself do people see the face and hands of Christ coming through my attitude and actions? "When was the last time someone confused you for Jesus?"



#### The Light from Within

Saint Vincent de Paul famously said that it is our vocation to "set people's hearts on fire, to do what the Son of God did. He came to set the world on fire in order to inflame it with His love." [CCD XII:215] These are inspirational "marching orders", but what, in a practical sense, do they mean? How do we go about lighting that fire?

As always, our patron teaches that we must focus first on the interior. If we wish to set the world on fire, in other words, we must do so using the fire within our own hearts. When we examine the fire in our hearts, we recognize very quickly that our love, our charity, must be truly all-consuming. This is the love, the charity, that sets the world on fire.

Vincent asks us to examine our charity by its effects. What are the things we do, the ways in which we behave that result from our charity? How will it be known to others (and to ourselves)?

The first thing animated by charity is to do to others as you would have them do to you. How simple that sounds! It is so obviously good as a sentiment that virtually everybody in our culture knows this teaching, from children to the aged, and to one extent or another we measure our acts of kindness by this measure. True charity in our hearts is more than a disposition to kindness. Instead, we cannot help but "to do for our neighbor the good that a person has the right to expect from a faithful friend." [Ibid, 216]

Another effect of our charity is that we bear with one another. No one on earth is perfect; everybody has imperfections and faults. Vincent calls us to examine our own faults, our own failings, and our own weaknesses first. When we realize how much we need the forbearance of others, we will naturally be more willing to bear with the neighbor, who in no case is more in need of mercy and forbearance than we are. As our Rule says, because we are conscious of our own frailty and weakness, our hearts beat with the heartbeats of the poor, and so we do not judge them. [Rule, Part I, 1.9]

In charity, we need not learn to empathize, because we simply "can't see someone suffering without suffering along with him, or see someone cry without crying as well. This is an act of love, causing people to enter one another's hearts and to feel what they feel..." [CCD XII:221]

In charity, our love for the neighbor is for God's sake, and our love for God is for the neighbor's sake, for who loves another has fulfilled the law. Charity is the light within us, the source of the flame that lights the world on fire.

#### **Contemplate**

How often do I act in charity because I simply cannot act in any other way?



# From the Desk of the Conference Resources Committee

#### The Conference Resources Committee has a new Co-Chair.

Join us in welcoming Alley Geinosky. Alley will share the chairmanship of this important committee with Mary Ann Hunter. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Alley or Mary Ann.

#### **Structure & Governance**

The base and foundational unit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the Conference. The membership of each Conference owns and directs the activities of that group. While Councils may have Executive Boards and budgets, Conferences do not. Within the parameters of the Rule and existing bylaws, the membership of a given Conference is in control of all operational matters. The members are called to make decisions through a process of prayer, discussion and consensus. If consensus on a given matter cannot be achieved, a formal vote may be taken. The Conference president in consultation with the Conference members sets the agenda and oversees all meetings with a deep commitment to following the will of the Conference membership itself.

Financial requests for aid to the needy are presented to the Conference for approval. Conference guidelines may preauthorize Home Visit teams to make payments up to a preset amount but requests for funding assistance over that amount should be approved by the membership not by an officer or budget/financial subcommittee. Conferences should always keep in mind that we are called to help the needy that present themselves when they present themselves. Budgeting how much assistance will be given out each week or month is contrary to the Rule of our Society. As Vincentians, we are called to help as many of the poor as our current finances allow when the requests are made and then to wait or God and our donors provide us with more resources.

#### Helping Outside of a Conference's Boundaries

A parish-based Conference's first priority must always be to serve the poor within their own boundaries. According to National Council of the St. Vincent de Paul, "Assistance should be provided to our friends in need in the community in which the parish Conference is located." Neighbors seeking assistance who live in the area of another Conference should be referred to their Conference. If they live in an area where there is no Conference, a Conference may choose to serve them but should only doi so after they have helped all the neighbors who have called for assistance within their area.

#### Conference Resources (continued)

If a Conference wishes to help someone living within the boundaries of another Conference, accepted protocol dictates that the President of that Conference contact the other Conference President and ask for permission to do so. This case often happens when a person is a parishioner in an area other than the parish nearest to their residence. In some cases, the two Conferences may share in the services or funding of assistance. Information on the services and resources given should be recorded by both Conferences.

Conferences with more resources than are needed by the neighbors within their boundaries are encouraged to share their time, goods and funds with other needy Conferences, after all, we are all one family.

#### Remember to be in "Good Standing" a Conference must:

- Hold in-person meetings at least twice a month. Hybrid meetings with a combination
  of in-person and remote attendance to accommodate the needs of homebound
  members may be conducted, however, members attending from out of the parish
  area must meet all full member requirements in order to vote.
- Have an active Spiritual Advisor and include Opening and Closing prayer and a Spiritual reflection at every meeting.
- Have a full slate of conference officers that meet the full enhanced member requirements.
- Follow the SVdP Meeting Agenda for all meetings.
- Have Secretary minutes and a Treasurer's Report at each meeting.
- Obtain verification that all members, volunteers & employees are Safe Environment compliant and approved.
- Provide person-to-person services to our neighbors in need and, as often as possible, through Home Visits
- Conduct home and pantry visits in pairs.
- Be represented at 80% of their District Council and 50% of the Diocesan General Membership Meetings.
- Complete and submit Quarterly and Annual Reports in a timely fashion.

General Membership Meeting December 16, 2023 420 W. Watkins Road Phoenix, AZ 85003



#### Thrift Store Bundle Sunday or Fill A Truck Drive

Our Thrift Stores need your help. Their inventories are in constant need of replenishment. Items that are always needed are furniture, appliances and clothing. Your Conference can help by organizing a *Bundle Sunday* or *Fill A Truck Drive*.

A *Bundle Sunday* or *Fill A Truck Drive* is conducted over a few days or a weekend where your Conference has one or two of our SVdP donation trucks parked in your parish parking lot. During designated days and times, your Conference members collect items donated by your parishioners and area residents.

If your Conference decides to host a *Bundle Sunday* or a *Fill A Truck Drive*, your first order of business is to discuss your plans with your pastor, his designated parish administrator or scheduler to obtain permission and support. Once you have permission from the pastor or his designee, make sure that the event is on the Parish calendar and determine where the trucks can be located.

Next, identify a Conference member or group of members who will coordinate the event. This member and/or the group of members will be responsible for promoting the event, for overseeing the truck drop off/pick up and for securing it afterhours as well as for organizing/scheduling workers.

Once those items have been taken care of, call the normal SVdP pickup number (602-254-3338) to schedule a truck to be at your parish on the days/weekend you have selected. Our Call Center and Transportation Manager provided the following outline of what is expected from the sponsoring Conference.

- 1. Give the Call Center as much notice as possible, with a minimum of two weeks prior to the desired date, to allow the Diocesan staff to schedule the truck drop off and pickup.
- 2. Know in advance where the truck is to be parked. The truck cannot be moved. We do not leave truck ignition keys, only back-door keys. A secure parking space is required.
- 3. Collect extra empty boxes and bags to be used to secure small items. Loose items are often lost or broken during transportation and can be responsible for damage to the truck or other donated items.
- 4. A designated Vincentian will hold the truck's back-door keys and should be sure to lock the truck when it is unattended. The driver will give instructions to the responsible person to leave the keys in a designated spot under the tailgate of the truck at the end of the event.

The Conference is responsible for publicity. Notices in the parish bulletin and neighborhood publications are generally effective. Communication is the key to success. For information on bulletin announcements, contact Vincentian Support Services. Some advertisement pieces are located on the Diocesan web page under VSS.

In addition to being a significant source of merchandise for our thrift stores, *Bundle Sunday* and *Fill A Truck Drives* raise the Conference's profile within a parish and strengthen its ties to parishioners. These local open collection drives are a perfect way for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to provide others with an opportunity to donate and to serve those in need.

## St Elizabeth Seton Conference

## Clothing Drive

Our advocate for the poor has had a September drive for shoes and socks for the needy. She has compiled notes on the drive, plus recommendations for a smoother, more productive drive. First, I will tell you the results of the drive which was held on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of 2023. Advertising was key with bulletin announcement three weeks prior, church screen and verbal announcement two weeks prior, and sign boards out weekend before. Delivery and pick up were cleared with downtown for boxes and flyers were also supplied with detailed information. As stated, athletic shoes and socks were requested for this drive. Shoes were asked to be tied together and if no laces, individually bagged in grocery bags: this worked well. Helpers were asked to save plastic bags and bring them to the pantry. Lots of clothes were received and sent downtown; however, all men's clothing were sent to Santa Teresita. We received 117 pairs of men's shoes,147 women's, combined socks of 1337, combined underwear of 335 and assorted clothing of 451. Santa Teresita received 60 pairs of shoes, 500 pairs of socks, 100 men's clothing and 200 combined underwear. Downtown received 13 boxes of assorted clothing. We also received \$160, and one gift card.

Twenty boxes were ordered which worked out perfectly. Boxes were labeled by

category. Clips held each named category on boxes. The quantity of goods received was recorded on sheets held by clipboards. Quarters were tight in the pantry with all shoes held in one pantry area, overrunning behind the tables, and with socks controlled in another pantry area.

Our advocate has become very efficient, and her drives have been recorded with valuable information for all future drives. If any conferences would like more information on these drives for the needy, please contact our conference as we love to share.

Karen Boeck St. Clare of Assisi



## A Day of Fellowship St. Anthony of Padua

Members of St. Anthony of Padua in Wickenburg started the day by attending 8:00 AM mass followed by coffee and sweet treats in the church hall for fellowship with parishioners. It was well attended.

Father Vinhson's homily was magical. He spoke highly about St Vincent de Paul and all Vincentians. It felt wonderful!

Pictured below is our 90 year old volunteer, Virginia Brinkman with her walker.





# Jubilarians Honored at SS Simon and June

On September 24, 2023, at Holy Mass, five of our conference members were presented the Jubilarian Crucifix by Bishop John Dolan. The recipients were Hilda Cabuto, Mayra Cepeda, Gonzalo DeLeon, Jeff Penney and Beth Penney.

Their reasons for joining the Society vary from pure curiosity about the works of the Society, friends of the family introduced them to the work, or family members invited them. All of them embraced the Mission of the Society and have serve with love to our neighbors.

Their works have been making home visits, meeting with the neighbors in the pantry, trips to the warehouse, shopping for needed food, serving as an officer, helping with the back-to-school program, and preparing Easter baskets for the neighbor children. Our conference is truly blessed to have such dedicated servants.



# JUBILARIANS HONORED AT SAINT CLEMENT OF ROME CONFERENCE



Six dedicated Vincentians were awarded the Jubilarian Honor:

Terri Provenza
Mary Ann Robert
Al Gutauskas
Robert Weiss
Carol Warren
Dolores Balding (not pictured above)

The Jubilarian Honorees (pictured above) were awarded their Jubilarian Crosses after 7:30 am mass on September 27, 2023 at Saint Clement of Rome Parish.

Their Crucifixes were blessed and presented by Fr. Bud Pelletier, assisted by Deacon Patrick Thielen. The mass and reception afterward were attended by several fellow Vincentians.

## News from Dolan Springs



## Unbelievable

#### Good day.

I hope this finds you well. I must share with you what our Conference recently experienced. With financial times getting tougher for everyone we have been anticipating the number of hungry families to increase, and continue to increase. Well, that reality hit this past Friday. To put it in perspective, on 9/8 our Conference fed 194 families. This past Friday we fed 234 families! Our poor rural population is about 2300 with the nearest grocery store 30 miles away.

We are so grateful for the support of the SVdP Warehouse, St. Mary's Food Bank, Conferences, companies and individuals who support us.

Our volunteers are sent from God; spending days before the distribution putting together the food bags and hustling the day we distribute food.

We are so grateful to everyone who helps us to carry out God's work. He does provide.

Charlotte

Our Lady of the Desert - St. Vincent de Paul Conference Dolan Springs

Thanks and Blessings To All Who Help Us!





#### CONFERENCE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT 2022-2023

D	ear	Conte	rence	Presid	lent,
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As we prepare to enter a new fiscal year, it is important for the Diocesan Council to obtain feedback from you so that we can make plans to expand, improve or refine the services we provide to our conferences and their officers. Please complete this brief survey and return it to Sandy Edwards no later than Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your ongoing help and support.

Blessings, Shirley Smalley

Over the past year, what services and/0r resources provided by Vincentian Support Services and/or the Conference Resources Committee have been most useful and helpful to you and your conference?

What services and resources do you think need to be added or strengthened? What do you think is the greatest unmet need in the areas of services and resources?

Over the past year, what services and/or resources provided by the Spirituality & Formation Committee have been most useful and helpful to you and your conference?

What services and resources related to conference spirituality and formation do you think need to be added or strengthened? What do you think is the greatest unmet need in the areas of spirituality & formation for conferences?

## ServWare News

#### ServWare Financial functions

ServWare includes the ability to define Conference financial accounts which can then be associated with deposit entries, expenditure entries and neighbor assistance entries. Once associated, entry of these transaction types will automatically update the account balance in ServWare. Instant update of the account balance allows Conference members to see the running balance associated with an account, so they are aware of the funds available to help those in need.

In addition to the basic transaction entry in ServWare, some additional features include:

- Recording donations and using mail-merge to generate donor tax letters.
- Generating a period Cash-in/Cash-out report, which can be used for the treasurer's report at meetings.
- · Account Reconciliation to the monthly bank statement.
- Calculating the Conference Tithe.

We as a conference are able to record the donor entries, receipts, expenditures, bank reconciliation, home visits, financials, volunteer activity, treasurer reports, district reports and all the way through to the quarterly and annual reports and much more in one program without switching back and forth through files, spreadsheets, etc. As the treasurer, I find ServWare extremely useful.

Claude Halpe – St. Jerome Conference, Treasurer

Any Conference interested in learning more about implementing the financial functions in ServWare, can contact Jenney Clark (<u>iclark@svdpaz.orq</u>).

Jenney Clark

## OFE CLASSES - 2023 ALL CLASSES RUN 9AM - 3PM



Oct. 14 OFE 1 & 2; Oct. 21 OFE 3 & 4 Church of the Resurrection -3201 S Evergreen Rd., Tempe

Jan. 20, 2024 OFE 1 & 2; Jan. 27 OFE 3 & 4 St. Gabriel – 32648 N Cave Creek Rd., Cave Creek

Feb. 10, 2024 OFE 1 & 2; Feb. 24, 2024 OFE 3 & 4 Vincentian Support Services – 420 W Watkins Rd., Phoenix

Apr. 27, 2024 OFE 1 & 4; Apr. 28, 2024 OFE 3 & 4 St. Germaine – 7997 E Dana Dr., Prescott Valley

To register contact: Mary Ann Hunter 928-699-9232 (Text or Call) maryannhunter44@gmail.com

What is needed to register?

Your name; email, phone number, address, and your conference name

## 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 Barbara Velleman

BLESSED SACRAMENT Lee Matthews Eddie and Terry Wilson Pat Galea

HOLY CROSS
Mary Powell
Andy Torres
Dee Shack
Mary Jo Kent
Sharon Culley

IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Michael McCann
Frank Simmons
Rosie Bell
Linda Lee Chambon-Gay
Sue Dori
Scott Marthaler
James Reed
Tom and Barbara Reed
Peg Shandera
Lu Stitt

MOST HOLY TTRINITY
Jackie Jennings

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Lynn Schmidt Joe DiGiovanni

OUR LADY OF THE DESERT
Rita Hughes
Tony Mueller
Valerie Panagopoulos
Peggy Merrill

Duke Merrill Mary Austin Art Austin

PRINCE OF PEACE Greg Roark

QUEEN OF PEACE Susan Petrie Mary Kay Dunlevy Martina Bonilla

SACRED HEART PARKER
Edith Smith
Dora Norris Family
Fr. John Ikponko
Vernon Norris Family
Peggy Knapp
Ana Lopez
Tomasa Torres
Terry Watts
Marmelejo Family

ST. ANTHONY
Kathy McDonald
Cecilia Laubenthal
Marnee Ballay
Cheri Massie
Ken & Lorraine Hesketh

ST. BERNADETTE Mike Smalley

ST. BRIDGET
Cheryl Crame
Joe Fellhauer
Terri Lyn Gardner

ST. DANIEL THE PROPHET Phil Murphy Don Fraiser

ST. GABRIEL
Clare Marion
Jack McAward
Dolores Galligan
Robert Fitzer
Louise Fullam

ST. GREGORY Edd Harrington Beverly Heart

ST. HELEN Charlie & Jean Olds

ST. JAMES
Diane Stofko
Abel Noble

ST. JOHN VIANNEY SEDONA Pam Klauser Kathleen DeWeever Ray West

ST. JOSEPH MAYER Dennis Baile, Sr.

ST. MARGARET MARY Ray Baca Mary Esquibel

ST. MARY'S BASILICA Robert Nue

ST. TIMOTHY
Margaret Hewett
Karl Rusnock
Thea Podrybau
Mike Anderson

ST. LOUIS THE KING Esther Escarcega Mary Fierros ST. CLARE OF ASSISI Joyce Murphy ST. ELIZABETH SETON Bob & Pat Purtill

ST. GERMAINE Don Rien

ST. MARGARET MARY-BHC Rev. Peter Dobrowski ST. MARY—KINGMAN Patty Couch Roger and Rita Gaumond Diane Schatz

ST. MARY'S BASICILA The Boozer Family

ST. MARY-ST. JUAN DIEGO

Zoe Rainey Angie Welsh Winnie Bridgens Carl Cunningham Allen Vaughan Rich Gray Irene Beard

ST. MARY MAGDALENE Nancy Weise

ST. JEROME Nancy Barnes Yvonne Hurley

ST. MATTHEW
Alicia Garibaldi
Carmen Alfonzo

ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE
Gene Harmeling
Lucia Mastroianni
Joan Katchur
Corlaine Mortenson
Philomena Kamara

ST. JOAN OF ARC Paul Parent

ST. FRANCES CABRINI Donna McDonald

ST. THERESA
George Dorley
Twila Stern
Tim Coughlin
Colin Campbell

SVdP EXECUTIVE OFFICE Paul and Claudia Critchfield Jan Hoeschler Reve Holleran Jerry Baily Bruce Talone Sandy Bruner Paula Garlick Dennis Gougion Abagail Etheridge Joan Goldfarb Megan Ford Cannon Jon Lewis Reve Holleran John Lees Bob Ryan Kendra Krause Tommy Pitre Mary Jane Rynd Kevin Conry Dale Lehe Sheila Alvarez Mr. and Mrs. John Bracken **Tegan Searing** Carla Francesca Martin Diane Hoeschler Mike Weigel Mark Hamblin Baby Hailey The Porscha Family Mary Teller **Brock Weatherup** Mary Lou Goldstein Glenda Dubes Judy Edwards Edmund Voyer Bessie McNair Fr. Tom Enneking Melvin Goldstein Bill Mulholland Margaret Pawlak Rob Sobczak Dominic Svorinic Jon Ehlinger Louise Kasmikha Chris Lowrey Paul Zabilski Nathan Turner Steve & Lucy Howell Marie Gallego Grea Rvan Lisa Eicher Jagger Michael Diem Nancy Phalen Tom Van Boven Jim Novotny Joyce Zabilski Jayden Southern Robert Jacobs John Jakubczyk Peter McQuaid Kathleen Nageotte Ed Koval Nicole Hazen Mayuka and Family David Park

Mary Jo Matthews

Lloyd Bach



At our December General Membership Meeting (GMM), the names of our Vincentian recently deceased members will be read out loud and honored with a moment of silence. These faithful members are a large part of our heritage, our mission and who we are. We want to acknowledge them in a very special and prayerful way.

Please submit the names of all full, associate and retired Vincentians from your Conference who have passed away this year. Send the names of those members who have passed away during 2023 to Sandy Edwards at <a href="mailto:sedwards@svdpaz.org">sedwards@svdpaz.org</a> or Mary Ann Hunter at maryannhunter44@gmail.com.

Our Councils and Conferences are strong because of their service and our remembrance is a sign of our love and appreciation. Families of the deceased members are welcome to join us in this remembrance that will immediately follow mass and breakfast.

# These members may be gone from us but they are not forgotten.



## REQUIESCAT IN PACE



## **Frank Barrios**

Former SVdP Board President

## **Ed Curtis**

OLPH Scottsdale

## Lydia Mendoza Rodriguez

Sacred Heart

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.



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%			



FEED, CLOTHE, HOUSE, HEAL,

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 Phoentx, AZ 85002 I stvincentdepaul.net