



THE VINCENTIAN WAY

The Official Newsletter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Long Island

Helping Long Islanders for more than 70 years.



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Our Mission

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to be able to say hello to you, if not in person yet, through this letter. First, I would like to thank Bob Meekins for his guidance and help in my orientation as the Diocesan Council President of St. Vincent de Paul on Long Island. Bob will remain active in the leadership at the Diocesan level.

As we move forward, I would like to thank our Vincentians for their resilience and creativity over the past year and a half. I base this on my observation and experience in these three areas, time, talent and treasure.

Time is a limited commodity. How this commodity was used for its best advantage was shown by your willingness to do what you could with the time given us. This happened because of our creative talents to find ways to continue our mission. These activities initiated the holy moments we experienced and added them to our treasure that we can share with others.

All the Vincentian missionary work during these difficult times did not go unnoticed. Our supporters throughout Long Island showed their continued faith of the Vincentian works of charity with donations and prayers, that have enabled SVDP to help so many neighbors find their way through this unprecedented pandemic.

To everyone in the Vincentian family, parish volunteers, leadership and our longtime supporters in the community, Thank You for dedicating so much time and resources to our Vincentian mission.

May the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Blessed Rosalie Rendu be with you,

Gus Gelardi

Gus Gelardi
Council Board President



Mass of Thanksgiving



Bl. Frederic Ozanam, our founder, once said, **“Our main purpose is not merely to help the poor – this is but a means to an end. Our true aim is to preserve in ourselves the Catholic Faith in all its purity and to communicate it to others through the channels of charity.”**

What better opportunity to demonstrate our Vincentians’ dedication to this aim than coming together for a special Liturgy at St. Agnes Cathedral! On November 7th at 3:30pm, almost 300 members of the Society gathered for a Mass of Thanksgiving, celebrating the years of service they have offered to the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Bishop John O. Barres was the principal celebrant

with Msgr. Jerry Ringenback, our Diocesan Council Spiritual Advisor concelebrating. Bishop Barres offered the following reflection during his homily, “May we as Vincentians, as sons and daughters of St. Vincent de Paul, of St. Louise de Marillac, as sons and daughters of Bl. Frederic Ozanam, give ourselves entirely to God in our neighbor.”

He consistently shared a message of imitating the Saints in our lives. The Liturgy was a unique opportunity to bear witness to the three essential elements of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul: spirituality, friendship and service. The Vincentians in attendance represented our shared ministry beautifully!



Remembering the Past While Navigating a New Path

A Dismas House Story

Kenneth is soft-spoken and reflective, but with a fierce drive to do what he needs to do to continue his journey to a better life. He says **continue** because he realized, while still in prison, that the journey needed to start then and there. Kenneth said, “I had to change my mindset in there to be successful out here.” Waiting until he walked out the doors would be a mistake. Kenneth’s family wanted him to stay with them. While that support system is important, Kenneth believed it was important to find his own way.

At Dismas House, Kenneth found the best of both worlds, he would have the independence to learn to navigate the “outside world” and prepare himself to be independent, but in a more structured environment than a half-way house. He would get help finding a job, getting a new ID, his driver’s license, continue with any support programs he needed, have responsibilities around the house that would make him an accountable member of the Dismas House family!

He also would be surrounded at Dismas House by people that were familiar with the obstacles he would face. It is still an intimidating transition. Kenneth describes the first few sleepless nights

in his new bed. He was scared about how he was going to get from place to place, living in a suburban setting. He knew nothing of cell phones with GPS! He described the frustration of realizing the ID issued from the State Department of Corrections was not helpful to advance his goals. Kenneth speaks with great respect for the people that went out of their way to help prepare him for his parole hearing and ultimate release. The Parole Preparation Project uses trained volunteers to help navigate the parole release process. For an inmate, accepting that these people are there to help and want the best for them is difficult. At first, it is hard to trust. “For me, the more time I spent with them, the more I was able to open up, let them help me,” he remembered. This trust building is also foundational to the success of the Dismas House program. Their kindness has motivated Kenneth to give back, he plans on becoming a volunteer counselor in the program.

Kenneth is happy he chose Dismas House. He needs to be a little selfish right now, focus on himself, finding his way and working hard as he continues his journey. He also reflects, “I feel a responsibility to the people who believe in me and are helping me, from the volunteers in the Parole Preparation Project, to the staff at Dismas House and my family.”

It's Not Too Early To **Save The Date!**



18th Annual Society of St. Vincent De Paul Annual Golf Classic



It's Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas... followed by Golf season! We are proud to announce two outstanding honorees for our 18th Annual Golf Outing – **Greg Demetriou CEO of Lorraine Gregory Communications and Vincentian and former Society of St. Vincent de Paul Board Member Joseph McCarthy.**



SAVE THE DATE



The Outing will be held at the beautiful Huntington Country Club on May 16th, 2022.

To purchase a sponsorship, t-sign or a foursome package please visit our website www.svdpli.org. For more information call (516) 822-3132.



The Spirituality of Succession Planning

“Consider that serving as President of a Conference/Council provides a different platform from which to enhance a leader’s own spiritual life and allows leaders a unique opportunity to promote spirituality in other Vincentians.” Can we, for a moment, consider Servant Leadership a gift to oneself and to others? A way for the primary goal of the Society—to grow in holiness—be emphasized and actively nourished!

In that context, we are blessed to welcome a new Diocesan Council President in Gus Gelardi of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs parish in Centerport and two new District Council Presidents in Maureen Cleary (Nassau South) of St. Mary of the Isle parish in Long Beach and Michelle Fiore (Suffolk South)

of St. Jude’s parish in Mastic Beach. These three Vincentians have chosen to move beyond their individual Conferences and serve the Society in a larger capacity. They bring their knowledge and lived experience as Vincentians over several years to guide our organization and inspire our members to continue the best practices of this shared ministry.

Alongside them are twelve new Conference Presidents who will be stepping into a role they might never imagined for themselves. As a Vincentian leader recently said to me, “God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called.” These twelve heard the call and had the courage to say, “Yes, I will!” Doesn’t that seem familiar?

“Leadership positions in the Society, at any level, are always to be accepted as service to Christ, the members and the poor. Servant leadership is done in imitation of Jesus who said: For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.”(Mk 10:45) The Rule, Statute 11



Friends of the Poor Walk



The excitement at Bethpage Community Park for the 13th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk was unmistakable as hundreds of Vincentians and their friends and family were able to join in person to highlight our mission. After COVID forced an in-person hiatus last year, the park was full of Vincentian Charism of fellowship as we walked to raise awareness and funds to fight poverty on Long Island.

We were thrilled to have the Honorable Bishop Barres in attendance as well as local elected officials Rose Walker, Nassau County Legislator and Assemblyman John Mikulin. This year's Walk raised \$200,000 through individual donations and sponsorships. Presenting sponsors were Steel Equities, Florence Building Supplies and De Marco & Nesi, LLC. At the Advocate Sponsor level was, Peoples United Bank, Mutual of America, King Kullen, Hub Truck, M. Hiller & Sons Educational Bus Company, Kean, Patrick & Mary Velenti, The Hughs Family.

We welcomed several community partners to share their respective organizations' missions and services. Joining us that morning were Catholic Health, Catholic Charities, The Allied Foundation, The Safe Center, United Way and PSEGLI.

This year student volunteers from the Vincentian Conference at St. John's University were joined by Sorority and Fraternity members. Photography and video interviews were done by members of St. John's chapter of the Public Relations Society of America Student Chapter.

A few conferences opted to organize a local walk for their conference. Those conferences were St. Patrick (Huntington) St. Raymond, Tri-Parish Conference (Long Beach), St. Agnes, and St. Rosalie.

Wherever you walked, whatever you donated thank you for supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul event!



And a thank you to the following major sponsors:





Lending support to a neighbor

In the midst of the pandemic, one of our Vincentians, Cindy, encountered an adult woman, who is Autistic.

The woman lived at home with her father, who was failing in health. She was starting to feel anxious about her future should something happen to her father. Due to her disability, the isolation of the pandemic was starting to take its toll. Two of our Vincentians, Dan and Cindy decided to do a home visit to determine if we could be of assistance, not knowing what, if anything, we could offer.

Mostly, they just listened to her describe her anxieties. The neighbor was not always open to suggestions of services, but they left her the information and agreed to visit at a later date.

After one of the visits, Dan was listening to a sports radio station when he heard a commercial about the Winter's Center for Autism. Normally, he would never pay attention to the radio ads, but after a home visit with this neighbor, it resonated with him.

Dan contacted the Center and spoke with a case worker. She described the services they provide, and offered to visit with the neighbor if the neighbor was agreeable to that.

Subsequently, the neighbor's father passed. We learned that her father had friends and colleagues who helped her with final arrangements and settling of the estate. The neighbor was very comfortable with her support system and told us she would contact us if she needed anything.

This may not sound like a very good success story. Rather, it is a story about the spirit of Vincentians lending support to a neighbor in need without supplying money or solving their problems. It was simply being kind and taking the time to listen to someone's troubles. But, it also unlocked a valuable resource should we encounter something like this again. The Winter's Center for Autism could be a valuable resource for Conferences working with a neighbor on the Autism Spectrum.



Planned Giving – Year End Tax Planning

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Long Island and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity without paying income tax. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, or a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

This is a great way to support the mission of the Society today! Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making, and you will pay no income taxes on the gift, up to \$100,000. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions. If you reached the age of 70½ on or before December 31, 2019, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution

for the year. If you turned 70½ on or after January 1, 2020, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution starting at the age of 72. (Note: The RMD requirement has been waived for 2020, per the CARES Act signed into law on March 27, 2020.)

Since the gift does not count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This, in turn, may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security subject to tax.

Don't forget the transfer must be made by December 31st to count against the year's RMD requirement.

Please seek the guidance of your accountant or financial planner for the best way to achieve your goals.



Donations

Thank you to our ACT Monthly Donors

April 2021 - October 2021

The following individuals have made a commitment to give a scheduled amount to the Society monthly.

Joseph S. Berg
 Anthony Tabone
 John Kevin Mulvey
 Kevin J. Kenny
 Robert Meekins
 Sue Koehler
 William "Billy" Fowler

Thomas McCoy
 Daniel Finch
 Dianne Jackman
 Christopher Donnellan
 Glenn Tyranski
 Paul McSloy
 Brenda Mohlin

Carole Stuchbury
 Anne Korchak
 Katherine Peterson
 Samuel Pellegrino
 Anthony Gervasi

Why not ACT? Monthly Giving Program

When you join the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Long Island's monthly giving program you become a part of a special group of people staying connected to "Affect Change Together" (ACT). Much like a family plans and lives on a monthly budget, to be effective, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul does too. We do our due diligence to be prepared to help as many people as we possibly can. Just like our neighbors in need depend on our dedicated Vincentian volunteers, we depend on our generous donors to provide the financial resources needed.

You are invited to ACT (Affect Change Together) today to help neighbors today, tomorrow and in years to come. Join the ACT monthly giving

program and become a partner with us in assisting neighbors in need. By giving monthly, you will help us to have a steady, reliable stream of income to be better prepared to help those in need.

As a member of ACT monthly giving program, you pledge to donate a regular amount each month to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Long Island.

You can choose an automatic credit card charge or an automatic bank account debit. On the 15th of each month an automatic withdrawal will be made from your account. At the end of the year, a consolidated statement will be sent to you acknowledging your annual total gift. Your membership will automatically renew every year.

You can use the enclosed reply envelope to **Join ACT** or you can **call (516) 822-3132** for more information.

Thank You to ALL of Our Donors & Supporters

April 2021 - October 2021

\$10,000 and over

The H.W. Wilson Foundation
 Estate of George Nielson
 Charles Potuzak

\$5,000 - \$9,999.99

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 Haug Partners LLP
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 Steel Equities

\$1,000 - \$4,999.99

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 United Way of Long Island
 Mr. Roger E. Podesta
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 Mr. Gus Patakakis

Mr. John Petitto
 Mr. Joseph S. Berg
 Mr. Ken Schurr
 Mr. Louis G. Sollecito
 Mr. Michael Kmeth, Jr.
 St. Anthony's Conference
 St. Edward Conference
 St. Pius X Conference

\$500 - \$999.99

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 Mary Conway
 Ms. Jennifer Tuschong
 Benjamin Paternoster
 Deacon Thomas Fox
 Evan Thomas Financial LLC
 Fives Smithtown Funeral Home, Inc.
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 Mr. George T. Dreher and
 Mrs. Barbara L. Dreher
 Mr. John Duffy
 Mrs. Dolores H. Thorp
 Mrs. Theresa Attard
 Ms. Barbara L. Bongiorno
 Ms. Neil Miritello
 Notre Dame Conference
 Ocean Financial Federal
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People's Alliance Federal
 Credit Union
 St. Bernard's Conference
 St. Lawrence Columbiettes #2458
 St. Raphael's Conference
 Thomas Albanese

\$250 - \$499.99

Father Lawrence A. Chadwick
 Columbian Home Association
 Dr. John Franco and
 Mrs. Joan Franco
 Mr. and Mrs. Barrett J. Wilson
 Mr. and Mrs. Bello
 Charles Buckley
 Joan Jennings
 Mr. Billy Fowler
 Mr. David P. Rost
 Mrs. Helen Secreti
 Ms. Lisa Canzano
 St. Ignatius Loyola Conference
 Holy Spirit Conference
 Katherine Peterson
 Knights of Columbus 7479
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 Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Leveling
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Deborah
 Abbondandolo
 Mr. and Mrs. Werner Zumbrunn
 Mr. Robert L. Dougherty
 Mrs. Brenda Mohlin and
 Mr. John P. Mohlin
 Rosemary Graziano



In Memoriam

In Memory of Vincentians

April 2021 - October 2021

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

John J. Duffy – St. Martha
 Stephen J. Brosnan – Maria Regina
 Nancy Bianchi – Holy Name of Mary

Joan Bickard – St. Ignatius Loyola
 Joseph Schutta – Our Lady of Lourdes

In Memory of Our Generous Contributors

April 2021 - October 2021

We express our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the following people in whose memory the Society of St. Vincent de Paul received contributions.

Dolores Rizzuto
 Francis A. Meegan
 James H. Evans, Jr.
 Joseph Francavilla
 Meegan Family
 Agatha Ma
 Agnes Yule Wendling
 Alida Gilhooly
 Anita Binaso
 Ann Mullen
 Ashley Espedio
 Audrey Gregory
 Barbara Vossinas
 Barbara W. Melore
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Dominica Cianci
 Eileen Syniec
 Florence Bohink
 Frank Farrell
 Frank George
 Frank Loglisci
 Frank Staganelli
 Frank Caruso
 George Conlon
 Harry Collins
 Harry Singleton
 Helen McCleary
 James Brannigan
 James Evans, Jr.
 Janet Orbe



Memoriam Continued

April 2021 - October 2021

Jim Cruise
 Joan Conway
 Joan M. Bickard
 John Duffy
 John Durkin
 John Pirkel
 Jordan Stanley Meekins
 Joseph Filomena
 Joseph Mazzaraco
 Joseph Pugni
 Joseph Pugni, Jr.
 Joseph Schutta
 Judith A. Canzoneri
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 Paul Ma
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 Rita Luning
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 Robert Steckner
 Rocco Sforza
 Rose Garretto
 Roseann Celauro
 Rosemarie Giovanni
 Rosemarie Hutchins
 Stan Lewis
 Stanley Yule

Terry McLoughlin
 The Evans Families
 The Mahon Family
 The Meagan Family
 Thomas J. Burke
 Thomas Taylor
 Tim O'Sullivan
 Tony Caruso
 Victor Sparaccio
 Vincent Cheffo
 Vincent Paul
 Walter O'Brien
 William Dzanoucakis
 William Mansfield
 William Niclas
 Yolanda Caruso



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
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With your contributions, we're capable of accomplishing amazing things.

2020 by the numbers,



1.8 Million
 dollars raised
 for financial
 assistance



5,372
 people were assisted
 with clothing and
 furniture



\$1,023,645
 worth of food was
 provided at our pantries



\$349,987
 in rental assistance
 was provided to
 individuals



13,259
 person to person visits
 by our Vincentian
 Volunteers



44
 men served at Dismas
 House, our transitional
 home for men returning
 from prison.



**For General
 Contact Main Office**

**Diocesan Central Council
 Bethpage**
 249 Broadway
 Bethpage, NY 11714



**Find Our
 Thrift Stores**

Garden City Park
 2160 Jericho Turnpike
 Garden City Park, NY 11040
 (516) 746-8250

Huntington
 1705 Jericho Turnpike
 Huntington, NY 11743
 (631) 858-0380

We Help People

svdpli.org
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For General Questions or To
 Request Assistance: (516) 822-3132

You can also schedule a furniture pickup
 online at svdpli.org.