

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

(OCIA) Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Previously known as (RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

For adults who are seeking:

- 1. To receive one or more of the Sacraments of Initiation**
(Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist)
- 2. To become Catholic**
- 3. To receive Confirmation only**

**PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY AT 631-732-8445
TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH DEACON SONNY PAGNOTTA**



In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

In the coming weeks, we will begin to share stories of the neighbors that the parishioners' generous donations have helped and this is a recent example:

When we met this family—a mother, father, their 2-year-old, and a 4-month-old—they were in a heartbreaking situation. After living in a shelter, they lost everything they owned to a roach infestation and left with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They managed to secure an apartment with town assistance, but when we visited them on a Friday, we saw they had almost nothing.

The only furniture in their apartment was an old mattress on the floor, where all four of them were sleeping—a dangerous setup, especially for the baby. We knew we needed to act quickly to make their home safe and livable.

In just a few days we were able to give them some peace of mind:

- That Friday, we brought them food from our pantry and went grocery shopping to stock their shelves. We also delivered a Thanksgiving dinner so they could celebrate the holiday.
- We took the family shopping for clothing and made sure they all had warm winter coats.
- By Tuesday, their apartment was furnished with essentials:
 - A new mattress, box spring, and frame for the parents
 - Two dressers and a mirror
 - A sofa, end tables, lamps, and a coffee table
 - A kitchen table with chairs
 - Sheets, blankets, and pillows
- Recognizing the urgent need to protect their baby, we delivered a portable crib that very day. The parents told us a family member was bringing a toddler bed and crib, and we followed up to make sure they arrived.
- To brighten their spirits, we're also planning to bring them a Christmas tree this week.

The family went from having an empty apartment to a home filled with food, clothing, and furniture. Vincentians Josephine and Marianne worked tirelessly to ensure they had everything they needed to feel safe and cared for. We couldn't be prouder of their dedication and the compassion they showed this family.

The Vincentian Volunteers of St. Frances Cabrini

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Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, “Light” has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.

The Gifts of St. Vincent de Paul is to be shared with all of you...

As Vincentians, we are blessed with the opportunities to go out into the community and be of service to our neighbors. It is something that we are only able to do thanks to all of you and your gifts & generosity. It takes so many people to make the gifts a reality for those in need. We help with furniture & bedding, clothing, food, rental & utility assistance, auto repairs, transportation, medical bills and so much more.

A gift is something a person gives with no expectation of receiving something in return. You give to us, with no expectation, as we give to our neighbors with no expectations. It turns out that we do receive a very special gift back from these neighbors and we want to share it with all of you. The smiles we generate, the peace we bring, the prayers we offer, the compassion of just being available to our friends has given us the most special gift of all.

WE CHANGE LIVES....it is that simple.....and as a result, SO DO EACH OF YOU!!

The pure joy of making someone's hour, day, or entire life better than it was can hardly be put into words. **OUR MINISTRY** – we and the parish community, have a lot to be proud of. As you share the joy of the Christmas season, and the joy of every day, let the peace and love of all your beautiful hearts fill you, knowing you are honoring the words and spirit of Jesus Christ: *“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.”*

Thank you all for helping us on this journey and please walk with us as we continue to endeavor to be of assistance to more and more people. Look for our stories every week to see the lives your generosity has changed.

Merry Christmas from Your Vincentian Family and Peace for the coming year!

For anyone who believes they have a Sexual Abuse Claim against an Additional Debtor (parish) arising prior to December 3, 2024, the claim form to submit and related information can be found at <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/drvc/info> under the “Proof of Claim Form” heading. The deadline for filing claims is January 13, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. prevailing Eastern time.

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Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other.

At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring the joy and hope to our “brothers and sisters” who are poor by assisting a number of families, providing them with food, gifts, and helping them pay utility and rent bills. Thank you!

Who you & your support have helped us help.....

A young, single mother had her car stolen while at the gas station, and the thief crashed the vehicle. Her basic liability insurance would not cover the claim, so she had no choice but to Uber both ways to work daily.

She not only could not make all her appointments for the patients she was caring for, but had the added expense of the Ubers that she could not afford. She was already struggling. She made too much money for governmental assistance but not enough to pay her mounting bills.

She called us in a panic, knowing her situation was untenable.

We had her car towed to a repair shop and consulted with auto body specialists, but the car was not repairable.

One of our St. Vincent de Paul “Angels” stepped up to help.

Our good friend Frank, of AAMCO in Medford, offered to repair a used car he had at his shop for her.

Unfortunately, we didn’t have the funds to purchase the car for her so Frank let her take the car with no money down so she could get back to work and is allowing us to pay him for the car over the following four months.

When we told her the news, the young mother wept in utter disbelief and joy. She thought she would never own a car again. Her gratitude was endless.

So, the Society, along with your help and our angel, not only gave this woman her life and livelihood back, but also enabled her to care for more patients.

The gift of your love is endless. Thank you all!!

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Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

The heartfelt results of your compassion.....

A desperate mother contacted us about her 24-year-old daughter and 4-year-old granddaughter, who needed to move due to a domestic violence attack.

Her daughter suffered critical wounds after being shot in the face by her ex-boyfriend. As if that wasn't traumatic enough, the unhinged man also set her apartment on fire.

The young mother needed to relocate but faced difficult challenges. Her landlord wouldn't relocate her until she paid some back rent and fees. She was hospitalized, but it didn't seem to matter.

Her terrible injury prevented her from working during her recovery. Traumatized and homeless, she was out of options.

No one should have to suffer the way this young woman and her young daughter did. We wanted to give them a sense of normalcy and a fresh start to their young lives.

We are happy to share with you that with the help of our Vincentian members and your support, we were able to work with the landlord and settle the prior monies she owed as well as the money needed to relocate her and her daughter into a new apartment.

They are beginning to heal, both physically and emotionally, in a safe environment.

Thank you all for your continued love and support of your neighbors in need.

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After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words.

As you help those who are suffering, know in your heart the truth of the words "you are my beloved in whom I am well pleased".

A single Mom is working so hard to provide for her child.....

She is a young mom with a three-year-old severely handicapped child.

She works two jobs and goes to college at night as she is working towards a teaching degree.

Her child attends special day care.

The father is absent, and they currently receive no assistance from him. She is taking action to try and remedy that. He left the family in September and now she is left trying to handle all the bills on her own.

Unfortunately, due to the stress of work and caring for the special needs of her child, she fell behind in her rent and was facing eviction. She is actively looking for a more affordable place to live but that is very difficult here on Long Island.

Thanks to the love and generosity of our parish family, we were able to pay her December rent & prior late fees so as to keep her and her child safe and secure though the end of the year.

In addition, we are applying for support from our St. Vincent de Paul Society district to try and get the bulk of her January rent paid also.

Thank you to each one of you for all that you do and please keep this young family in your prayers.

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In the Gospel today, at the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus reveals himself to his disciples and they began to believe in him. Everyday, God also gives us signs of his love and so we also can respond in faith and trust.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul becomes a sign of God's love to those who are suffering and you give them reason to believe and to trust.

One of our neighbors is in her late 50's and has some medical issues that left her unable to work. She receives government assistance and is able to take care of her needs and live independently.

One day, she found her car wasn't working and this was a huge obstacle. She doesn't have easy access to public transportation or the resources for ride sharing. She needs her car to take care of her basic needs – like food shopping and doctor's appointments, as well as, for the support of visiting with her family.

One of our Vincentians, Robert, had helped her previously and when he found out about her car problems told our conference about it. Steve and Ron immediately stepped up to visit her at home and find out what her needs were. It turns out that due to the various problems with the car, it wasn't able to pass inspection in the condition it was in, and she was too afraid to drive the car.

In addition to the financial challenge of getting her car back on the road, she was now facing the loss of her independence and the ability to shop & get to her doctor's appointments. So, for the coming several weeks, Steve & Ron would pick her up and take her out shopping and to her appointments.

After a few weeks, we found the "SVdP Angel" we referred to previously. Frank from AAMCO in Medford stepped up, diagnosed and repaired her car, even giving us a discount on the cost of the repairs.

Once the car was repaired, it still wouldn't pass inspection as the car needed to be driven 40+ miles for all the warning lights on the dashboard to go out. So, Steve went to the repair shop and drove the car around town until the lights went out and the car could pass inspection.

Our neighbor was more than just a neighbor, she had become a friend, and her independence had been restored. She was happy and at peace again.

The blessings of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul extend past the generosity of all the support you give us, it is also in the people, like Steve & Ron, who go the extra mile to go out into the community and make dreams come true. Thank you to everyone who directly and indirectly made this possible.

"We proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence."

USCCB COMMITTEES

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In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of scripture: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

In the month of January, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist several families, providing food, furniture, utility and rent, bills, baby supplies, etc. Thank You!

A middle aged woman who lost both her parents within a short time was unable to keep the home she lived in with her parents as it was for ages 65 and over. She contracted Lyme disease when the pandemic started and became very ill. She was also suffering from PTSD, depression & mental illness and was unable to work. She is very educated. She now receives housing assistance and shares an apartment with two other people. She relies on public transportation to see her therapist and psychiatrist. Otherwise, she doesn't go out much.

Her sole companion is her cat, which is therapeutically very good for her. When her cat became ill, she spent her own food money on caring for her pet. She reached out to us and we assisted her with food for herself as well as for her cat (Thank you Chewy.com)

As she is a learned person, trapped in her home by her own conditions, we surprised her by getting her a computer so she could reestablish contact with the outside world.

In addition to finances, furniture & other staple needs, the Society provides a much needed spiritual element that many neighbors we meet are in need of. In addition to praying with our neighbors, we try and build support networks for them and with them.

Debbie & Steve were the Vincentians that assisted her but Debbie and the neighbor have built an ongoing relationship & friendship. The neighbor reaches out to Debbie when she has a need, which sometimes is just to make contact and be heard. A basic need for all of us.

Your generosity helps us attend to the initial needs of the neighbors and it is the beautiful hearts of our volunteers that provide the love & support that is so desperately needed by so many.

Prayer for Hope

Heavenly father, I am your humble servant, I come before you today in need of hope. There are times when I feel helpless, There are times when I feel weak. I pray for hope. I need hope for a better future. I need hope for a better life. I need hope for love and kindness. Some say that the sky is at it's darkest just before the light. I pray that this is true, for all seems dark. I need your light, Lord, in every way. I pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory. To know that even though the world seems upside down, You alone can bring about light from darkness. Help me to walk in your light, and live my life in faith and glory. In your name I pray, Amen.

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In the Gospel today, we learn of the first sword in Mary's heart – the knowledge of her Son's death. Though many would live forever in fear, Mary found courage in faith in the Lord.

Your gift to the poor can bring the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, in loneliness and anxiety.

A 24 year old mother and her 4 month old daughter just received government assistance and moved into an apartment not far from our church. They were living in a homeless shelter with her mother and three siblings. Her mother has been in and out of rehab for many years and her father has had no contact with them. She's all alone with her new child. The apartment was completely empty. She needed everything you could imagine. So far, we have been able to furnish three fourths of the apartment, provide food from Outreach, diapers, formula, towels, plates, utensils, etc. It was the work of 5 people to help this young woman and child get settled.

Try and imagine what it would be like if any one of us, or our family, was that baby – all alone with her mother and no support system. We would all hope and pray for a somewhat normal existence and a chance at the promise of a healthy and happy future.

The blessings of people following in the footsteps of Christ, that's what we would hope and pray for. Those blessings come from the tireless efforts of your Vincentians and the support you all give them.

This case will require ongoing care for the foreseeable future. Please keep this young family and all the people assisting her in your prayers as we all pray for wise and compassionate guidance, as we navigate this challenging situation.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Court St. Frances Cabrini #2438 will hold their regular monthly meeting on Sunday, February 9th at 12 noon in the Parish Center. The highlight of the afternoon will be a very entertaining "PENNY AUCTION" -- Don't miss it -- It's lots of fun -- Refreshments will be served.

All Ladies of the Parish are invited. Come and join us !!

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At times we feel our efforts are useless when there are so many in need. However, not being able to help everyone should never deter us from doing whatever we can to help some. When we put our trust in Jesus, we can do more than we think is possible.

This week consider a donation to the St, Vincent de Paul Society. Your donations help more than you can imagine.

It takes a village..... We have all heard that expression.

Well, it is true and alive right here in our community.

We have shared some truly moving stories with you, but what about the “little stories” and all the people that make them happen?

- the retired woman who was late with her car insurance and was going to be cancelled.
- the retiree whose washing machine broke and couldn't afford a new one.
- the veteran who proudly served our nation yet needed help with a car payment.
- the young mother who needed diapers and wipes for her baby,

How do all these little challenges get handled?

Denise and her dedicated team at Outreach step up to help us help them.

The Knights are there to lend a hand wherever they can, without question or hesitation.

Vincentians like Marilyn, Josephine, Marianne, Kathy C, Kathy P, Steve, John, Joan, Debbie, Ron, Robert, Denise, Deana, Joe, Al, Luanne & Ehm who are out meeting with these people in their homes and helping make their lives just a little bit better.

AND all of YOU, our faithful supporters, who help make all of this happen! Thank you!!

Prayer for Hope

Heavenly father, I am your humble servant, I come before you today in need of hope. There are times when I feel helpless, There are times when I feel weak. I pray for hope. I need hope for a better future. I need hope for a better life. I need hope for love and kindness. Some say that the sky is at it's darkest just before the light. I pray that this is true, for all seems dark. I need your light, Lord, in every way. I pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory. To know that even though the world seems upside down, You alone can bring about light from darkness. Help me to walk in your light, and live my life in faith and glory.

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In the Gospel today, Jesus gives us the blessings of serving the poor, hungry and weeping people, for you will then rejoice and leap for joy. But Jesus also teaches us the decisiveness of choice: blessing or woe.

Choosing to help those who are suffering will fill your heart with the blessing of Jesus and indeed your reward will be great in heaven.

The perils of work-related injuries.

She is a successful management employee who was on a bus for work-related meeting. The bus was in an accident and the woman suffered shoulder and spinal injuries, leaving her temporarily disabled. She has to attend various doctor & rehab visits weekly and monthly.

In addition to the physical challenges she faces, there is financial hardship. Since she was injured at work, she receives workers compensation insurance, which is not enough to pay her bills.

After exhausting several sources for assistance, she called SVdP and we came to her home to meet with her and see if we were able to be of assistance to her.

She was at risk of losing the car she needed for medical treatment and work, when she recovers, as well as the back rent on her apartment. Both of these bills were mounting since her injury.

With the guidance of Vincentians John & Joan, they were able to guide her to Outreach for assistance with food and household needs as well as taking care of one month's car payment and rent payment. The immediate relief of these mounting pressures helped her on her road to recovery.

She still faces the physical challenges of her injuries and the monthly financial shortfall. We will stay in touch with her and try and support her as our resources permit.

Thank you for your ongoing generous support, which enables us to continue to assist our neighbors.

Please keep all of the neighbors we assist in your prayers, as we keep you in ours.



**Congratulations to the following students from
St. Anthony's High School for their Academic Achievement:**

Matthew Cosenza and Francis Valisno

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In today's Gospel Jesus gives us the challenge to: "Love your enemies... Give to everyone who asks of you... Do to others as you would have them do to you... Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

All the parish ministries serve a purpose. At SVdP, our purpose is to go to the people in need and visit them in their homes. We get to know them and their challenges and work to make their lives a little better. We are not permitted to donate to other organizations or charities. All of the donations we receive have to go directly to the benefit of the individuals in need. How do you help us in our mission?

- Your generosity on a monthly basis during our parish collection and individually as you can.
- Your desire to come to a meeting and decide if you would like to partner with us in our mission.
- You can donate your used furniture to the Society thrift store – they come to you and pick it up. Their # is 631.858.0380

What does your furniture donation do? The thrift store sells the furniture to the public as a source of generating operating money for the entire Society across Long Island. Specifically, when we go to visit a neighbor that needs furniture, we arrange for the thrift store to deliver it directly to the neighbor and we, the St. Frances Cabrini conference, pay ½ price for it.

For the year 2024, we spent \$63,275 directly helping members of the community. Of that amount - \$30,664 was spent on rental & utility assistance.

\$18,234 on furniture & bedding – that is our ½ price cost-total furniture would have been \$38,302

\$14,377 food, clothing, auto repairs, insurance, medical, etc.

We have ambitious goals and plans for 2025 and beyond!! Our only limitations are the number of people willing to join us and the resources available to offer that assistance. Please continue the journey with us by donating as you can to our conference, sharing your used furniture with the Society and joining us on the journey.

Thank you for all that you give and do. None of this would have been possible without the love and support of each and every one of you! May your days be filled with love and peace, knowing you have made such a huge difference to so many!

50's Dinner Dance - Save the Date



The Columbiettes are having their 50's Dinner Dance on April 26th from 6-10 PM. Save the date and enjoy an evening of dance and delicious food from Bella Roma.



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In the Gospel today, Jesus uses images in speaking to his disciples: "Can a blind man act as guide to a blind man?...Why look at the speck in your brother's eye when you miss the plank in your own?...A good tree does not produce decayed fruit..."

It is true that donations come to the Society because a good person produces goodness from the good in their heart.

We have been busy assisting many neighbors with various needs.....

-A woman's bed had completely disintegrated with exposed springs. We were able to get her a new mattress, boxspring, frame and complete bedding.

-An elderly person needed a kitchen table & chairs, an end table and a recliner to help with their back injury.

-A medical worker who depends on her car to get to her home healthcare patients needed a serious engine repair or she would be out of work. We had it repaired in one day.

-Two neighbors faced PSEG electric SHUTOFF - we were able to keep the lights on for both of them.

-Two sisters faced a last minute need for rental assistance or they would be homeless that week. Along with Outreach, we were able to get them into their new apartment.

There are an increasing number of neighbors in need. The most heartbreaking are the ones we are unable to help. We hope the parish community knows how much of a difference your generosity & support mean to those less fortunate. We thank you all!!

If you need any assistance, information or would like to come to a meeting to consider joining us., we can be reached by telephone at 631.984.3961 or email at: SVDP.CABRINI@gmail.com or mail to: St. Vincent De Paul—St. Frances Cabrini PO Box 115 Coram, NY 11727

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- 3. To receive Confirmation only**

**PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY AT 631-732-8445
TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH DEACON SONNY PAGNOTTA**



In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Your gifts to St. Vincent de Paul will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.

Thank you to all who attended the Knights of Columbus breakfast last weekend in support of our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Your ongoing support has continued to provide support for those in the community in need of assistance.

A woman was behind on her rent by one month and came to us for assistance.

She had suffered several setbacks over the prior years.

Her marriage of thirty years had ended.

She spent the last decade supporting her struggling spouse with drug, alcohol, rehab and legal issues.

In addition, she was putting their daughter through college.

She sold her car and purchased an older used car. She used the money to finish paying tuition and was now just short of the finish line, she needed help with one month's rent.

Another life changed for the better!

Blessings to all of you for helping us help another family heal and move forward.

Palm Crosses are coming!!!!

We will have samples for you to see in the coming weeks so as to place your orders in time for the holiday!!!

Sanctuary Lamp

*In Loving Memory of
Arthur Rietmann*



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

(OCIA) Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Previously known as (RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

For adults who are seeking:

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Lent is a call not just to “give up something” but more important to “give something for the poor.” Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor.

The numbers are increasing...a blessing and a curse.

We have been seeing more and more families coming out of shelters and into housing thanks to local grants. Truly a blessing and a positive step forward.

Unfortunately, the curse is they normally have very little in the way of possessions.

The Department of Social Services have provided beds for our latest two families, which is a great start, but the families have no furniture of any kind and very little housewares..

Bottom line—we are scrambling to help them. This past week we had to put a family on hold due to our lack of resources. Any assistance you can offer is greatly appreciated.

We don't do a lot of fund raising. Most of our efforts are spent directly with those in need so your continued generosity is so appreciated and needed.

In an effort to generate help for more neighbors, we will begin selling Palm Crosses. The crosses are generally loved by most and will hopefully provide us with the funds to help another family. The crosses cost \$15, the same as last year.

They will be available after all the masses starting March 22nd. They will be available for immediate pick up and or ordering—so get them while they last!!

Let's bring joy to as many as we can, each & every day, especially during this Easter season!

Lenten Concert

Sponsored by the Parish Family Ministry

April 5th

7pm

Join us in the Parish Hall on April 5th at 7pm as we listen to Chris and Peter Catalano lead us in prayerful hymns as we near the sacred Triduum. Following the concert a light Passover meal will be served. The concert is free, but good will donations will be accepted.

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In today's Gospel Jesus is quite clear in his message: "bear fruit or be cut down." This Lent we are called to cultivate and fertilize our spiritual lives through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime or quarter is multiplied by the coins placed by others in the monthly St. Vincent de Paul collections.

The continued support of the Parish community is helping in so many ways....

- the car repair kept a home health aide on the road, providing much needed care for their patients.
- the PSEG assistance that kept the lights on for a family.
- the Stop and Shop food assistance for a family of 8 that got them through a tough month.
- the rent payment for a family facing difficult challenges and seasonal work.

On an encouraging note—the very first posting we made last year about a family in crisis coming from a shelter with literally the clothes on their back—they are doing well. The one parent has gained steady employment and the child is getting the medical attention they desperately needed.

As we have said—**YOU help change lives!!**

We hope you are all as proud of these accomplishments as we are!!

You are all always in our prayers and please keep our neighbors in need in your prayers, too!!

Catholic War Veterans

MEETS THE 2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10AM
32 CROWN ACRE RD
CENTEREACH, NY 11720

ALL CATHOLIC VETERANS ARE WELCOME
CONTACT: VINCENT ZECCA, COMMANDER: PAPAZECCA@AOL.COM



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In today's Gospel the prodigal son repents and finds mercy in the heart of his father. Know that your penance during Lent can give the poor the grace of finding the merciful heart of God the Father.

What a difference your love makes.....

SVdP Long Island, the "headquarters" for Suffolk & Nassau SVdP Conferences, is again advertising your good works as an example of the love you have for your neighbors. In their March newsletter, we were story #1. You should all be so proud of the lives you continue to change and the impact you each have.

We just received a new request for assistance.

A person was evicted from the home they were living in and paying for because their sibling didn't pay their portion of the rent and never told them. So, this person and their two children were sent to a shelter and their mother who is ill was split up and sent to another shelter. We are trying to reunite the family and keep them in the same school district the children have been in so as not to disrupt their young lives any further as well as to care for their ill parent.

We will keep you updated and know that this is a continuing example of what your heartfelt generosity accomplishes.

Thank you all and let's make it a Blessed Easter for everyone!!!

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In today's Gospel, Jesus is the model of compassion and kindness. He shows us how to be merciful and nonjudgmental.

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and mercy into our hearts and into the hearts of those suffering in poverty.

The unfortunate cost of putting your family first.....and the success that followed.

A 26 year old woman with her own apartment and life here in the community was suddenly faced with the challenge of her out of state parent becoming very ill. She followed her heart and went to her sick parent to attend to their care.

As a result, she was forced to take a leave of absence from her job for several months and fell behind in her rent.

She came home and reached out for help, which included getting a second job to help catch up on her obligations.

With the help of the Vincentians from the conference at St. Frances Cabrini, the neighbor in need , was able to avoid eviction and remain in her apartment.

She is starting her 2nd job and getting her life back on track. A successful outcome with a positive future. Many prayers were answered. Thank you all for your kindness & generosity.



Mother Cabrini Knights of Columbus No. 7278

**Annual Membership Drive
For Information Please Call:
Richard J. Gallagher, PGK, FDD
Membership Chairman
631-732-5176**



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Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life.

As you make a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who carry their cross of suffering and pain.

What does a happy & healthy home and life look like? Dreams of our next vacation, or the car, new furniture or clothes we want. Or maybe that new restaurant to go to. .

For an increasing number of people, their dreams are being measured in days, or even hours. Days they are late in their rent payment, days until they can afford to buy groceries for their families, hours spent looking for that second or third job to try and make ends meet.

This frustration and pain often leads to an increasing feeling of hopelessness & despair. The need is everywhere and increasing. You don't have to look far, but you do have to look.

This past week we were able to assist a mother and her two children to have beds to sleep in and new sheets and blankets as they begin their new life with the hope for a better future.

Please keep the neighbors in need in our community, in your hearts and prayers as they hope to have the same dreams that you do. We are all one in the body of Christ.



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Today as we celebrate the feast of Easter, like Mary Magdalene and the Disciples we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection.

As you make a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you help those who are poor and hungry to “see and believe” in the Resurrection.

While we gather with family & friends to celebrate this most Holy Day and time of year, let us remember those who are not able to celebrate.

There are individuals and families - parents, grandparents and children - struggling to pay their rent or utilities or provide for basic needs and living in the constant stress of financial and food insecurity.

On a daily & weekly basis, we continue to meet people eating and sleeping on the floor, in need of beds, bedding, tables and lamps. The things you and we would consider the basics of life, are luxuries to others.

We, at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, want to thank each and every one of you for your heartfelt prayer and generosity in partnering with us to help those facing these challenges.

As you celebrate today, and everyday, always remember the **lives you have helped change** and join us in bringing that peace to more neighbors and families.

May God Bless you all. Happy Easter from our Vincentian family to you and your family.



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**Congratulations to the following students from
St. Anthony's High School for their Academic Achievement:
Matthew Cosenza and Francis Valisno**

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In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!" Indeed, the mercy of God centers our heart in peace.

In the month of April, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help the poor celebrate the peace of Easter. Thank You!

Easter prayers were answered, again and again.....

A woman, with two children at home, was facing eviction.

She reached out to us just days before her court appearance.

She has had a challenging life, marked with adversity, mental health & medical challenges, yet has provided for her family.

While she receives public assistance, she fell behind in her rent in an unforgiving rental world along with the challenges of constantly increasing food prices.

Thanks to the quick response of two of our Vincentians and the SVdP District we are within, we were able to secure the funds to settle her past rent and help her in the current month to get back on track.

Blessings abound as another neighbor and their family are safe in their home again.

Sanctuary Lamp

In Thanksgiving for Father Gil



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In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples in their struggle finally recognize Jesus and proclaim "It is the Lord!"

Have you considered answering the call to "help the poor recognize the Lord in their life" by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

Are you looking to make a difference in your life?? In the lives of others??

We are always welcoming new members to our Vincentian Family!!

To find out more, email us at: svdp.cabrini@gmail.com or call us at 631.984.3961

We have a single mother with two children who works fulltime to care for her family. Her lease was expiring at the end of last month and if she didn't catch up on the rent and charges, she would face eviction. To make it worse, if that is possible, she would lose her public assistance and not be able to provide a home for her and her children any longer.

Thanks to the love of our parish community, and the Grace of God, we were able to make an arrangement with the landlord to assist in part of the past due balance now and the remainder in two weeks. This enabled our neighbor to renew her lease and keep her assistance in place.

We, along with our family of ministries, look forward to sharing our appreciation and gratitude for your sacrifices next weekend as we celebrate the mothers of our parish with you!



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Message from Pope Francis to Vincentians



Dear brothers and sisters,

On the occasion of the fourth centenary of the charism that gave birth to your Family, I would like to extend my words of gratitude and encouragement and to emphasize the value and relevance of Saint Vincent de Paul today.

He was always progressing, open to seeking God and himself. Grace worked to supplement this constant quest: as a shepherd, he encountered Jesus the Good Shepherd in a striking way in the person of the poor. This occurred in a very special way when he allowed himself to be touched by the eyes of a man thirsting for mercy and by the situation of family lacking everything. At that moment, he was deeply moved by Jesus looking at him, inviting him to no longer live for himself, but to serve Jesus wholeheartedly in persons who are poor, whom Vincent de Paul would later call “our lords and masters” (*Correspondence, Conferences, Documents XI*, 349). His life then became steadfast service, up to his last breath. A verse from Scripture showed him the meaning of his mission: “The Lord has sent me to bring the Good News to the poor” (cf. *Lk* 4:18).

Burning with the desire to make Jesus known to persons who are poor, Vincent passionately dedicated himself to His proclamation, particularly through popular missions and most especially by attending to the formation of priests. He quite naturally used a “little method”: speaking first of all through his life and then with great simplicity, in a familiar and direct way. ***The Spirit used him as an instrument to raise up a generous impulse in the Church.*** Inspired by the first Christians who were of “one heart and mind” (*Acts* 4:32), Saint Vincent founded the Confraternities of Charity in order to care for those most in need. They lived in communion and joyfully offered their possessions, convinced that Jesus and persons who are poor are the most valuable treasures and that, as he liked to repeat, ***“When you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus.”***

This “little mustard seed” sown in 1617 developed into the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity, branched out into other institutes and associations and became a great tree (cf. *Mt* 4:31-32), your Family. Everything, however, began with this little mustard seed. Saint Vincent never wanted to be a hero or a leader but a ***“little seed”***. He was convinced that humility, gentleness and simplicity are the essential conditions for embodying the law of the seed that gives life by dying (cf. *Jn* 12:20-26). This law alone makes Christian life fruitful. According to this law, in giving we receive, in losing our lives we gain them and in remaining hidden we shine. He was also convinced that ***he could not do this alone but rather together***, as Church and as the People of God. On this point, I enjoy recalling his prophetic insight of valuing the ***exceptional feminine qualities shown in Saint Louise de Marillac’s spiritual sensitivity and human understanding.***

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (*Mt* 25:40), says the Lord. At the heart of the Vincentian Family is the search for “those who are the poorest and most abandoned” and a deep awareness of being “unworthy of rendering them our little services” (*Correspondence, Conferences, Documents XI*, 349). I hope that this year of thanksgiving to the Lord and of going more deeply into the charism might be an opportunity to quench your thirst at the source, ***to refresh yourselves at the fountain of the spirit of your origins.*** Do not forget that the sources of grace from which you drink sprang from steadfast hearts firm in love, from “lasting models of charity” (BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical letter *Deus caritas est*, 40). You will contribute the same freshness only if you look toward the rock from which everything gushed forth. This rock is Jesus in His poverty, whom you should recognize in those who are poor and voiceless. For He is there. And you, when you meet fragile people broken by past difficulties, you in turn are called to be rocks: not to appear hard and unshakable, nor insensitive to sufferings, but to become a secure support, firm in the face of the uncertainties of the times and resistant in adversity because you “look to the rock from which you were hewn, to the quarry from which you were taken” (*Is* 51:1). You are thus called to reach out to the peripheries of human existence to bring not your skills, but the ***Spirit of the Lord, the “Father of the Poor”***. He scatters you throughout the world like seeds that sprout in arid

land, like a balm of consolation for the wounded, like a fire of charity to warm so many hearts cooled by abandonment and hardened by rejection.

In truth, all of us are called to drink from the rock of the Lord and to quench the thirst of the world with the charity that comes from Him. Charity is at the heart of the Church; it is the reason for its action, the soul of its mission. "Charity is at the heart of the Church's social doctrine. Every responsibility and every commitment spelt out by that doctrine is derived from charity which, according to the teaching of Jesus, is the synthesis of the entire Law" (BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical letter *Caritas in veritate*, 2). Following this path will make the Church ever more fully the mother and teacher of charity, with a love that increases and abounds for one another and for all (cf. *1 Thes 3:12*): harmony and communion within the Church, openness and welcome toward those outside. The Church must have the courage to give up what might be an advantage in order to imitate in all things its Lord and to fully become itself, making the apparent weakness of charity its only reason to boast (cf. *2 Cor 12:9*). The words of the Council, so relevant today, resonate in us: "Christ Jesus... 'being rich, became poor' for our sakes. Thus, the Church, although it needs human resources to carry out its mission, is not set up to seek earthly glory, but to proclaim, even by its own example, humility and self-sacrifice. Christ was sent by the Father 'to bring good news to the poor'... Similarly, the Church encompasses with love all who are afflicted with human suffering and in the poor and afflicted sees the image of its poor and suffering Founder. It does all it can to relieve their need and in them it strives to serve Christ" (ECUMENICAL COUNCIL VATICAN II, Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*, 8).

Saint Vincent did this all throughout his life and speaks still today to each one of us and to us as Church. His witness invites us to seek always, ready to let the Lord's Word and His eyes upon us surprise us. He asks us for poverty of heart, total availability and obedient humility. He impels us to fraternal communion among ourselves and to courageous mission in the world. He calls us to free ourselves from complex language, self-centered rhetoric and attachment to material goods, which might appease us in the short term but do not give us God's peace and are even often obstacles to mission. He encourages us to invest in the creativity of love with the authenticity of a "heart which sees" (cf. BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical letter *Deus Caritas est*, 31). Charity, in fact, is not satisfied with good practices of the past but is able to transform the present. This is all the more necessary today with the ever-changing complexity of our globalized society where some forms of charity or assistance, although justified by generous intentions, risk supporting forms of exploitation and illegal activity and do not produce real and sustainable progress. For this reason, envisioning charity, organizing close relationships and investing in formation are timely lessons from Saint Vincent. His example, though, also encourages us to give time and space to persons who are poor, to those suffering from the new forms of poverty of our time, to the too many people living in poverty today and to make their thoughts and difficulties our own. A Christianity without contact with people who suffer becomes a disembodied Christianity, unable to touch the flesh of Christ. Encounter persons who are poor and give poor persons a voice so that our culture focused on the ephemeral does not reduce their presence to silence. *I ardently hope that the celebration of the World Day of the Poor this November 19 will help us in our "call to follow Jesus in his own poverty," becoming "an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need" and reacting "against a culture of discard and waste" (Message for the First World Day of the Poor, "Let us love, not with words but with deeds", June 13, 2017).*

I pray that you and the Church may be granted the grace of finding the Lord Jesus in your brother or sister who is hungry, thirsty, a stranger, stripped of his clothing and his dignity, sick and imprisoned but also doubting, ignorant, persistent in sin, afflicted, crude, ill-tempered and annoying. In the glorious wounds of Jesus, may you find the strength of charity, the happiness of the grain that gives life by dying, the fecundity of the rock from which water gushes forth, the joy of coming out of yourself in order to go out into the world, free from nostalgia for the past, confident in God and creative regarding the challenges of today and tomorrow because, as Saint Vincent said, "love is inventive to infinity".

From the Vatican, September 27, 2017 Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul

Franciscus

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Today, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday" where we reflect on the care and love of Jesus for us.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.

Emergency Conditions Remedied in time for a Happy Mother's Day.....

A working mother with a toddler at home had an apartment that became overrun with mold. The landlord would not provide any relief.

It escalated to the point that the mother and baby were placed on asthma pumps and steroids to assist them in breathing while they sought a solution.

Through the tireless efforts of Denise, we procured the necessary funds to get her and her child into a new, safe and clean environment.

This was not only a story of lives changed, but very possibly lives saved.

Today, we especially celebrate the Mother's who care for all of our families, both near and far.

Thank you all for your continuous support that helps make all that we do possible!!



Altar Flowers

Happy Mothers Day Mom

Love,

Linda & Ray

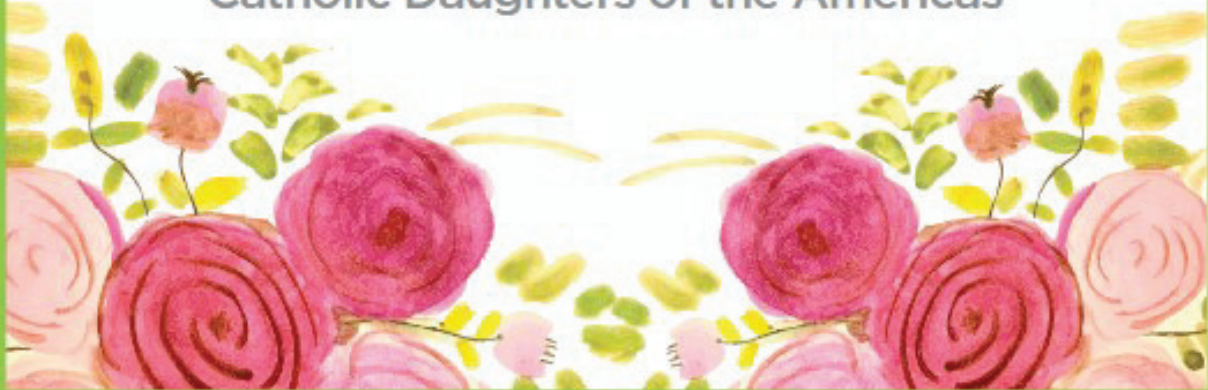


To All the
Amazing Mothers,

HAPPY
*Mother's
Day*

**Thank you for your endless love,
support, and everything you do.
We celebrate you and your
incredible contributions to
our lives and the community.**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Knights of Columbus
Columbiettes
Parish Outreach
Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Home Visit Highlight: SVdP Delivers Hope for the Holidays to Long Island Family

NO COMMENTS / 2 LIKES

Home Visit Highlight: SVdP Delivers Hope for the Holidays to Long Island Family



No family deserves to spend the holidays sharing one mattress on the floor of their apartment.

Josephine Melton-McGovern and Marianne Simpson, two volunteers for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, couldn't believe what they saw last November when they first stepped inside the apartment of a family of four in Long Island. The room was barren—no furniture in sight, just a single mattress where the mother, father, and their two young children, a two-year-old and a four-month-old, all slept together.

“I saw it as a safety issue, especially for the four-month-old,” said Josephine. “I explained it to the mother, and she was all ears. She understood what I was saying.”

That same day, Josephine and Marianne helped deliver a donated portable crib for the baby. The next day, they stocked the family's shelves with food and drawers with clothing. Within three days, the family's apartment was fully furnished with a new mattress, box spring, and frame, along with blankets, sheets, pillows, two dressers, a sofa, end tables, a coffee table, and a kitchen table with chairs.

Two days later, the family also enjoyed a real Thanksgiving dinner, thanks to a turkey and fixings provided by SVdP.

“All [the mother] kept saying was ‘Thank you! Thank you!’ They were so grateful. We were so glad they had a nice Thanksgiving – I was so worried about that.”

As part of their Vincentian charism, Josephine and Marianne serve families like this every day. They know that a lack of bare necessities is the grim reality for many who have lost their homes or are on the brink of homelessness. This family had recently moved out of a shelter and into an apartment—a success story in the minds of many organizations. But they had also lost all their belongings due to a roach infestation.



Marianne and Josephine visited the family as part of a Home Visit Encounter, a core tenet of SVdP's work. In the Home Visit, Vincentians go in pairs to visit those they serve. In doing so, they are able to assess the family's situation in a way that many other charitable organizations are not. Because of that Home Visit, Marianne and Josephine were able to discern that the family needed more than just a new mattress.

Michael Bedell, president of the St. Frances Cabrini Conference for SVdP, learned of the Long Island family's needs from a questionnaire they filled out on the organization's website. He then gave them a call to get more information and schedule a Home Visit. The family is one of 65 that he and his Conference have administered Home Visits for in the last year.

“We're calling each family and are basically saying to them, ‘Is there anything we can do for you during the holidays?’” said Michael. “It might be a ham, it could be a toy, it could be anything ... but we try to put those touches on people so they can have a good holiday. We also recognize that Christmas can't end in December. It's got to go all year round.”

And it does. Every day, SVdP Councils and Conferences all over the globe are helping individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness – through services such as rent and utility assistance, shelters, food pantries, thrift stores, pharmacies and medical clinics, and much more.



“I feel so fortunate to help because I’ve been in that situation – I raised five children on my own,” Marianne said. “I know what it’s like to have to reach out, go to the church, go to social services – all of those things. The more people that I can help to not have to go through that, the more it makes me feel good.”

SVdP USA flips the traditional model of a nonprofit in the homelessness services sector. Instead of vulnerable individuals having to go out and seek things like food, clothing, and support, SVdP’s Vincentian volunteers come to them via the Home Visit, providing tangible assistance, a listening ear, and friendship.

Bedell says it’s the instinct of a Vincentian to go out and serve.

“We all do it from our hearts with no expectations,” he said. “But when we give, we also receive back. We all close our eyes at night knowing that we changed a life. There is no better feeling in the world and it is a feeling more people should seek.”

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

One of the following



Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA opens advocacy office in Washington D.C.



04-03-25 A Letter From Our Servant Leaders



Op-Ed: Why the next homelessness crisis is so perilous — and how we must respond



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

(OCIA) Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Previously known as (RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

For adults who are seeking:

- 1. To receive one or more of the Sacraments of Initiation**
(Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist)
- 2. To become Catholic**
- 3. To receive Confirmation only**

**PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY AT 631-732-8445
TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH DEACON SONNY PAGNOTTA**



In the Gospel today, Jesus says “I give you a new commandment: love one another....This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you show that you have love for one another, especially those suffering and poor, and that indeed you are the disciple of Jesus.

Statement from John Berry, National President, on the Election of Pope Leo XIV

The moment a new Pope steps onto the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica for the first time is always a powerful reminder that the Catholic Church endures and that the Holy Spirit is not finished with us yet. On behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA, I offer heartfelt congratulations to the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. We assure him of our prayers, our support, and our continued service to those in need as we are called to do by the Gospel.

Pope Leo XIV’s election is a moment of profound hope for the Church and the world, as he is entrusted with leading the faithful into a new era of grace, mercy, and renewal. As with Pope Francis, the papacy of Pope Leo XIV offers us an opportunity to further unity, deepen compassion, and strengthen our shared call to serve our neighbors—values that lie at the heart of the Vincentian mission.

The Society has always followed the Gospel path of encounter — walking with the poor, the suffering, and the forgotten. As the largest lay Catholic organization in the world, we are the hands and feet of Christ in our communities — in the homes we visit, in the meals we serve, and in the listening ear we offer. Pope Leo XIV’s witness to humility, simplicity, and care for the poor resonates deeply with our Vincentian spirit.

We see in this new papacy an invitation to continue to grow and deepen our commitment to works of mercy, solidarity with the vulnerable, and the living out of Catholic social teaching — not only in words, but in deeds. In the coming days and years, we are eager to listen, to learn, and to labor for the Kingdom of God — side by side with Pope Leo XIV, the clergy, religious, and laypeople across the globe. May God bless our new Holy Father; may his papacy bring light to a searching world; and may we all be renewed in faith, in mission, and in love.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Court St. Frances Cabrini #2438 will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 20th at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center. We will be having our ANNUAL BABY SHOWER. Refreshments will be served. All Ladies of the Parish are invited. Come and join us!!

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In the Gospel today, Jesus says to us: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

In the month of May, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the love and care of Jesus to the poor

See the face of Christ

As we grow in Holiness through service.

Be the face of Christ.

To those in need we serve

**Learn more, and join us in spirituality,
service, and friendship!!**

**Call us at 631.984.3961 and come to a meeting to learn more and
consider adding to your life with service to others!**



Keep all who have fought or
continue to fight for our
freedom in your prayers
today and always!

Have a safe and happy
Memorial Day weekend

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As we celebrate the Seventh Sunday of Easter we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples... and now through us.

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and into the hearts of those who are poor.

Your Love Touches Many Lives.....

We helped a very sweet middle aged neighbor with mental health challenges who is unable to work. She had been having her meals at home on the floor. We provided her with a kitchen table and chairs and a sofa. She was extremely grateful when the furniture arrived and called us immediately to express her excitement and joy.

A totally disabled middle aged neighbor sought help to secure a bed for his son. The neighbor's disability is multi-systemic. (orthopedic and cardiovascular). He has a very limited income. His son had been sleeping on a box spring on the floor.

We secured a new twin bed, frame, boxspring and bedding for his son. They can now both sleep comfortably & in peace.

As you can see, just a little help can go a long way to bringing people the dignity, safety & respect we all deserve.

Lift your heads up high—not only to thank God for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us, but to look out for those in need. Our greatest blessings are awareness, love & compassion. Our greatest challenge is ignorance. Please be part of the solution and continue with us on this journey!

God Bless You All !!!



Breakfast with the Knights

Stop by the Parish Hall on June 22nd

From 8:30am until 12pm

Choice of Bacon or Sausage with cheese and egg on a roll

With Juice or Coffee

\$8 a person



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Today as we celebrate Pentecost the Holy Spirit wants to make us advocates of God's presence to bring new life to others, especially those who do not know the love of God in their lives.

Your gift to the St. Vincent de Paul Society will help the poor to believe in the mystery of God's love for them.

What does it take to make every day better? Simply the love in your heart.

We need you to help us help others. Every new member allows us to reach even more neighbors in need. There is a place for everyone. Your love for those who may have hit a bump in the road of life is all it takes to make a difference – AND there is no greater peace than that of knowing you have helped another.

We recently met with a person on disability. Their father had just passed away and had been helping them make ends meet. She reached out for help and wasn't successful. God's grace brought her to us and with just \$243, we were able to catch her rent up. A seemingly small task was met with tears of joy & relief.

A grandmother has been working tirelessly to get custody of her grandchildren who are caught in the system. In order to get the custody finalized, she needed a bed and bedding for the child. Her grandchild is now safe with her loving grandmother.

The love of our Vincentian Family and your support make these small and meaningful miracles possible. Come meet with us and see if you are interested in changing lives, too!

Call us at 631.984.3961 or email us at: svdp.cabrini@gmail.com The life you change just might be YOUR OWN!!!



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As we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity we also realize the mystery of how much God loves and cares for us each day. Believing in this our lives can then overflow in thanksgiving and praise.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call us so that together we can help those who are suffering and in need.

How Much Pain & Suffering Can One Person Handle?
With a heart filled with faith, prayer & love...you keep going.

Her sister gave birth to twins. Two months later the father took the mother's life, leaving these children as orphans. The woman stepped up, along with her husband, and started adoption proceedings.

One year into it, she lost her own mother. The next year she lost her father.

Just months before the adoption would be finalized, her own husband become physically & emotionally abusive. The abuse put the adoption on hold and left her with no support system at all.

The husband not only left her with long lasting PTSD injuries, but took all their money.

She and her rescue pet have been living week to week trying to get life in order so as to finalize the adoption. With so much pain & suffering, she realized she can't live and provide for the children here. She made contacts with longstanding friends elsewhere in the country who will take her in, provide stability & emotional support so she can work in her the industry she previously did. She will be able to build a new life and bring the children back to her and provide a future for them. We met with her, offered her prayer, advice & understanding of her challenges. We were able to pay to relocate her to her new home with hope for the first time in years of a brighter day ahead. Blessings to all of you for making this possible! Keep her and the children in your prayers to be reunited as a family.



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Today we celebrate the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ we hear Jesus ask his disciples, "Why do you not give them something to eat yourselves?" And he shows them how by the multiplication of the five loaves and two fishes.

Today, as you donate to SVdP, know that the multiplication of the loaves and fishes will happen again and the hungry will be fed.

Your love, caring & generosity extend further than you may know. It has been a busy week for families with furniture needs.

-A hard working single mother of two was providing for her family's needs but when moving to her new apartment, didn't have a kitchen table or living room furniture so they sat on the floor for their meals and time together. You helped us complete their home.

-We had an urgent need to help a family over the weekend and SVdP made a special unscheduled trip to provide a bed and sofa to this Mom and her son.

-A single dad needed a bed for his son. He now sleeps comfortably.

Thank you to all the parishioners & the Knights of Columbus for your continued support and generosity for helping us help these people and literally change their lives. God Bless You All.



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In today's Gospel, Peter recognizes Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Upon this rock of faith, Christ says, He will build His Church.

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and into the hearts of those who are poor.

Finding Hope in God's Unexpected Gifts by John Berry, SVdP National President

When life is at its lowest, hope can arrive in the most unexpected ways. Sometimes, it is a kind word from a stranger, a sunrise after a sleepless night, or a song that plays just when you need it most. Other times, it is the unwavering support of a friend, a passage of scripture that speaks directly to your pain, or a sudden sense of peace that defies explanation. These are not coincidences; they are reminders that God is present, working behind the scenes, orchestrating moments of grace.

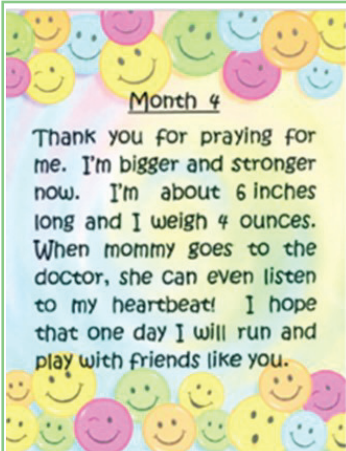
Receiving hope from God is not a passive act; it requires openness and vulnerability. When we close ourselves off in bitterness or despair, we risk missing the subtle ways God is trying to reach us. Opening our hearts means being willing to see beyond our pain, to look for signs of grace even when circumstances seem bleak.

Often, and powerfully, God's hope comes through the people around us. This is why Friendship is such a vital and important Essential Element of our Vincentian charism. A supportive community can be a lifeline in times of trouble

So too, is our Essential Element of Service. Acts of kindness, no matter how small, can be powerful reminders of God's presence. A meal delivered to a grieving family, a note of encouragement, or a listening ear can be the very thing that helps someone hold on. In giving and receiving compassion, we take part in the divine work of bringing hope to a hurting world.

In the end, hope is not the denial of suffering, but the assurance that suffering is not the end of the story. By opening our hearts to God's gifts, we allow ourselves to be surprised by grace, to find light in the darkness, and to discover that, even when life is at its worst, we are never without hope.

Monthly Intentions and Development for Spiritual Adoption June



In the 4th month of spiritual adoption we pray for wise counsel and support from clergy, advisers, friends, relatives and grandparents who will recognize the child as a new member of the family.

The baby now can squint, swallow and move her tongue. She sleeps and awakens. Fingernails and toenails form and she now has her own unique set of fingerprints. Sensitive to touch she will tightly grasp an object placed in the palm of her hand. She breathes amniotic fluid to help develop and strengthen the respiratory system, but she gets the oxygen she needs through the umbilical cord, she is about three inches "tall" and weighs one ounce.

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In the Gospel today we see how Jesus sent his Apostles out two by two. In this spirit, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul members “go out two by two” to visit those who are poor and needy in their homes. It is there, in the family setting, that Vincentians listen, offer humble advice, and render assistance.

Know that the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul bring your gift directly to the poor and suffering in our parish.

Out of the kindness of her heart, a woman lent her car to a dear friend, who asked to borrow it so she could visit her family in the city. Unfortunately, her friend got into an accident that caused irreparable damage. Luckily everyone was ok, but she now needed to buy another vehicle. The money she used for a down payment set her back and she fell behind on her rent. She was beyond grateful that we could help her out of her financial troubles.

Some of us know all too well that one small incident can set us back financially and reeling with worry and anxiety. Many of the people we serve live paycheck to paycheck, and even a minor illness, and the missing of a few days of work, can be devastating. Often times the neighbors we serve have no other family members or even close friends that they can call on in an emergency. We're proud to invite them into our family and call them our friends. Thank you to all our parish friends for making this possible.



Monthly Intentions and Development for Spiritual Adoption July

In the 5th month of spiritual adoption we pray that the child's father will encourage and facilitate the mother's life-affirming choice, and be willing to act as a responsible provider.

Our baby's brain has begun maturing - a process that will continue until she is about 14 years old. Her eyelids now are sealed shut and will reopen at seven months. Her taste buds are working. Nutrients consumed by her mother are passed on to her within an hour or two. Three hundred quarts of fluid a day are sent to our baby via the umbilical cord. Fine hair begins to grow on her head, eyebrows and eyelashes. Facial expressions similar to the baby's parents can be seen at this time. This month's rapid eye movements (REM) have been recorded - a sign of dreaming. I am about six inches tall and I weigh four ounces - a proper weight for a girl my age.

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In today's Gospel, when Jesus asks "which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" the scholar of the law answered, "the one who treated him with mercy." Jesus then said, "Go and do likewise."

This week you can also "treat the poor with mercy" by making a donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Just Ask.....It is coming..... The Society, on a National Level, took a survey of why someone joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. 80% responded – "they were asked by a Vincentian".

(In case you didn't know, members are called Vincentians.)

That is how most of us came together. So, we are now asking and will in the coming weeks and months – Join us.

You only know about us from the stories we share. There is so much more to know. Friendship, Spirituality & Service.

There is a place for everyone. Our needs are many.

Don't be intimidated about what you don't yet know or understand. If you are still reading, your heart is curious. Be open to it!

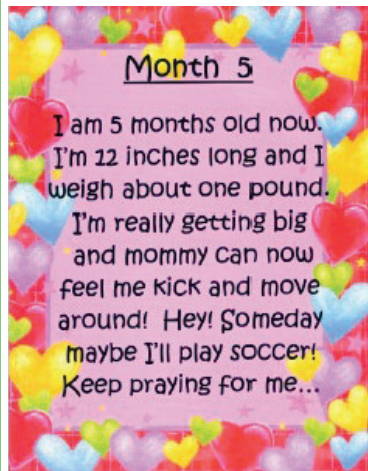
You can call or email and we can casually share our story with you. (631.984.3961 or SVDP.Cabrini@gmail.com)

You are welcome to come to a meeting and or we can talk and or meet any time or any place.

Please listen to your heart and share the love you have with your community.

There is no greater feeling than knowing you have made a difference, small or large, in someone's life. Sometimes we even change lives, including our own! The majority of our conference has only been together for less than two years and we are hoping you will join us. We can honestly tell you, that in addition to all the wonderful work we have done,

we are just getting started! So, we are Just Asking.....You!! We look forward to sharing with you.



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In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus affirms that to be a disciple we must also sit at his feet and listen to him. St. Vincent de Paul taught that it is only in prayer that we can give selfless loving service to those who are poor.

This week, please say a special prayer each day for the poor and forgotten in our parish and community.

Everything that we offer comes from the love of our parishioners. Join us as we continue to support our neighbors.

-A woman and child are trying to get out of a shelter and into an apartment. We paid an old PSEG bill so she can maintain her public assistance to get the apartment.

-A client of our Parish Outreach needs a refrigerator - we are on it.

-A woman on disability had a car accident and fell behind in her rent for 1 month. We paid it so she could stay in her affordable housing.

-A woman who doesn't leave her house needed food for her cat and used replacement phone.

-A retired woman on disability with several health challenges needed new kitchen chairs and to replace the loveseats which were badly worn and had no support left in them.

But for the Grace of God go us all.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support of our work. It is a team effort and you should all feel as proud as we do!! Thank you and may His Peace be with you all!!



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*Together We Walk, together We give.
 One step at a time, one neighbor at a time.*



Friends
OF THE POOR®
WALK

Saturday
September 27, 2025
Heckscher State Park
East Islip, NY



5K Walk
As you are able

CHECK IN:

8:30 AM

WALK START

10AM

**REGISTER OR
 DONATE AT:**



SCAN HERE!

OR GO TO:

TINYURL.COM/2025WALK

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In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that God is our “Father” and just as a parent’s love for their children is unlimited, so is God’s love and care for us unlimited.

In the month of July, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist several families, providing food, furniture, utility and rent, bills, baby supplies, etc. Thank You!

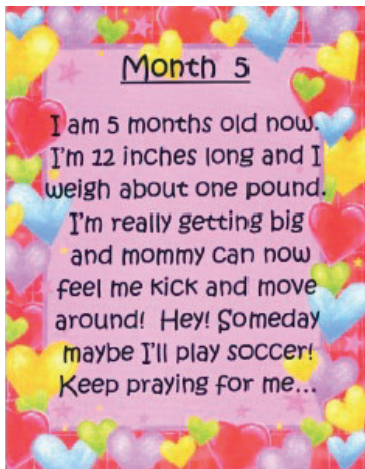
One of the obstacles we often face is that neighbors come to us with not enough time to help them. Please help us help others by encouraging those who need help to reach out sooner than later.

-We hand delivered a rent check to a landlord at literally the last minute to avoid their eviction.

-A neighbor with many medical challenges needed a downpayment to PSEG in order to get a payment plan.

-A neighbor on disability living in a shelter had her car totaled. She is trying to get back to work part time and needs transportation. With the combined help of Father Gil, the Knights of Columbus and SVdP, as well as our Angel Frank at AAMCO in Medford, we were able to secure her a used car.

Thank you to everyone for turning these possibilities into realities. More lives changed!!



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In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable about the rich man who selfishly stored all his grain and goods only to die and not enjoy his abundance anyway. What we struggle all our lives to learn is that life does not consist of possessions nor our perceived security, but of being possessed by God.

This week, as you give your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you are realizing that in giving you indeed receive.

And receive we truly do..... and so do you....

- All that a neighbor needed was \$216 in back rent for their public assistance to be continued.
 - A husband & wife fell behind in their rent as she was being treated for a serious illness and had temporarily stopped work. Your generosity gave them the peace and comfort for her to continue to heal.
 - A husband worked a fulltime job and also worked as a driver to support his family. When he experienced a temporary layoff of his fulltime job, it caused financial insecurity for the family and his auto insurance was about to be cancelled, which would have kept him from driving. With your help, we were able to keep his car on the road and his family safe.
- The blessings that our neighbors receive are twofold, in that we (and you) are blessed also. Join us in spirit, prayer and action as we endeavor to bring love, security, blessings and peace to more of our neighbors every day! We are all in this together.

As WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST. It's truly a WE, an US and an OURS!!!!
SEE the FACE of CHRIST in everyone and BE the FACE of CHRIST in their lives!!

Month 6

I'm 6 months old now.
I just opened my eyes –
Before today they
were sealed shut for
protection. I wonder
what you look like.
I can hear sounds,
too! It's great to
have someone
praying
for me.

Monthly Intentions and Development for Spiritual Adoption

August

In the 6th month of spiritual adoption we pray for both parents' emotional welfare and maturation toward making good decisions and modeling good behavior for their child.

Our baby is five months old and halfway to birth. He is very active. Sleep habits develop and his mother can feel him move and stretch, particularly when she is resting. He is getting bigger, weighing one pound, is about 12 inches "tall" and is strong enough to kick against the outer uterine wall and dent it. Some day he may play soccer! Up to now, although he swam with ease in his watery world, he was too small for his mother to detect because the inside wall of the uterus has no feeling. Babies born at this time have survived, however.

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In this Gospel, Jesus says “Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy.”

Please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul bring respite and hope to the elderly who are not able to find relief from the summer heat, and you will indeed find “an inexhaustible treasure in heaven!”

God’s Grace is everywhere and His blessings follow....

A young single Mom is left by the father and her family... the baby needs diapers and formula, the Mom needs food. With the help of Parish Outreach and our Vincentians going shopping, we were able to bring peace to this Mom as she navigates her future.

A young man was temporarily out of work and fell behind on his rent. We made an arrangement with the young man and his landlord to match his rent payments as he made them to help him catch up. We just made the first payment and he knows he has to keep working and paying for us to help him.

A Mom started a summer job and the employer used the wrong bank account and her last payroll was never received and will be delayed until mid August. We helped her bridge the shortfall so she could make her rent payment on time.

This weekend we are taking some young parishioners and their families to a LI Ducks game to give them a special night together. SVdP is having a special night with the Ducks!!!

Monthly Intentions and Development for Spiritual Adoption

August

Month 6

I'm 6 months old now.
I just opened my eyes –
Before today they
were sealed shut for
protection. I wonder
what you look like.
I can hear sounds,
too! It's great to
have someone
praying
for me.

In the 6th month of spiritual adoption we pray for both parents’ emotional welfare and maturation toward making good decisions and modeling good behavior for their child.

Our baby is five months old and halfway to birth. He is very active. Sleep habits develop and his mother can feel him move and stretch, particularly when she is resting. He is getting bigger, weighing one pound, is about 12 inches "tall" and is strong enough to kick against the outer uterine wall and dent it. Some day he may play soccer! Up to now, although he swam with ease in his watery world, he was too small for his mother to detect because the inside wall of the uterus has no feeling. Babies born at this time have survived, however.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH DEACON SONNY PAGNOTTA**



In today's Gospel Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it be accomplished!"

Your gift to the Society to assist those suffering in poverty will help set the earth on fire with the of God's love.

Welcome to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We are growing in need, impact and help!! The Society is worldwide. We are part of the central council of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. What you probably don't know, is that not every Parish has a St. Vincent de Paul Conference. As a matter of fact, there are 18 parishes surrounding us here at St. Frances Cabrini that DO NOT have a SVdP Conference. For the most part, we are it and a lot of people are not being helped. We are here thanks to the continued support of Father Gil. Many parishes don't have that support. With his assistance and that of the Central Council, we invited the pastors of these 18 parishes to lunch here at he parish in May. Seven were able to attend and we shared with them what SVdP is all about and how we help the members of our community. We also tried to make them aware that the needs of the community were at their parishes also.

Our little conference is one of the busiest on Long Island. A lot of that credit goes to all of YOU!!! This is why we need help. We are going to have some of our members try and build and support these other parishes so we need more help here at home. We want to launch our own website, Facebook page and Instagram page—are you able to help with these?

We don't turn away any one in need nor any one who wants to volunteer. Come learn for yourself and decide if you feel the call to serve your neighbor in need!! Call us at 631.984.3961 or email us at: svdp.cabrini@gmail.com

Monthly Intentions and Development for Spiritual Adoption
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In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to "strive to enter through the narrow gate." Our call to be disciples and to follow Jesus demands that we learn to live for the sake of others.

In the month of August, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist several families, providing food, furniture, utility and rent, bills, baby supplies, etc. Thank You!

We Appreciate All of Your Gifts!!!

The gift of your continued monthly generosity allows us to help those less fortunate facing a variety of life's challenges.

The gift of your continued prayer for our Vincentians as they answer the call to help in so many ways.

The gift of service, by volunteering to lend a hand wherever and whenever you can.

As you can see by the flyer in the bulletin, we are having our biggest fundraiser of the year on September 27th with the Walk For the Poor in Heckscher State Park.

For those inspired to have what we pray will be as beautiful of a day as last year, please go to the QR Code on the flyer and register - you get a great day with like minded and hearted people, free parking and a special walk T-Shirt!

For those who are considering joining us in our conference, it's a great chance to meet everyone.

If you can't attend, you can still participate by supporting us. Please click on that same code and follow toward the bottom of the page and you can donate.

As you can see from our weekly stories, the need is great. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

May His peace be with you every day in every step of your journey!!!

With the love of Your Vincentian Family here at St. France Cabrini.

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Today, we hear Jesus say to us, "...when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

With love for your neighbors who are poor, crippled, lame or blind, look around your house to see what furniture, household items, and clothing you no longer use...and give it to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Spirituality, Friendship & Service are the core beliefs of the Society.

Are you our next member?

All it takes is a beautiful heart filled with love for those who could use a hand.

-It might be stopping by with diapers for a young mother and offering some support.

-Or listening to the sad heart of a person dealing with a family struggle.

-We recently rebuilt a handicapped person's mobile scooter as it is their only form of transportation.

-Or helped a family facing a devastating medical event that changed their lives by helping with some medical equipment.

We are going to invite you to an "open house" in the coming 30-45 days so we can share the Society with you and answer any questions you might have.

This is not for everyone, but it might be for you. Open your hearts. Be an example to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers as you do God's work and become part of the solution.

While we strive to help people and even change lives, EVERY ONE of us has been changed by this ministry. Let His grace flow to you also. We look forward to having you join us!!!!

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In today's Gospel, Jesus lays out the demands of following him, the great cost of discipleship. The Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul states: "Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice...the Society makes no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ."

Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

In addition to all the blessings & gratification that comes from helping our neighbors, it is extra special when they take the time to hand make a card for us with the following message:

To Saint Frances Conference of St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you for your assistance during such challenging times. Your willingness to help us as we needed and appreciate your financial support. This allows us to get to work, go to physical therapy and to see our grandchildren and family.

It's amazing how your team is linked to the well being of the community. Thanks for your generosity, your time & energy and work supporting so many.

Your team is God sent and Angels. This is a wonderful gift. With heartfelt thanks. God be the Glory.

This is what we do ALONG with all of you! Your generosity allows us to reach neighbors like this and make their lives just a little better.

Life can present challenges of all types and those challenges can happen to any of us at any time. We are here to help navigate those challenges. Thanks for making it possible.

If this resonates with your heart, join us in bringing results like this to those who need that extra help.

Month 7

Thank you for praying for me. I am 7 months old now. I am growing every day. I'm between 14 and 17 inches long and weigh about 4 ½ pounds. I move around a lot but it's getting crowded in here! Sometimes I even get the hiccups!



Monthly Intentions and Development for Spiritual Adoption

September

In the 7th month of spiritual adoption we pray that the parents be guided by the Holy Spirit in considering legal adoption as an option for their child, and if they so choose, that the right family will be selected for this particular child.

"I rolled over today!" Baby is six months old. The baby now can roll over inside the womb. Her oil and sweat glands are functioning. A white film layer called vernix covers the baby and protects her delicate skin from surrounding amniotic fluid. The waxy substance will be quickly absorbed into her skin soon after she is born. She now can respond to sound. Her lungs are fairly well developed and she would stand a good chance of survival if born at this time.

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Today's Gospel reminds us of God's great love for each of, a love so great that He sent His son not to condemn the world, but to save it, so that we might have eternal life.

Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul...we want to help!

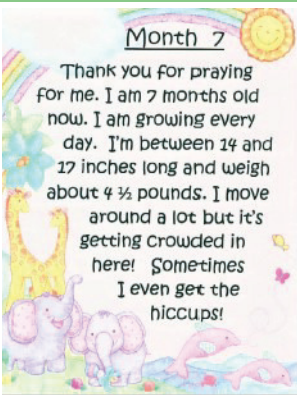
We serve best when someone reaches out for help before their situation gets too far gone to help. Unfortunately, we cannot help every neighbor we meet. We try our best to help everyone that we can.

A woman in her 50's needed money for food. She has three teenagers that she's raising on her own. "They're doing good in school," she said proudly. She showed us their latest report cards. We talked for a little while and she told us she has only one sister who lives down south. Their parents passed away ten years ago. They try and keep in touch, but they're both very busy. We went over her finances. She was managing, but like a lot of people, struggling. She can't save any money and simply lives month to month. She has one credit card that has two thousand dollars on it. Otherwise, she was in ok shape. She said she's chipping away at it. She gets \$400 in food stamps, but she said sometimes it's not enough and they go without. We told her about the pantry and gave her a gift card to go food shopping. She got teary-eyed and thanked us. We asked if she needed any help with her credit card debt, but she insisted she could handle it. We always leave a neighbor telling them that even if they just need an ear, we are always here for them.

It doesn't always take a lot of money to make a difference, just a lot of LOVE!!

Month 7

Thank you for praying for me. I am 7 months old now. I am growing every day. I'm between 24 and 27 inches long and weigh about 4 ½ pounds. I move around a lot but it's getting crowded in here! Sometimes I even get the hiccups!



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In today's Gospel we see that prudent decisiveness means that we recognize that all our choices in daily living are really choices for eternal life. Admission into heaven is something money cannot buy. The only currency that has any value to secure our entrance is that of love.

As you make a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering.

This coming Saturday, September 27th, is the celebration of the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul. How fitting that the Society's "Friends of the Poor Walk" is also this day.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the canonization of St. Vincent de Paul, Pope John Paul II quoted the famous historian of Christian spirituality, Henri Bremond, about Vincent de Paul: "It was not love for men that led him to sanctity; rather it was sanctity that made him truly and effectively charitable; it was not the poor that gave him to God, but, on the contrary, God gave him to the poor." God acts in the same way in the lives of all Vincentians. Holiness makes them truly and effectively charitable. It is God who gives them to the poor.

And it is God who gives all of your heartfelt love and generosity to assist us in continuing his ministry. Thank you all and please join us as we reach out to all our neighbors in need. Peace & His blessings to all!!

Month 7

Thank you for praying for me. I am 7 months old now. I am growing every day. I'm between 14 and 17 inches long and weigh about 4 ½ pounds. I move around a lot but it's getting crowded in here! Sometimes I even get the hiccups!



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On **September 27**, the Church celebrated the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, who knew that "God had sent him to bring good news to the poor." Together with your gifts, the members of the Society continue his work and mission in our parish.

In the month of September, through your gifts, we were able to assist several families, providing food, furniture, utility and rent, bills, baby supplies, etc. Thank You for your continued support & generosity!!!

A single mother of an 8 and 14 year old, working as a secretary, developed a seizure disorder on top of her Multiple Sclerosis that she's had for 7 years She was in and out of the hospital as her seizures and MS were difficult to get under control. She has no family support -both parents are deceased and one sibling is incarcerated and the other is deceased. She fell behind on her rent and was facing eviction. Her medical conditions are very fragile and the multiple side effects of her many meds do not help. We assisted with her rent and encouraged her to apply for further disability benefits.

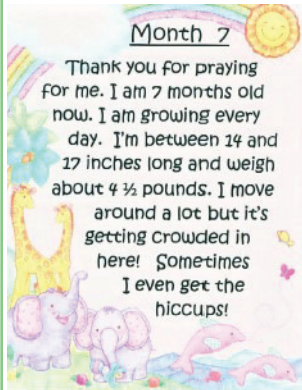
A 57 year old fully disabled deli worker on a very limited income suffering from multiple medical problems including constant tremor, orthopedic deformities, diabetes, and coronary disease asked for help to get a bed for his 10 year old son. At the time of the home visit he showed us where his son slept - on a board! We secured a mattress, boxspring & frame as well as full bedding for him. They were both extremely grateful.

We take the time to go meet our neighbors in their homes so as to learn more about their needs first hand. Often times we are invited in for one reason and find other avenues that we can assist with.

The need is great and is increasing. Your love reaches so many people in so many ways. Thank you & your gracious hearts!

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With hearts full of gratitude, we would like to thank every parishioner, family member and friend that made this year's Walk for the Friends of the Poor the most successful in parish history.

We received more donations, sponsorships and walkers participating than ever before.

Going into the walk weekend, we were helping 12 different individuals and or families.

Your generosity made it possible for us to avoid evictions, keep the lights on, provide specialized food for autistic children, and so much more.

As you have read in past bulletins, we have worked hard to help families get out of shelters and into housing. Our newest development is the discovery of a local woman's shelter where we are helping keep them in the shelter as for various reasons, some fell behind in their rent at the shelter and were facing eviction from the shelter. The next step from a shelter is complete homelessness.

We have welcomed two new members with two more showing interest. We welcome you to consider joining us in this ministry of love for our neighbors. We need more help to assist the growing needs of the community.

In addition to all of your help, we would like to share a thank you for the continuous support and efforts of our Knights of Columbus. They work very hard week after week running bingo and other efforts to generate the money they so graciously donate to our conference as well as all the other charities and people they support. When you see a Knight, tell them thank you in appreciation for all they do. They make a difference in so many ways and enhance our Parish life.

A very special thanks go to Father Gil for his tireless support of our ministry. We are all truly blessed by all he does for the parish, and we can tell you that not every pastor is as supportive of the Society as he is. **NONE of what we do and the people we help would be possible without his support.** He deserves all of our thanks and love for all that he does day after day to make our parish what it is.

Thank you all again and we look forward to your joining us on our journey.

Presented by St. Frances Cabrini Conference of
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



TALENT SHOW

Fundraiser



Dance • Music • Poetry • Laughter

Don't miss an unforgettable night of music, art, and community! Talented parishioners share their passion – and every dollar raised goes directly to the St. Frances Cabrini Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to make real change possible. We thank you for your support and look forward to sharing a wonderful night together.



**Saturday
October 4th, 2025
7 - 9 PM**

**Tickets sold at door.*

\$20 suggested donation
per person

*Kids under 10 FREE

Parish Center

St. Frances Cabrini
134 Middle Country Rd, Coram, NY



- 50/50 Raffle
- Gift Basket Raffles
- Burgers, Hotdogs, Soda
- Desserts and Coffee



Scan here for advanced ticket sales. Please print your receipt and bring it the night of the show.

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In today's Gospel Jesus tells his disciples, "When you have done all you have been commanded, say: We are unprofitable servants; we have only done what we were obliged to do."

This week, please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those who feel left out and abandoned, for indeed we are only doing "what we are obliged to do".

A single mother of 2 (a 10 year old and a 1 year old) is working the evening shift as a cashier. She was unable to afford a table and chairs as her small salary was used for living expenses and child care. When we visited her, her and her family were eating on either the couch or the floor. We provided her with a table and chairs. She couldn't stop thanking us.

A young man working as an aide at a development center lost his job temporarily and fell behind in his rent payments. He lives alone and has no other family members he can rely upon for support. We negotiated an extension with his landlord and when the young man returned to work and saved enough to cover half his rent, we matched it and prevented his eviction.

The small things many of us take for granted are life changing to others. Thank you for all the love and support you offer the neighbors of our community. You make a difference every day to so many people.



Banns of Marriage

First Banns:

**Second
Banns:**

Third Banns: Andres Jerez Guteirrez & Thelma Puello Jerez

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In today's Gospel we hear that only one of those healed returned to glorify God and to give thanks to God. It is true, that when we have a grateful heart we know that everything is a gift from God.

To give thanks for all that God has given to you, have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

A man living in a homeless shelter for nearly a year with his three teenaged children is trying to get a second job to increase his income so he will be able to move into an apartment. He was awarded custody of his children after a bitter separation. He is trying to make the lives of his kids bearable in the most difficult conditions of living in a shelter. His work as an assistant custodian does not provide much but he continues to seek a better paying position. When he has enough to move into an apartment we will help with security. In the meantime, he asked for help to get decent clothes for his children as they start a new school year. We provided clothing store vouchers for which they were very grateful.

It is generally the small gifts that yield the largest reward. The time John & Joan spent with this family—meeting them, understanding their situation and planning how best to help them get what they needed today, as well as in the future, is the gift of the Vincentian heart and spirit.

Please keep all our neighbors—past, present and those still to come, in your prayers—today and always!!



**Congratulations to the following students from
St. Anthony's High School for their Academic Achievement:**

Francis Valisno

Prayer for Hope

Heavenly father, I am your humble servant, I come before you today in need of hope. There are times when I feel helpless, There are times when I feel weak. I pray for hope. I need hope for a better future. I need hope for a better life. I need hope for love and kindness. Some say that the sky is at it's darkest just before the light. I pray that this is true, for all seems dark. I need your light, Lord, in every way. I pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory. To know that even though the world seems upside down, You alone can bring about light from darkness. Help me to walk in your light, and live my life in faith and glory.

In your name I pray, Amen.

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In the Gospel today Jesus tells his disciples to pray always without becoming weary., indeed our prayer must always be an expression of our love for God, our family, our world, and especially for the suffering poor.

Please say a special prayer for the poor who have no one to pray for them.

The first Apostolic Exhortation from Pope Leo XIV entitled *Dilexi Te* ("I Have Loved You") is greeted with the utmost joy and appreciation by our 81,000 members of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA

The vision outlined by the Holy Father to serve the poor with love and compassion is not only the call of the Gospel, it has been our mission as Vincentians each day in the U.S. and 155 countries since our founding in 1833 in Paris, France.

More than a century ago, Leo XIII began a new tradition in Catholic Social Doctrine, connecting the church's timeless teaching directly to contemporary circumstances and realities, and reminding the world that although the face of poverty may change, our duty to the poor does not.

More recently, Pope Francis emphatically reminded us that the Church cannot be separated from the poor. The mission of the Church, he said, must always be to embrace the most vulnerable with Christ's love by meeting their individual material needs, while diligently working to improve societal and governmental systems and structures to lessen the gap between rich and poor.

Pope Leo XIV now continues this tradition with a perceptive and bold exhortation that inspires us to see the face of Christ in each person we encounter. Pope Leo is encouraging and even demanding that each of us take action in our own neighborhoods and communities to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters as we care for them as our neighbor.

At The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we do this every day through our one-on-one encounters, our shelters and food banks, our work with those leaving prison, our advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. and state capitals, and so many other programs.

It is in these ways that Vincentians live the Beatitudes and will continue to answer the call of the Holy Father in his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi Te*.

All Souls' Day Mass of Remembrance

We will celebrate our special All Souls' Day Mass of Remembrance on **Sunday, November 2** at the 11 am mass in the church, as we pray for and honor our loved ones who have died. The names of those who had their funeral through St. Frances Cabrini during this past year will be read during the intentions of the Universal Prayer.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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Previously known as (RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

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**PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY AT 631-732-8445
TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH DEACON SONNY PAGNOTTA**



In this Sunday's Gospel, the tax collector's prayer allows God to be God and so allows God to pour mercy into his heart. When we pray and give alms to the poor, we allow God's mercy to be poured into their hearts.

In the month of October, through your gifts, we were able to assist several families, providing food, furniture, utility and rent, bills, baby supplies, etc. Thank You for your continued support & generosity!!!

Thank you to all the parishioners, family & friends that came out to make our 1st Annual Talent Show-Concert a huge success! It wouldn't be possible without the ongoing work of your Vincentian volunteers and the various musicians, dancers and poets that graced us with their gifts!

As a result of that great night, our ministry moves forward. We have been receiving over 15 new cases over each of the last two weeks. With the holidays coming, the weather changing and food insecurity rising, your help is needed more than ever—both through your generosity and your time.

Share the joy of changing lives like these:

We visited a 40 year old single mother of three. She has two young boys, 9 and 10, and a 15 year old daughter. They live in a small two bedroom apartment. The children are all in one tiny room. The boys in bunk beds and the daughter in the bed right next to them. There's just enough space between the beds to get in and out of the room. They all were in desperate need of new mattresses, as theirs were in disrepair, and the three of them were having trouble getting comfortable at night.

The children were adorable on our visit. They were quick to tell us how well they were doing in school. The youngest loves to read and his brother was excited about his grades in Math. When we told them they would be getting new mattresses, they jumped up and down with excitement, the youngest yelling, "It's Christmas!" We laughed. He's right. Sometimes Christmas can happen in October!Help us bring more joy to families like these.

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In the Gospel today, Jesus is made known in the breaking of the bread. The Eucharist helps us to become more like Jesus so we can respond to the needs of others.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you also show your acceptance of our Lord by joyfully sharing your goods with your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless, alone and frightened.

Last week we visited with a 25 year old woman who is one month behind on her rent. Two months ago she was assaulted right outside her apartment. She suffered a concussion, a fractured shoulder and some wounds to her face as well as the anxiety of being attacked right in front of her home. Her medical issues caused her have to miss work for two weeks. She runs her own cleaning service. And while she was in the hospital and then at home healing, she fell behind on her bills.

Fortunately we were able to get her back on track. We also recommend a therapist that she could speak with for free. These horrific incidents bring great trauma to their victims. She will not have to live in fear & thanks to all your help, she will focus on her recovery without worrying about losing her apartment.

We will be bringing dinner to the local women's and men's shelters starting this month in our continuing efforts to leave no one behind and that no one falls through the cracks.

Last week, an "angel" in our parish prepared a homemade dinner for 19 woman in a local shelter to celebrate the memory of her Dad's birthday. We need more love like this to help those in need. These are part of the steps that change lives, including our own! Blessings and peace to all in this season of thanks!

When our donors begin to refer to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as "We" and "Us" instead of "They" and "Them"—when they repeat the stories we share with them—then we will know we are doing our job well.

We are welcoming anyone who wants to help make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

We need help in every aspect of the ministry. Let us know you are interested and we will share the conference with you and you can decide for yourself. There is so much more to be done than doing home visits.

It is a spiritual movement of renewal. As we grow, we strengthen our Conferences and deepen our collective impact in the lives of our neighbors in need. We also grow in faith, friendship, and love for one another.

Together, let us ensure that this beautiful vocation continues to flourish, and continues to

"See the Face of Christ and be the Face of Christ."

Welcome and you can call us at 631.984.3961 or email us at: info@svdpcabrini.org

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In today's Gospel, Jesus promises that if the temple is destroyed, He will raise it up again in three days. This is the true hope He offers.

When you give the furniture, household items and clothing you no longer use to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you give a sign of hope to your neighbors who have nothing.

Food insecurity has been an ever increasing problem almost everywhere we turn for quite a while. Inflation, program cuts, increased families in need. We have been extending our reach to assist more people as we go. It has become a team effort between SVdP, the Knights, the

Columbiettes and Outreach. Everyone is working together to serve our neighbors.

-Outreach has now expanded their hours to add Monday evenings from 4:30-6:00 pm. SVdP & the Knights will be there to assist the Outreach staff serve those who can't get to Outreach during the day.

-SVdP, the Knights & Columbiettes will be hosting a monthly parish dinner for those in our community that will benefit from a hot meal with their families. The first dinner is this coming Saturday November 15th at 6:00 pm. If anyone can benefit from this, please call us at 631.984.3961 or email us at: info@svdpcabrini.org to reserve a dinner.

-We are expanding our meals to the local men's and women's shelters. The woman at the shelter we mentioned in last week's bulletin sent a personally signed thank you card to the cook who prepared their meal. More lives touched and made better!

Sometimes the miracle is in realizing you haven't been forgotten. Help us help more people feel seen and loved.

There are so many ways each of you can help the community—your donations, your time, your efforts, your prayers...your love.

Blessings abound to all and please share the heartfelt gratitude of all the lives you help change!!

A Day In the Life of a Vincentian...

Yes, we meet at least twice a month, sometimes more.

Yes, we go out into the homes of our neighbors and spend an hour together understanding their needs and challenges and trying to help them through the challenge facing them.

One of our favorite things about being a Vincentian is the fellowship. Our conference is one big family. Usually a couple of times a week a morning text comes in either wishing one of our members a Happy Birthday or requesting prayers for healing from an illness to a member, their family or a friend. Occasionally someone sends a beautiful quote from a saint. As the morning turns to afternoon each member will send a warming response. We can't tell you how uplifting it is to see all the wonderful messages. It's all a continues prayer and reminder that we are never alone.

This, along with the absolute satisfaction of making a difference in the lives of others, is what binds us together in our mission.

If this resonates with your heart, the Vincentian Welcome Mat is open! Please contact us at 631.984.3961 or email us at: info@svdpcabrini.org Have a blessed day!

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The Gospel predicts end times; our challenge though is to live faithfully now. St. Vincent often asked this simple question: "What would Jesus Christ do, if he were in my place now?"

Ask yourself "What would Jesus Christ do?" and then make a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are suffering will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Today, November 16th, is World Day of the Poor

So let's get some insight from the Pope himself in his October 4th publication.

I Have Loved You – The Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Leo XIV (excerpt from Chapter 1)

A concrete commitment to the poor must also be accompanied by a change in mentality that can have an impact at the cultural level. In fact, the illusion of happiness derived from a comfortable life pushes many people towards a vision of life centered on the accumulation of wealth and social success at all costs, even at the expense of others and by taking advantage of unjust social ideals and political economic systems that favor the strongest. Thus, in a world where the poor are increasingly numerous, we paradoxically see the growth of a wealthy elite, living in a bubble of comfort and luxury, almost in another world compared to ordinary people. This means that a culture still persists-sometimes well disguised-that discards others without even realizing it and tolerates with indifference that millions of people die of hunger or survive in conditions unfit for human beings.

Help us help those who in this busy and confusing world are often unseen, marginalized and even forgotten.

A recipe of love, prayer, hope and generosity will help make Thanksgiving and life better for those in need.

A Day in the life of a Vincentian....

It's been very busy week and getting busier. We have been providing our usual furniture, bedding, rent and utilities.

Food insecurity is rising exponentially and we have been helping families who haven't received their benefits.

Can you imagine suddenly not being able to provide food for yourself and your family? Panic and then what's next?

Last weekend we hosted a meeting with 10 other conferences from the south shore of LI. The problems are everywhere and we are one society trying our best to serve the increasing number in need.

Your Vincentian Family is looking for assistance in our mission to help our neighbors. Yes, OUR NEIGHBORS.

No one is left behind. Come and be part of the solution!

Please contact us at 631.984.3961 or email us at: info@svdpcabrini.org



Christian Centering Prayer Gathering

Join us for meditation, breathing exercises, and light stretching.

Centering Prayer is a silent meditation practice used by a long lineage of Christians, dating back to the Desert Fathers and Mothers in the 3rd century. Silent Prayer is sitting quietly in presence. It's a deep way of listening—a listening without expectation. We empty ourselves so we can be filled with The Holy Spirit.

We wait in silent peace.

7 PM - Second Saturday of every month at the Parish Center.

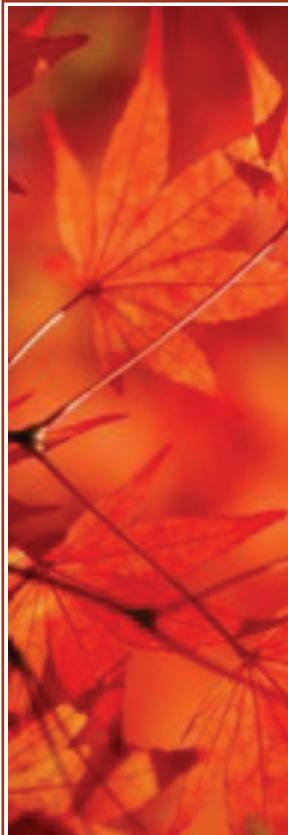
Upcoming dates: 12/13, 1/10

An Autumn Prayer

God of the ever-turning seasons, our actions and deeds often end up far from the mark, and our spirits seem to die and go adrift like leaves in the autumn wind. Yet we rest in the hope of a new life that blossom like the spring flowers. Through spiritual rebirth we long to become one with You and inherit the blessings of your kingdom.

Time and time again our focus seems to be on everyday things and not those which are eternal. Turn our eyes toward you and immerse us in the waters of your redemption. Guide us Lord on our journey and help us set our faces toward the rising sun of your glorious resurrection. Help us to see You, even as the days grow short, as we revel in the beauty of the autumn hues of crimson, gold and bronze.

Help us bring healing to a world full of hurt and darkness. Make each of us a place of rest for the weary, so that when the daily problems of everyday life get in the way, we can help bring a little peace to a troubled world. Amen.



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Today as we celebrate Christ the King, may we open the door of our heart so wide that we may listen to the voice of Jesus calling us to help build his kingdom here on earth.

In the month of November, through your gifts, we are able to assist several families, providing food, furniture, utilities, rent, bills, baby supplies, etc. Thank You for your continued support & generosity!!!

Last Sunday was World Day of the Poor, and the Love in our parish came together to share that love with our neighbors in the community.

The Vincentians, the Knights & the Columbiettes sponsored a wonderful dinner for individuals and families on Saturday night so they would know not only a great meal, but more importantly that they are loved and remembered.

The generosity of the Knights in providing the food, as well as the compassion of EVERYONE involved made for a special evening. We are all always grateful for the generosity of your donations, but there is nothing greater than the generosity of someone's time. We were all proud to come together in a variety of ways to make it possible.

While the evening was wonderful for all, it was made even more special when Debbie came out with a birthday cake for one of the neighbors she has worked with and everyone, from helper to guest, sang to wish this person a Happy Birthday!

The beautiful hearts of everyone were shining last night and made the Parish very proud! Thanks to all!

A Day in the life of a Vincentian...

We have been blessed with new members being moved to want to help in our ministry. Mike D., Kyle, Elaine, Abby & Eileen are our newest Vincentians. Welcome them into your hearts and prayers.

One of the most challenging experiences as a Vincentian is the witnessing of struggling young children; whether it be from physical, emotional or mental health issues, or just from the everyday hardship of poverty. They enter this world disadvantaged. The pangs of hunger, the need of warm clothing, the lack of a firm mattress to rest their weary bodies. While we try our best, not every encounter ends as well as we would like. But we always pray for them.

Please remember all of our neighbors in your prayers - past, present and still to come, as well as your Vincentian Family as we meet the challenges that lie ahead.

If you need our help or want to learn more about what we do and or how you can assist, please just ask.

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There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves; for we long for the coming of the Lord.

As you make a donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Society, your heart will discover the true meaning of Christmas as you help those who are suffering and poor to long for the coming of the Lord.

We visited a married couple. The young husband suffered a stroke two years ago. They managed as he tried to recover with his wife now taking on two jobs to try and compensate for his being out of work. He has struggled in his recovery, and it has affected his ability to maintain continued employment. He now has steady employment but at a far reduced rate of pay due to his health limitations. As a result, they fell behind by two months with their rent.

They were both extremely emotional as they told us their story. It was difficult to see these sweet people riddled with anxiety and stress. He was denied disability benefits, which is unfortunately too common these days. One of our conference members has a lot of experience with the process and is helping them navigate the process. We were able to negotiate a payment plan with their landlord to keep them safe in their home with greatly reduced stress.

Many thanks to all the Vincentians who assisted and for the continued support of our parish family.

More love shared, more lives changed.

A Day in the Life of a Vincentian... The foundation of what we do and who we are is:
Friendship, Spirituality & Service.

You read our weekly stories, which tell a lot about the service. But please understand that it is only possible based upon the friendship & spirituality of our members, as well as all of you who support us on our path.

We welcome in all those who want to make a small difference in the lives of others. Our meetings start and end in prayer and reflection, as we navigate the needs of the community and support each other. Our written agenda for each meeting has the following at the top of it:

Every Voice Matters - stressing the importance of each voice in the conference as well as the voice of those in need.

Each one of us is joined with one another, and we become together what we could not be alone-
Romans 12:4-5 - acknowledging that our strength is in what we create as a group of like minded and like hearted individuals.

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In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call us at 631.984.3961 so that together we can help the suffering and those in need.

As we await the joyous celebrations of Christmas with the gratitude of Thanksgiving behind us, obstacles still exist for many of our neighbors.

- The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, we assisted a family who were down to their last hours of propane to heat their home and operate their stove.
- The following day, Thanksgiving eve late in the afternoon, a neighbor was out of oil and their home had become cold already. We were able to get them an oil delivery that afternoon.
- With Carol's help in the rectory, we were able to assist helping the last few families receive the Thanksgiving baskets that Parish Outreach had worked so hard to prepare for them.
- Thanksgiving morning we had the joy of bringing freshly prepared Thanksgiving dinners to a young homeless couple and to a local men's shelter.

The greatest gift we offer on behalf of all our parishioners and supporters is the LOVE in YOUR and OUR HEARTS. All of the above neighbors specifically asked us to share their gratitude with everyone that kept them warm and made Thanksgiving possible for them.

So from their hearts and our Vincentian hearts, thank you for making all these small miracles possible!!

We often ask, invite and suggest the community to get involved with us, in any way that is comfortable for them.

In case you were wondering or doubting your ability or desire, don't. If you are reading what we share and are pleased and or moved by it, you are ready. It's all about your heart and your desire to make the world better by sharing your gifts with those in need. And by gifts, we aren't talking money. We are talking about your love and empathy for those less fortunate and or facing a challenge. Look to the left & to the right, the need is there.

If you have questions or are just curious, reach out to us. We can enjoy coffee or tea at the diner and just talk. It doesn't get easier than that. A private chat and see if the Holy Spirit stirs something in you.

To be honest, if you are still reading this, it is already stirring in you.

Have a blessed day, holiday season and year to come. Just keep your head up and heart open and the rest will happen on its own.

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In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus's, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us.

Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.

The Team was hard at work—a couple faced physical and emotional setbacks and found themselves living in their car. They had to place their two children with family members as it was in their best interests. They reached out and with God's good grace, they found us.

They were living in the car as well as doing food delivery service to make ends meet. They were doing a great job. When we met them, they were just awarded a grant from an agency that would pay their rent for the first six months so they could get back on their feet. They were close to a fresh start, but had nothing. They had a week until the grant was effective and it had gotten cold. We repaired their car, as it was their sole source of survival and shelter. We housed them in a hotel for a few nights so they could be reunited with their children as they prepared to get their apartment..

We ordered them beds and furniture to help give them a home.

The team pitched in and hit the stores and their own supplies to set them up with all their kitchen needs, pots, pans, dishes and utensils and bath towels AND we were able to bring them Christmas decorations. Not all of our stories turn out this well but we left them with smiles on their faces and new employment opportunities they had just received.

Please share their joy knowing what a difference our parish makes in the lives of so many people, including all of us!!! May God bless each and everyone, every day & in every way, throughout the year.

A Day in the Life of a Vincentian....We are always looking for ways to enhance the lives of anyone and everyone and the teamwork is outstanding!!

Saturday December 13th—SVdP, The Knights & Columbiettes will host a Christmas themed dinner for our neighbors and members of the community and their children, complete with Santa Claus and treats!

We acquired over 200 bags of cleaned and bagged women's clothing.

On January 3rd, SVdP, along with the help of the Knights & Columbiettes will host a women's clothing giveaway to assist anyone in need of clothing. There will be a separate flyer in the bulletin about it. It's open to anyone in need.

Be sure to offer an extra prayer and blessing upon all these fine people who do so much for those who have less. There are many people doing so much behind the scenes to make all these great things a possibility.

If you find yourself in need of anything, we will try and assist you. Please contact us at 631.984.3961

The Catholic Daughters Court of St. Frances Cabrini Parish cordially invite you to come to Adoration on **Saturday, December 20 at 3:30 PM.** Come, let us adore Him.



Oh come
let us
adore
Him



People go to adoration to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, which is the consecrated host displayed in a monstrance. This practice offers a quiet, focused way to deepen one's relationship with God, find peace, and foster spiritual growth, renewal, and healing. It is not just for us, but for the entire world. Please join us as we do an Advent Activity in preparation for the



**Exclusive Early Bird Access
Available to St. Frances Cabrini
Parishioners & Friends @ 8:00 AM****

Women's Clothing Giveaway

**January 3rd, 2026
8 am - 2 pm**

****Doors open to the public at 9 am.**

Presented by St. Frances Cabrini Conference of
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
St. Frances Cabrini Parish Center
134 Middle Country Road, Coram, NY



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In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God.

As we embrace the beauty & mystery of Christmas, we want to recap this last year of our journey with you through our weekly stories. We are full of gratitude for all the love and support each and everyone of you have given us. We help our neighbors in any way we possibly can. Our only limitations are time and support. In case you aren't aware, the needs of our neighbors have only increased and continue to on a daily basis.

The pure joy of making someone's hour, day, or entire life better than it was can hardly be put into words. OUR MINISTRY – we and the parish community, have a lot to be proud of. The smiles we generate, the peace we bring, the prayers we offer, the compassion of just being available to our friends has given us the most special gift of all.

WE CHANGE LIVES....it is that simple.....and as a result, SO DO EACH OF YOU!! Please treasure that feeling!

As you share the joy of the Christmas season, and the joy of every day, let the peace and love of all your beautiful hearts fill you, knowing you are honoring the words and spirit of Jesus Christ: *"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me."*

Thank you all for helping us on this journey and please walk with us as we continue to endeavor to be of assistance to more and more people. Merry Christmas from Your Vincentian Family and Peace for the coming year!

A day in the life of a Vincentian includes you too! It isn't the commitment but the love that follows that matters.

The joy we talk about above was on full display last Saturday. We hosted a Christmas dinner for the neighbors of the parish . Over 95 people—individuals, families and children enjoyed a delicious hot meal with us .

The parish center was covered in red & green—Santa & Mrs. Claus were there to distribute gifts to the children as well as taking pictures with neighbors of all ages.

The gratitude and appreciation of every neighbor was apparent.

The fulfillment enjoyed by the Vincentians, Knights, Columbiettes, Parish Staff, confirmation students, parishioners & friends that set up, cleaned up and served our guests was apparent. We all experienced the greatest gift of all—the gift of helping another person enjoy life's simple pleasures—food, celebration and friendship. We were all blessed.

While we often ask for you to join us, you can dip your toe in the water, on days like these. It's all about the LOVE!!

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Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We hear the words: "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him." During this New Year may we also grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon us by remembering to take care of our suffering brothers and sisters.

In the month of December, through your gifts, we were able to assist several families, providing food, furniture, utility and rent, bills, baby supplies, etc. Thank You for your continued support & generosity!!!

As a parish community, we are all blessed in so many ways thanks to the Grace of God. Among those blessings is the love you have for your families, our neighbors and the community. So many people sharing their gifts to make life better. Our Vincentian Family is blessed by not only the spirit and devotion of its members, but by the continuing support of Fr. Gil, Fr. Bill, the Knights & Columbiettes, parish social ministries and each and every one of you!

It has been a busy year for us and it is only getting busier. We assisted more individuals & families with the challenges of their everyday lives than ever before. We are blessed to be able to share a fraction of what we do in these weekly stories. Your financial support & generosity allows us to serve those less fortunate. We are ending the year with a challenge for all of you. We have begun to host a monthly dinner for our neighbors. We are going to ask you to take turns helping us prepare the meals for them (cook a dish, donate dessert, etc.) and we would love you to come to the dinner to share in the absolute joy these meals are bringing to our neighbors. We aren't sure if the neighbors or the volunteers are more moved. Join us and share in the love as we are all touched by God's Grace! Happy New Years to you, your loved ones and all those whose lives your love has touched! Peace be with you all.

A Day in the Life of a Vincentian.....Have you ever reflected on these words you hear spoken all the time...

We are the Body of Christ....

This quote is a paraphrase of a biblical concept found in **Romans 12:4-5**, which states that many different people, though unique, form one body in Christ, and each is joined with the others to become something greater together than they could be alone. The passage emphasizes that individual members are interconnected and interdependent, like the parts of a human body, and all are necessary for the whole to function correctly. The core message is that unity and cooperation create a stronger, more meaningful whole, and that individual worth is found in belonging to a larger community.

All of us, your family, this conference, our parish and beyond need to never lose site of this connection. We are not only the body of Christ for one hour at mass. We are the body of Christ every hour of every day regardless of where you are or what you are doing. This is how we work—many people coming together to help others. It's that simple.

Lift your heads up, open your eyes and your hearts—let the Love of Jesus Christ flow outward and change lives!