



ST. ANN'S CONFERENCE

Seeing the Face of Christ in the Faces of the Poor

“Charity is not transmitted through books nor lectures but rather by climbing the stairs in the homes of the poor, kneeling at their beds, suffering from the same cold as they do, and discovering the secret of grief-stricken hearts in the course of friendly conversations. When, over time, we have thus experienced the poor at home, in the streets, in whatever condition God placed them, then we will come to know the formidable problem of misery.” *Blessed Frederic Ozanam (1848), Founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul*

BACKGROUND

What is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men (called “Vincentians”) to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and its patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

What is the Society’s Focus?

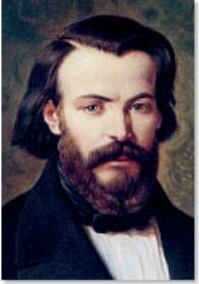
Vincentian women and men seek personal holiness through works of charity. As St. Vincent de Paul expressed it, our object is not only to relieve material misery but to aspire, especially, through the practice of that most sublime of virtues, “charity”, to render ourselves better and more fervent Christians.

Who was St. Vincent de Paul?



St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), a priest in Paris, France, was founder of the Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity, Confraternities of Charity, and Ladies of Charity. A man of deep faith, keen intellect, and enormous creativity, he has become known as the "The Apostle of Charity" and "Father of the Poor."

Who was Blessed Frederic Ozanam?



Blessed Frederic Ozanam (1813 - 1853) was founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Frederic was a husband and father, a renowned professor and servant of the poor. He founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as a young student with others of the Sorbonne in Paris, France.

ORGANIZATION

International headquarters of the Society is in Paris, France. The Society operates in 139 countries with 51,000 conferences and with 700,000 members. US headquarters is in St. Louis, MO. with 115,000 members nationally. Each Diocese is organized into a Council. The Council of the Diocese of Wilmington consists of 34 conferences (usually in parishes) with a total of over 750 members. St. Ann's Conference, started in 1985, has 13 active members.

HOW THE CONFERENCE WORKS

People in need call in to a special phone number and leave information about their needs. After making an appointment, two conference members visit the callers ("clients"), evaluate their financial and family needs, determine if money should be pledged and the amount that is appropriate. The meeting usually concludes with a prayer. After confirming needs with the appropriate creditors, the Conference sends a check to the creditor. No money is give directly to those in need.

St. Ann's Conference meets twice a month in St. Ann's school to pray, discuss requests for help, clients who have been visited and handle administrative matters.



Conference members, working in pairs, conduct person-to-person interviews with those who call for help to discuss their situation and needs. Interviews are held in the callers' homes.

SOURCES OF INCOME

The St. Ann's Conference relies primarily on the donations of St. Ann parishioners. In addition to a February second collection, the Conference receives the proceeds from the poor box, individual parishioner donations and special parish donations through the pastor. Conference member donations are significant. We are blessed to be part of such a generous and charitable parish. The Conference also receives grants from local charitable foundations.

EXPENSES

Virtually all money donated to the Conference is used to help the poor. Assistance with utilities, rent & security deposits are the primary requests of those who call us but help is also provided for heating oil, food, medications, transportation and furniture.

LATEST ANNUAL REPORT (FY '10)

Number of inbound calls received: 799 (average – 67 per month)

Number of home visits: 164

Number of people helped: 490

Number of hours donated by members: 2,510 (equal to 24 8-hr. days / member)

Carry over from previous FY: \$2,941

Income: \$30,770 (66% - parishioners, 30% - grants, 4% - from other conferences)

Expenses: \$32,726 (99% to the poor, 1% operating expenses)

Carry over to next FY: \$985

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Calls from the poor always exceed our ability to help. From time to time we run out of funds and must stop taking calls. To help in this mission of charity you can put tax deductible donations of cash or checks (made out to “SVDP-St. Ann’s”) into the poor boxes or into an envelope marked “SVDP- St Ann’s” and drop it in the collection basket, leave it at the rectory or mail it to the rectory – 2013 Gilpin Ave., Wilmington DE 19806.

CONTACT US

For more information about St. Ann’s conference, contact Conference President Julie Dugan at 302-654-6385(h) or jdugan1406@comcast.net. Those who need assistance should call 302-658-9876.

LINKS / REFERENCES

International web site: ssvpglobal.org

National web site: svdusa.org

Eastern Region web site: svdper.org

Daughters of Charity: daughtersofcharity.com

Ladies of Charity: ladiesofcharity.org

Knights of Columbus, St. Ann’s: kofc13821.org