

SVdP Email update from January 9, 2025

Hello to all!

Thinking of each of you and hope you are doing well and enjoying the peace, and the gentle quiet that comes after the very busy month of December; a time for our minds and bodies to get a little extra rest. I also hope the new year brings the joy and happiness that should come to you as a way of the world saying thank you for all you do for others.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
(Galatians 6:9).*

On December 29th our article was in the parish bulletin sharing with the parishioners of St. Luke's our annual report of what was accomplished through their generosity, the generosity of the local community, and your never ending diligent commitment to helping others. Your over 11,000 hours of volunteer time helped thousands of people last year with food, clothing, furniture, finances, delicious dinners, and toys for Christmas. The total between financial donations and "in-kind" services and goods came to a total of \$292,418.00. I believe we can anticipate as we enter this new year of 2025 our support to the community will continue to be greatly needed, and I am sure we are ready to take on that commitment to be of service to those who need our caring support. Gratitude goes out to all volunteers within every ministry within our SVdP conference. The number of guests served during the month of December with food, clothing, furniture, financial support, and toys for children is more than noteworthy. This year the total donation for toys was valued over \$13,000.

I apologize for the late notice, however there is an Ozanam orientation this coming Saturday, January 11th from 8:30-3:00 PM in the parish center at Visitation Church in Brick. If you would like to attend (it is always very interesting if you have not attended before) please contact Patty Brand at 609-346-1058. This is very informative for all members, especially the volunteers who are new to SVdP. This orientation shares the history of The Society SVdP, reviews the Rule and Manual of the Society and its impact throughout the world. There will be other opportunities to attend an Ozanam orientation in the near future if Saturday is not convenient for you.

A note from a guest to our home visitors, Pat and Jeff Snyder, and the members of our conference:

Good Evening;" I wanted to reach out and thank you, your husband, and your council so much for helping me and my son with our housing. I can not say thank you enough. You are amazing with going above and beyond for strangers giving your time and resources to make a difference in people's lives. The amount of stress that has been lifted from me with the help of all of you is beyond a blessing. I was honestly so lost on how to get back on track; every night I just worried about how I would be able to fix everything was overwhelming. Please send my appreciation to the council and again thank you both so very much."

There were 16 cases of various sorts during the month of December. Truly the spirit of Christmas.

Next Monday, being the 2nd Monday of the month, we will have the large delivery of food from Fulfill. All hands on deck (if possible) for 9:00 AM

The Board members continue to meet on Mondays after the Pantry and Helping Hands closes. If you ever have a concern or suggestion, please contact any Board member. Our next general meeting is on February 21st in the parish center at 1:30 PM. We will have sandwiches, snacks, dessert, coffee, and tea. At the meeting each of the Board members will present their individual ministry updates, our treasurer, Sharon Bianchi, will give the financial update, and we will be discussing our upcoming retreat.

Thank you for keeping up with your timesheets!

Blessings to each of you every day; enjoy today and perhaps a steaming cup of hot chocolate

Gemma