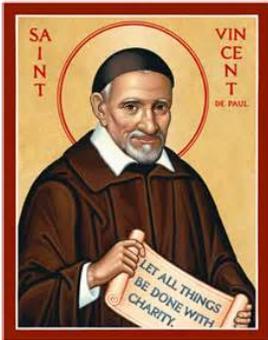




**“We have all been called on by God to work on a masterpiece.”**

St. Vincent de Paul (XII:13)

## Vincentian Series Coming in April



The Springfield District Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul wishes to promote the activities of the Society at the local level here in Springfield and surrounding areas.

On the first Wednesday after Easter, April 19, 2017, and the six succeeding Wednesday evenings, the Springfield District Council, Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be making a series of presentations designed to describe **who we are, what we do, and why we do it.**

Many parishioners who support us financially have a vague idea that we assist the poor but would be hard pressed to explain what it means to be a member of the Society of St.

Vincent de Paul, “a Vincentian”. We believe these presentations will provide clarity to those interested in our mission.

Fr. John MacQuarrie will be our first speaker and will make a presentation regarding the “Ministry of Presence and Home Visits”.

Vincentianism is a spiritual journey and we will discuss the various tools our National Office has provided to make this journey a truly spiritual one.

We will also make presentations regarding: our work to help our brothers and sisters emerge from poverty toward self-sufficiency; our response to the Voice of the Poor; an accounting of the service work carried out by the Springfield District Council’s Conferences in 2016; and, a film presentation about the life of our patron St. Vincent de Paul.

**St. Joseph Parish Center is the venue for all of these talks, and all talks start at 7.00 pm.**

We also want to present an in-depth study of our Society known as an Ozanam Orientation to those wanting to learn more. This takes approximately seven hours which can be completed as a one day session or over two evenings, depending upon the wishes of the participants.



More information will be available on our website [www.svdpsfld.org](http://www.svdpsfld.org) as we get closer to April 19th.  
GO TO: Facebook: St. Vincent de Paul and/or look for updates in parish bulletins.

**“To become better – do a little good.”**

-Frederic Ozanam (1813-1853)

**“There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.” -Edith Wharton**

## **Meijer Program Benefits St. Vincent de Paul Pantries**

The Meijer “Simply Give” Program has partnered with the Springfield District Council of St. Vincent de Paul several times since the end of 2012. This program benefits our SVDP Pantries and is instrumental in helping to keep our pantry shelves stocked with food items and eligible baby items. The program enlists the help of the community who purchase food donation cards in increments of \$10. Meijer then matches that donation and on special days will double that match. These funds are then given to the sponsored Food Pantry in gifts cards to be used to purchase food items for their food pantries. The support of the Springfield community has been outstanding for the Meijer Simply Give Campaigns. Community members have purchased nearly \$22,000 in donation cards and Meijer has contributed over \$31,000. Springfield District St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantries benefiting from this program are: Springfield St. Vincent de Paul Food



Pantry, assisting an average of 190 families and 520 individuals each month; St. Patrick’s St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, assisting an average of 159 families and 378 individuals each month; and, St. Mary’s of the Woods St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, assisting an average of 115 families and 281 individuals each month. The Springfield District Council of St. Vincent de Paul wishes to thank Meijer for their program that is assisting us with feeding the hungry. Additional thanks to our outstanding community for having continually supported us through the Meijer Simply Give Program. It is through programs like this and through community support that we are able to carry out our mission of helping those friends and neighbors in need. (Pictured: St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Manager Jerry Lawrence and Meijer Grocery Manager John Ricket).

## **First “Getting Ahead” Class to Graduate**



With great excitement we announce the graduation of our first “Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting-By World” Program on Thursday, March 30 at 6:00 p.m. This 22 week program provided support and guidance as investigators explored and shared issues in their lives, built skills and developed a plan to move toward greater stability. We had six wonderful friends graduating from this program. Many thanks to everyone who was involved with this program: those who provided meals, those

who provided meeting rooms, mentors, those who came into contact with our class and greeted them with a warm smile and friendship, and those who kept us all in your prayers as the weeks went by.

Reverend Eli Williams of Urban Light Ministries celebrated and addressed the graduates. He defined “Poverty” as “lacking essential Resources”, but “Commencement” as the “Beginning” of overcoming poverty. He reminded us of our essential resource: “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen; but faith without works is dead”. Williams gave each graduate “permission to dream audaciously and then set out to achieve the goals toward those dreams”. Williams used the metaphor of an eaglet’s emergence from its shell, and its parents’ instinct not to help it break free. The parents shake the nest to nudge the eaglet, so it struggles to fly free independently. The message here: “Ask for help; don’t ask for rescue. You will get strong, persevere and soar. Then, look back at your successes and struggles.” The Lord delivered us from our struggles, through our perseverance and faith, strengthening us, as we look at what God has done for us. We remind ourselves, If I can do this, I can do that. When God gives a vision, he gives provision, from His riches, to those who trust in Him. If our priorities are in order, if He guides, He provides. Romans says, ‘God makes all things work together for those who love the Lord and who are called according to his purpose.’ And as we strive to help others, we say, If He can do that, I can do that. ‘Blessed is the man who delights in the law of the lord and prospers’, as we stay on the path in the word of God. Now, Graduates, as you move on to new horizons and pursue those important dreams, it’s time to look closely at your friends and reevaluate them. If they aren’t allowing you to move forward in life, you may need to leave them behind to pursue your journey. Eventually those friends may learn to respect that decision. That decision to drop a friend may actually inspire that same friend later on when they see the changes in you, the investigator’s life.” Please keep our graduates in your thoughts and prayers as they take the next step forward in their lives. Plans are underway for our next “Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting-By World” class. Special thanks to our facilitators Sarah Mabra and Kathy Lewis, and our mentors Linda Pack, Deb Reese and Tony Bickers. Please consider getting involved with this next class. To assist in any way, contact us at [svdp@svdpsfld.org](mailto:svdp@svdpsfld.org)



**“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.”** -Sally Koch

### **St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store - A Valuable Asset**



Richard Newland was first introduced to SVDP in 2001 by doing Community Service. His first duties were repairing donated items such as electrical equipment and picking up donations and delivering purchased items. This was his opportunity to help people which was something he had not done before. Soon after working as a volunteer, Richard was hired as the Merchandise Facilitator and has worked this job 36 hours a week for 14 1/2 years. As the Merchandise Facilitator he makes sure that merchandise is clean, priced, and on display- ready to be sold.

He assigns jobs to volunteers and tracks their work hours. Over the years Richard has worked all the jobs in the store and is always willing to do anything and everything to make sure the jobs get done. What Richard likes best about working in the store is helping people. One of the most rewarding experiences he remembers is when a woman purchased a living room set and really wanted the end table too, but could not afford it. When they delivered the furniture to her home, they gave her the end table! Seeing her so happy was so rewarding. Richard shared that volunteers are always needed and each volunteer has the opportunity to help those in need, make a difference in our community, meet lots of nice people, and enjoy being a part of a wonderful organization. Richard is a valuable asset to the Thrift Store and, when asked to describe his experience these past years in one word, he quickly replied, “JOY”.



### **Facts About the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store**

Doug Edwards, Operations Manager, has been with the SVDP Thrift Store for 1 1/2 years, after retiring from a career in criminal and administrative investigations. Doug finds that helping others is very rewarding and gratifying, and enjoys coming to work every day. In an effort to promote all aspects of the Thrift Store, Doug has shared the following:



1. The Thrift Store is **located** at 2425 E. High Street. **Phone #** 325-9111
2. **Store hours** are Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm and Saturday, 9 am-4 pm
3. The store is **staffed** with six paid employees and also volunteers, including those from Job and Family Services, Goodwill Easter Seals 50+, and Community Service Workers.
4. **Volunteers** are always needed to sort donations, price/tag items, fix/clean donations, stock the store, and work at checkout. If interested, please call the store for details. We will work with your schedule.



5. **Donations** are accepted during store hours and scheduling a pick-up is also available by calling the store. **Donation drop off** is located at the back of the store on the south side, *during business hours only* . . . please.
6. **Types of donations** accepted are: vehicles, appliances, furniture, clothing, household items, etc. Items most needed are appliances, furniture and dressers, pots, pans, and kitchen utensils.
7. **Newest item to our inventory:** We now sell Certified Refurbished Mattress's from the Chicago Mattress Company.
8. **Guidelines** are in place to assist those in need who do not have funds to make purchases. In addition, every Saturday there is a **'bag sale'**, and a bag filled with clothing costs only \$3.
9. **Your monetary donations and donations of household goods, clothing, etc.** help SVDP generate funds to assist those in need in our community with food, medication, housing, etc.

**“When you are kind to others, it not only changes you, it changes the world.”** -Harold Kushner

## **Christmas Food Baskets...A Well-Oiled Machine**



Many of us may have often heard the saying ‘it works like a well-oiled machine’, which means that “something operates capably through the effective coordination of many parts”. This truly applied to the process



that SVDP followed to prepare 1300 food baskets for local families in need on December 22, 2016. The teamwork of up to 100 people was amazing, as many empty tables were filled with boxes and boxes of

food. One could feel the sense of camaraderie and joy as people worked side by side with friends, families, students, and co-workers while sharing with people they were meeting for the first time.

The next morning, those who had signed up to receive food baskets lined up outside the St. Joseph Parish Center. The coordination of all the steps of this process from sign-in to carrying baskets for the recipients to their cars was incredible. Once again, this 40 year



old tradition, demonstrated the true spirit of Christmas with generosity, love, and kindness.

Vicki Hopper and Joe Kleehammer have volunteered to assemble and deliver food baskets for the past four years. They believe that volunteering for this project is an enjoyable way to help our community. Karla



Bachi, Practice Administrator, of Greater Ohio Eye Surgeons, decided that assisting with this outreach was the perfect way to promote both team building and gratitude among staff. Employees and their families helped with the

assembly of baskets. The Corcoran family was impressed with the organization of such a huge undertaking. Members of the National Honor Society from Shawnee High School enjoyed being a part of this community project.

**“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”** -Mahatma Gandhi

Donations may be made to:

St. Vincent dePaul, P.O. Box 94, Springfield, OH 45501

Or online at [SVDPspfld.org](http://SVDPspfld.org)

Emergency Assistance- CALLS (937)322-0838

Tuesdays & Fridays 10:00-10:30am

SVDP Food Pantry- (937)325-8880

Appointment Only! 228 Raffensperger

Food dispensed Tuesday & Thursday 12 pm-2:30 pm

SVDP Thrift Store- (937)325-9111 OPEN Mon.-Sat.

2425 E. High St. Springfield. OH. 45505

91% of all donations to SVDP are used to fund programs which help those in need in our community.

