

Welcome to this issue of the Messenger. The St. John XIII Stewardship Commission works to highlight some of the many ways people are actively living out Christ's message of love and service in our faith community. This month we would like to highlight the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. John XXIII Parish.

Stewardship Commission

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

Do you consider yourself a naturally caring, compassionate and giving person? If so, come and share your gifts by joining our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society.

In our St. John XXIII Parish area there are people who need rent assistance, utility assistance, food and clothing, help with transportation needs, as well as other services that may require a personal touch from someone like YOU.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) is a worldwide lay organization of men and women, young and old, of every race, founded by a college student, Frederick Ozanam in Paris in 1833. Frederick, with a small group of fellow students, sought out the poor of Paris and visited them in their home, taking them bread and clothes, their friendship and their concern. The group took as their patron, St. Vincent de Paul, a French priest, who in the 1600s alerted the world to social problems.

Today, in our own parish, these home visits continue to be the heart of SVdP. We, Vincentians, go to those in need to provide assistance. It is through the home visit that members offer help, hope, and encouragement to our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Our goal when helping is to get the people back on their feet and help them from needing assistance in the future. In all of our visits we stress confidentiality.

We are able to provide financial assistance because our thrift store on Hwy C in Port Washington gives us monies generated by the store's operations. These monthly funds from the store supplement donations from parish members and loyal benefactors. Additionally, the store accepts our vouchers so our clients can buy clothes and household items.

If you would like to learn more about the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. John XXIII Parish, you may attend one of our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the St. Mary's Parish Center.

As you consider whether God is tapping you on the shoulder for this ministry, ponder these words of St. Vincent de Paul, *"After the love of God, your principal concern must be to serve the poor with great gentleness and cordiality, sympathizing with them in their ailments and listening to their little complaints....for they look to you as people sent by God to help them. You are therefore intended to represent the goodness of God in the eyes of the poor."*

## Thank you to all who gave so generously of your time, talent and treasure

St. John XXIII would like to thank the many volunteers who set up, cook and clean for all the fish fries and those who organize and produce hospitality Sundays, and Our Schools Key Event. A big thank you to the group of volunteers who removed several rows of heavy pews from St. Mary's Church, providing badly needed gathering space for the future. We are very grateful for your gifts of personal time, talent and treasure in supporting the future of our parish

## Upcoming events

Friday, March 2 & March 16—5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Men's Society Fish Fry at St. Peter's Cafeteria

Thursday, March 29—7:00 pm, Holy Thursday Mass at Immaculate Conception Church

Friday, March 30—1:30 pm, Good Friday Service at St. Mary's Church

Saturday, March 31, Holy Saturday—8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Mass at St. Peter's Church

April 1, Easter Sunday—All Masses at usual times

Please see the bulletin or Parish website at [www.stjohn23rd.org](http://www.stjohn23rd.org) for more information on these events and to see a full listing of events.