

## *Our Mother of Consolation Parish*

### **St. Vincent DePaul Society Year in Review 2020**

During the course of this difficult year, your OMC St. Vincent DePaul conference has continued its mission of providing tangible and spiritual support for those we find in need. Our outreach has touched not only those in our parish neighborhood but has extended to many throughout Philadelphia and some of its surrounding communities. As the year has drawn to a close we wanted to share with you some examples of the impact of your support.

***Cases of Outreach-*** Monetary contributions to our Society helps us to help others. Over the course of the year many people call our hotline to request assistance. SVdP volunteers respond to these calls by interviewing these individuals in person or as of late virtually to determine if and how we can be of assistance. Some examples of our outreach this past year include:

- Helping a family facing a shut-off of electricity by PECO
- Supplying a grandmother taking care of 7 children with gift cards for food.
- Supporting a single mother with several health issues and 2 children who faced eviction.
- Providing help to a widow living with her daughter and 2 children who had plumbing problems.
- Providing a family with 16 children the means to acquire needed groceries.
- Collaborating with Our Lady of Hope Parish to help a woman reduce a large, outstanding PECO bill.
- Helping an impoverished man acquire a bed
- Providing assistance to an unemployed man to meet tuition obligations for his child to attend a Catholic school.
- Helping a woman with a water bill who had lost 2 family members and who is the sole caretaker of her grandson who has severe medical issues.

***Clothing Drives*** – At our annual fall clothing drive we were delighted to receive hundreds of used but very wearable items of clothing for those in need. Indeed many items were barely used and many were absolutely new. GreenDrop provides SVdP with the trucks and labor, then sorts through the goods and extracts sellable items for their thrift stores. In return, they pay SVdP for the total volume collected from our drives. They also work with us to provide our neighbors in need dignified thrift stores to shop for clothing and household items at greatly reduced prices or for free.

***Nursing Home Outreach-*** Those confined to nursing homes have been suffering greatly during the pandemic. Loved ones have been unable to visit their family members confined to these facilities and the virus has taken its toll among the aged and ill. In view of these circumstances the OMC SVdP sponsored a program to provide Immaculate Mary Nursing facility in northeast Philadelphia with personal items for some 90 of its residents. With the help

of the Flourtown Acme market we collected a list of items that included: toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, tissue, a candy bar and a pair of grip bottomed socks. All were packed in individual bags by the OMC 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders made Christmas cards for each bag as well.

***OMC Food Pantry*** – Our pantry has provided provisions not only for those who knock at our door in need of food but also to others across the city. Our parishioners have been so kind in supplying items for our pantry that we have been able to provide for those at the Face to Face Missions, the St. James School Welcome Table and the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Center.

***Thanksgiving Pie Drive*** – For years the OMC SVdP society has orchestrated a pie collection for the St Vincent's Food Kitchen in Germantown This year the contributions added up to about 90 pies. We are sure their goodness brought a smile to the faces of those men and women who visited the kitchen.

***Visitations to our elderly and homebound*** – While the pandemic has made it unsafe to physically visit these members of our parish we have continued to make contact. Society members have made regular calls to 28 elderly parishioners to offer comforting words and assure them of our prayers. In addition, OMC Vincentians send greeting cards and OMC school students create and send holiday cards. These contacts are made around the following holidays: Valentine's Day, Eastertime, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

*If you know of a senior person in need of some caring contact, please let us know by contacting the Parish Office at 215-247-0430 and we'd be happy to add him or her to our visitations.*

***Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. We could not live our mission without you! We are truly grateful for your continued support which makes a difference in the lives of so many.***

