



## Reporting To Your Parish

*Being a good steward* is part of the reason that Conferences are expected to provide quarterly and annual reports to the District and Diocesan Councils.

For accountability and public relations purposes, the more your parish family knows about what members of the Society are doing, the more they will support your efforts. This holds true for verbal support, monetary support and recruitment of new members. Regardless of the timing selected for these activities good stewardship calls for this to be done. It is both a Conference's responsibility and an obligation. Always keep in mind: the more your parish knows about the Society, the more they will support you.

### **Recommendations on how this can be accomplished:**

#### **A. Meetings with the Pastor**

Hold short periodic meetings with your pastor on the work of the Society being performed in his parish while also promoting transparency and accountability. Ask the pastor what he feels is the best way to get the information to the rest of the parish.

#### **B. Bulletin or Website Announcement**

Post frequent bulletin and/or parish website announcements (when permitted) thanking the parishioners for their support and keeping them informed of services that the Society provides to those in need: number of home visits, number of families helped, number of food boxes given out, number of utility payments made, number of service hours performed by SVdP members, etc.

#### **C. Flier**

Create special fliers or bulletin inserts, expanding on a bulletin announcement. Timing can be important. Utilizing these may work best in conjunction with fund raisers or membership drives, weeks leading up to a parish ministry fair, or weeks of a scheduled collection for the Society. Contact your parish with your request for an insert giving them plenty of time to coordinate your timing request into their schedule.

## **Samples of St. Mary's (Denver) Bulletin Announcements (SVdP logo is always included)**

The parish members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank St. Mary parish and those who have donated to the SVdP Poor Box in the vestibule of the church during the Lenten season for their generosity. It is that generosity which has enabled us to continue the Lord's work in seeking out and serving the poor, sick and disadvantaged in our community during this Lenten season.

We would like all our generous donors to know that at the close of each meeting of the parish Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul we pray not only for our clients but also for our generous benefactors. Please pray for us as we seek to see the face of Christ in the poor, sick and disadvantaged in our community.

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Recently Pope Francis decided to call an extraordinary Jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its center. In calling for this Holy Year of Mercy he told us that we want to live this Year in the light of the Lord's words: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (cf. Lk 6:36)".

Please continue to assist the parish Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul during this Year of Mercy by joining us in our mission of mercy to the poor or by donating generously to the SVdP Poor Box in the vestibule of the church.

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Mother Teresa said, "The greatest evil in the world is not hatred, but indifference." She prayed "Lord, shake away my indifference and insensitivity to the plight of the poor. When I meet you hungry, thirsty or as a stranger, show me how I can give you food or quench your thirst or receive you in my home, and in my heart. Show me how I can serve you in the least of your brothers."

Are we indifferent to the plight of the poor? As Christians do we hear the Lord's call to assist these the "very least of His Brethren"? You can act to make a difference by making a family donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Poor Box in the vestibule of the church or by making a donation of food or other items to the parish food pantry.

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Last month the St. Mary Parish Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul through your generosity assisted 19 families in our community including 24 children.

The St. Mary Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be meeting this coming Tuesday, January 13th in the Parish Pastoral Center Dining Room at 7 PM. Please consider joining us at our meeting or if you have an interest in finding out more about the work of this ministry or call our the parish office and ask to be connected to the SVdP line where you can leave a message for John Smith our Vice President who will contact you to discuss your interest. You may find the work of this parish ministry to be a way you and your family can truly help to insure that these "very least of His Brethren" are cared for with dignity and love in their time of need.