



St. Vincent de Paul, St. Catherine of Siena Conference Annual Report Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2012

One of the oldest and most successful charitable organizations in the world, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization of approximately 700,000 men and women throughout the world who volunteer to seek out and provide person-to-person aid to the poor and needy in 144 countries on five continents.

The Society was founded in 1833 in Paris by Frederic Ozanam. As a university student, Ozanam and his companions were moved by the plight of the poor and were challenged to put their Catholic faith into action. They adopted St. Vincent de Paul as the Society's patron because he cared for the poor, forgotten and downtrodden of Paris.

The United States Headquarters is based in St. Louis, MO. Membership in the United States totals 172,000 in 4,600 communities.

Vincetians are organized into "Conferences," a group of volunteers who gather together to grow spiritually and offer person-to-person service to those in need or living in poverty. Conferences are usually parish-based.

There are over 50 conferences in the Diocese of Trenton. The Diocesan level is called the Diocesan Council.

Nationally, Conferences may offer programs and services as needed in their community. Programs include emergency financial support, thrift stores, food pantries, clothing, job training, disaster relief, advocacy and much more.

December 10, 2012

Dear Parishioners,

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Catherine's Church presents you with its Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Annual Report. Although the recession is technically over, we continue to see a great need within our parish boundaries. Unemployment, low wages and family medical problems continue to be the primary reasons for aid request.

The Society's mission is to provide assistance to those who find themselves in a tight spot economically and need financial support to get them through that period. The Society provides assistance primarily with utility bills and rent.

We have most recently expanded our services to include an emergency food closet. This is **not** a food closet where those in need make weekly visits. Our emergency food closet is strictly used for callers that do not have food in their home. Their cupboards and refrigerator are empty. We provide a bag or two of food with our visit to the home. For regular food requests we direct callers to local food pantries.

Utility companies are well aware of our work. Each time we call them on a particular case, we are able to express the need which frequently leads to preventing the turn-off of services.

Property managers of apartment complexes continue to work with us to keep a roof over the heads of the families we work with.

We are a volunteer organization. We have enlisted 22 able-bodies to respond to phone requests, do home visits, attend meetings, discuss cases, and keep financial records. As a volunteer organization we have logged 1,023 hours during the year.

Our 1,023 hours of services equates to \$25,800* of donation to the needy. Minimally, this is what it would take to run an organization that does this type of work.

We are grateful to our fellow parishioners at St. Catherine of Siena. Your kindness and support enables us to continue providing much needed assistance to individuals and families in our local community.

Sincerely,

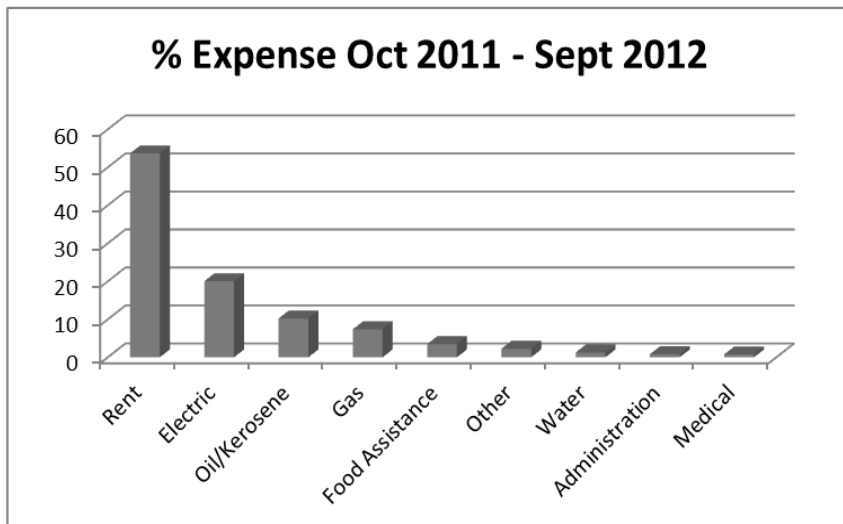
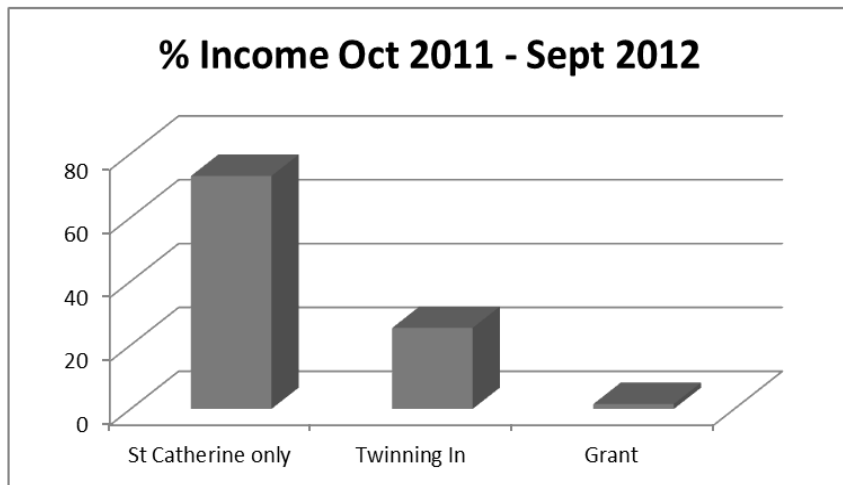
Rosa Garcia Cathy Flott

Rosa Garcia, Co-President
Cathy Flott, Co-President
Dennis O'Brien, Treasurer

*Value of \$25.22 for New Jersey is based on 2008 dollars released by the government.

**St. Vincent de Paul Financial Summary
Oct. 1, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2012**

SVDP Income		
	St Catherine only	23,597.52
	Twinning In	8,210.00
	SVDP Income - Other	510.81
Total SVDP Income		32,318.33
Expense		
	SVdP Administration	265.00
	Utilities	12,292.21
	Rent	16,945.56
	Food Assistance	1,100.00
	Medical	250.00
	Other	714.00
Total SVDP Assistance Support		31,566.77



This fiscal year, we responded to 73 calls with 210 household members being served.

Overall Summary

Total cases	73
Home visits	65
Household members	210
Volunteer Miles driven	5460
Volunteer Hours	1023
Number of Members	22

Our Process

Home visits are made to all callers making a request for aid. Vincentians make arrangements to visit the caller's home. At the visit, information is gathered about the family. The information is then verified. The case is discussed with other Vincentians and a decision is made whether or not to assist. Any payments for financial assistance are made directly to the utility company or other authorized business.

When our reserves are low we may participate in Twinning. Domestic Twinning is a process where other SVDP conferences provide assistance to us when we are unable to conduct works of mercy because of lack of funds. We are grateful to have the support of several other conferences in Monmouth County that can assist us when we have a need.

You might ask, Why do we do home visits?

- To maintain the dignity of those in need
- To expedite assistance to those in need
- To better understand the real situation
- To better protect the privacy of those in need

We as Vincentians see the face of Christ in those we visit.

Almighty God,

We do not ask that you make life easy for us,

But that problems will not intimidate us.

We do not ask for success in every venture,

But that when we fail, we can still go on with a fresh beginning.

We ask for the grace to bring the love of God, the compassion of Jesus, to those who are poor and suffering.

And we ask for the grace to set our hearts on fire so that we will live the true spirit of a Vincentian.

Amen.