

January 2017 Update

President's December Report

"ODS, SVDP is blessed to report, that with your help and other anonymous donors, SVDP was able to help 10 families (42 people) with Christmas food, a



turkey, and many gifts per person. And of course there is the joy that comes from being able to see their faces light up, when we drop off so many beautifully wrapped gifts. Thank you for caring and sharing. As of Dec. 26, SVDP has helped 22 families/87 individuals. There was \$8,085.08 spent on utilities, rent, furniture, bus passes and food, and an approximation of \$4,000 in Christmas presents from you. Your generosity to those in need this Christmas was very much appreciated! Thank you and God bless you."

From the National Newsletter*

"In 2017 we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of Vincentian charism. It was in 1617, while preaching in the parish church of Chatillon, that Vincent exhorted his congregation to take responsibility for a poor family from the parish that had taken seriously ill and were in need of food and comfort. The family was saved by the overwhelming response to this call to action and Vincent as a result had his great realization that for charity to be effective it must be properly organized – an event which has changed the world for the last 400 years. "

"This story also brings to life a gospel text at the heart of our shared Vincentian



calling - Matthew 25:35 " I was a stranger and you welcomed me". By reaching out and helping the strangers in our midst we are showing solidarity with that event at

Chatillon and we are as one with our Vincentian calling - we model the example of the Good Samaritan in our community."

" Who are the strangers in our midst today? There are so many to choose from – the refugees fleeing from oppression and poverty, those internally displaced within their country due to civil war, the migrants seeking a new life, the homeless, those coping alone with physical or mental illness, those suffering discrimination perhaps because of their faith or race or color, the lonely and vulnerable both young and old. Many of these people and issues are already familiar areas of work to members of the Vincentian Family globally. However, can we do more? Are there new poverties emerging that we are being called to respond to?"

"Where the Vincentian Family has strong connections on the ground, we encourage the Family to collaborate at either a local, regional, national or international level. As Vincent de Paul himself recognized - we are at our best and most effective when we work together. "

"Welcoming the strangers in our midst should also be seen as an invitation to everyone who shares (or might be interested in) our Vincentian values, mission or spirituality. The people we currently serve are as capable of welcoming strangers as we are - if we invite them to do so. It is not dependent on power or wealth or hierarchy. This is an opportunity for everyone to be part of our family and to share in our celebrations over the course of the year."

*Excerpted from the article by Vincentian Family Office in the Jan. 2017 edition of the National SVDP.