



Springfield District
Council
of St. Vincent de Paul
*Serving Clark, Champaign &
Logan Counties*

FALL 2016

Matthew 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

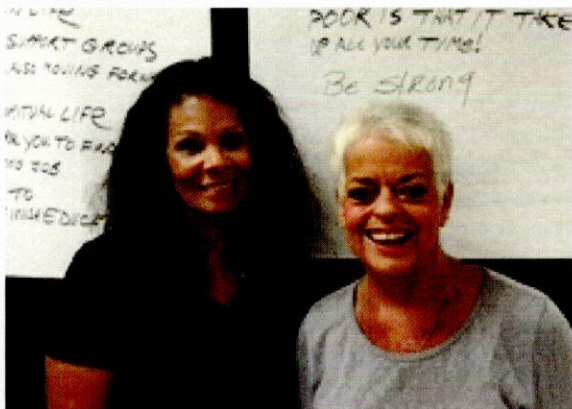
'Moving On Up' is Making Progress

Our new 16 week program, Moving On Up, began on July 28th. This effort is a systematic approach to meeting the goals of ending poverty – one individual, one family, one community at a time. This approach supports the mission of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) which is to help those in need in our community with care, compassion, and acceptance. SVDP is privileged to have the commitment and dedication of two volunteer 'facilitators', Sarah Mabra and Kathy Lewis. They are working with the seven participants, referred to as investigators, for three hours each week through mid-November. As a team, Sarah and Kathy truly care about the investigators and are passionate about helping them to improve their life situations. They base their heartfelt mission on Matthew 25:35-40 and know that this is what Jesus wants us to do and have stated, "how can we not?"

GOALS TO CHANGE LIVES FOREVER

- Move towards self-sufficiency
- Knowledge of community resources
- Aid in building resources needed to be successful in life
- Help provide support groups with others also moving forward in life
- Deepen spiritual life
- Help prepare you to find and keep a good paying job

The participants are learning about taking steps to get out of poverty. Meanwhile, through their investigators, Sarah and Kathy are learning the harsh realities of poverty and the efforts required to take this long uphill journey to survive. Both said that this is an eye-opening experience that is very humbling. Those in



poverty have basic struggles due to lack of resources in addition to many individual challenges, such as: difficult family dynamics, lack of support, poor self-esteem, and lack of formal education. The class has been working on the "Mental Module" of poverty where they have listed what it is like to be in poverty inside a circle and solutions to get out of poverty around that circle. The struggles outweigh the solutions, where it can be not only challenging but discouraging. Most importantly, the class is building relationships as they work towards the goals presented. Our perception of poverty and the reality of poverty may be very different; journeys are as different as people. We would like you, as a reader, to take

another look at poverty and how you can help to end it in our community. Helping those in need takes more than monetary donations. We are asking you to treat those in poverty with dignity and respect while sharing sincere smiles and interactions, being a light in a dark world, and donating items you no longer need to your favorite charity. In addition, please pray for Sarah, Kathy, the participants, and our community.

“God doesn’t require us to succeed, He only requires that you try.”

Mother Teresa

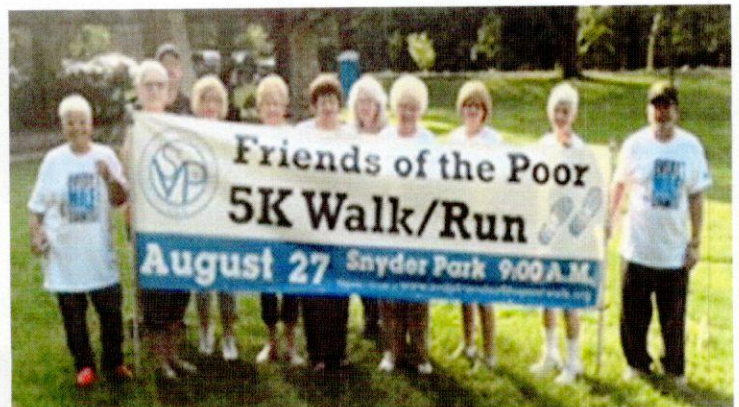
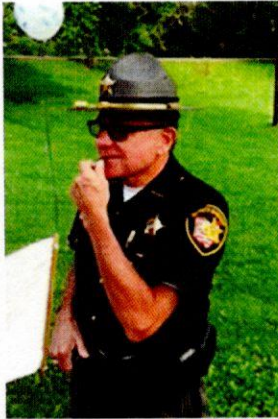
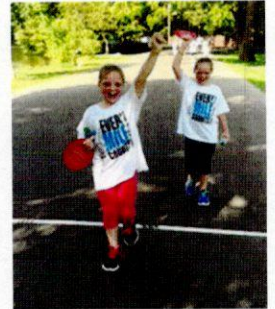
Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run 2016



Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run is a national program with the purpose of providing our local Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Conferences and Councils the additional funds to help support their special works projects. Today, that philosophy continues, with Conferences and Councils using the funds from this event to help local people living in poverty. Our local walk,

chaired by Rebecca Wilson, was held on Saturday, August 27th, 2016 at 9am in Snyder Park. Father Asobi, Chaplain from Springfield Regional Medical Center, offered a prayer before Deputy Willman officially started the Walk promptly at 9am. Over one hundred (100) participants walked three miles to end poverty in our community. Thirty-five (35) volunteers helped with set-up, registration, water stations, raffles, food set-up, and clean-up. This year’s event was sponsored by EXCEL SPORTS MEDICINE. The WALK/RUN was a great opportunity to bring people together in our community to raise funds to help the poor. Participants warmed up for the walk with exercises led by Angie Walters from EXCEL. Volunteers and participants enjoyed music performed by “The Wyld Ryders Band”. Dave Bailey and Sam Flick were the first two to finish the walk and were each presented with thermal cups and gift certificates.

To date, this special event raised \$5,035.00 which will benefit the annual Christmas Basket Program. Those still wishing to donate may send checks to: SVDP, P.O. Box 94, Springfield, Ohio 45501. Baskets are given to seniors and families in need in Clark County. Thank you to all the walkers, volunteers, and donors who made this year’s walk a success!



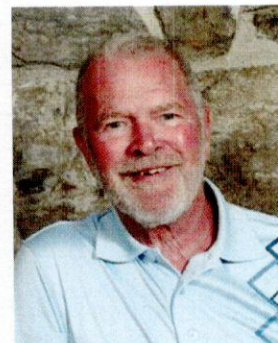
“Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more.”

~ Anthony Robbins ~

A Journey of Faith and Service

Tony Bickers was born in Leeds, England and remembers, at the age of eight, asking his Mom about St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP). She explained that members of SVDP help people but they do not boast about it. Tony moved to the United States in 1967 with his first home being in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1977 he moved to Springfield to work at a company led by a college friend and former co-worker. After retiring in 1996, Tony felt a need to give back because God had been so good to him. Tony joined the SVDP Conference at St. Joseph Church. Initially, the group was small, had meetings, read scripture, and helped those in need as identified by the SVDP Council.

Helping others really took off for Tony when he helped organize the Christmas Basket Distribution in 1997. At that time he met Mel Buck, who became his mentor. Tony asked Mel what the budget was for the baskets and was told that there was no budget but that “God will provide”! Mel had just shared the first of many spiritual principles that Tony would learn over the years. Tony helped organize the distribution for five years while volunteering at the Thrift Store each week. In addition, Tony was the Council President for three years, 2001-2004.



Tony describes spirituality as “a personal journey of searching for the will of God in your life”. Spirituality is the #1 goal of each member of SVDP. Tony has attended a number of retreats with Vincentians from all over the country and especially remembers the “Invitation for Renewal”. This included four days of intense study of spirituality, the history of SVDP, and the impact of this organization throughout our world. Along with prayer, when we love and serve others, we gain closeness to God. We should see the face of Christ in those we serve and hopefully, in return, they see His face in us. Tony attended workshops and retreats and became a formator in 2007. In this role, he presents the Ozanam Orientation program to teach the history, organization and spirituality of the Society and stresses that this organization is not just for older people. Young people, who have many talents to share, are very welcome to join. Tony invites readers, not only to pray for SVDP, but to learn more about SVDP, where you gain more than you give. In 2014 he was commissioned as a Spiritual Advisor and holds that position with the District Council of Springfield.

St. Vincent de Paul salutes Tony Bickers for his dedication, service, and leadership to SVDP and most importantly for living his life to glorify our Heavenly Father. In addition, we offer our congratulations to Tony and his lovely wife, Doreen, who celebrated 60 years of marriage on September 20th.



Saint Vincent de Paul National Assembly in Columbus

August 31 thru September 3, 2016.

Vincentians Hear the Cry of the Poor as they came together for the 2016 National Assembly in Columbus. In early September, almost 700 Vincentians from across the country, and even Puerto Rico and Australia, joined together to celebrate the Vincentian charism and renew their Vincentian spirit.

Attendees listened to keynote presentations from a variety of different speakers, all very knowledgeable in their particular fields, and took part in workshops to learn and gain new skills. In addition, over 50 exhibitors provided products and programs to enhance our effectiveness.

The theme of this year's SVDP National Assembly was "Hear the Cry of the Poor". Springfield Council Vincentians who attended the meetings were: Mary Crabtree, Terry Black, Jerry Lawrence, Tony Bickers, Mike Duffy, Casey Rollins, Patty Cafferty and Mary Giannola.

The multiple workshops offered insight into many different subjects such as Culture Change, How to Increase the Number Served, Recruiting Volunteers and Becoming a Best Practice Food Pantry. Of immeasurable benefit, was the ability to network with Vincentian's across the U.S., sharing ideas and developing relationships designed to make our operations the top of the line.

Tony was kind enough to share the following insights: One of the first workshops was "Journey Towards Systemic Change" presented by Tom Pelger of the Peoria, IL Diocese. To date, they have 14 graduates from two classes. As the program moves forward, they see a possible problem in recruiting mentors for the program. Since the mentor involvement does not end with graduation, but carries on regularly, the initial mentors cannot switch to a new participant after graduation, but must continue for as long as it takes into the future. Pelger stated that Systemic Change is hard but absolutely necessary. This is very helpful to remember as our own Systemic Change program moves forward.

Bishop John M. Quinn, the Society's Episcopal Advisor conducted the Spiritual Retreat: "Pope Francis and the Vincentian Embrace of the Poor". Bishop Quinn was Ordained as the twenty-third Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit and in October of 2008, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop Quinn as coadjutor and eighth bishop of the Diocese of Winona in southern Minnesota.

Bishop Quinn is an excellent speaker and vividly described the Pope's desire to work in the trenches meeting our brothers and sisters in need and doing it with smiles and joy, not, as the Pope stated, as "sourpusses". He had many quotes from the Pope's writings and most of them were to remind us that he was only following Jesus' instructions for the preferential treatment of the poor. One was the parable of the Wedding Banquet when Jesus told the Pharisee to invite those who would be unable to reciprocate and then his reward would be in heaven. This was an inspiring reminder that our mission is to serve the poor, because that is where we will see the face of Christ. He added that they may also see the face of Christ in us. Mass followed with Bishop Quinn as celebrant.

This was indeed a rare opportunity for us to embrace the thoughts of others who do the same selfless work, and we were blessed with the chance to do so.

Scatter **KINDNESS**...Local Food Collections



Local churches recently hosted food drives to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. St Bernard's in the Spring, St. Joe/St. Raphael's this Summer and St. Teresa's this Fall. We operate a Choice Food Pantry which means that those neighbors in need shop at our Pantry. Based on their family size, they pick out foods that fit their family's needs and preferences. In addition, the Food Pantry provides hygiene items that are difficult to come by with a limited income. All the food and monetary donations were greatly appreciated. Donations are also accepted directly to the SVDP Food Pantry.

GIVING, A Christmas Tradition

December is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to share with others. The 2016 Food Basket preparation and distribution of 1300 food baskets will be held Dec. 22nd 9am-1pm at St. Joseph's Parish Center. Your donations and assistance with this annual project will be much appreciated. This has been a local tradition for over 40 years. Each basket will also be filled with the true spirit of Christmas, with love, kindness, and hope. For more information please visit our website www.svdpspfld.org or contact Terry Black terry.black@svdpspfld.org.

