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SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN

MAY 2020

THRIFT STORES PLAN FOR REOPENING

St. Vincent de Paul relies on monetary donations from individuals and businesses. In addition, the revenue generated from items donated to our thrift stores stay in the community to help individuals and families with rent, utilities and many other financial needs. We are blessed during this unprecedented time with the outpouring of financial donations from the community. Donations included help for the food pantries and kitchens that have remained opened throughout the pandemic.



Carrolltown Thrift Store

Now that our stores are beginning to put systems in place to safely reopen, we anticipate an increase in the need in the community. As always, the needs are great but the financial repercussions of the pandemic in this area is yet to be realized.



N Cambria Thrift Store

None of our programs would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. “Our managers and volunteers are to be commended for all that they have done. Please pray for all and for the success and safety of all of our workers, volunteers and customers.” Said Sonny Consiglio, SVDP Executive Director.

See page 4 for Thrift Store opening dates.



This year the Highmark walk has been changed to an online only fundraiser & virtual walk.

A virtual walk is a real walk, but it's on your terms! Anytime between May 9 and June 30, you choose how and when you walk (treadmill, park or trail, or around the neighborhood). [Click here](#) for more virtual walk details. Sonny will be walking on Friday, June 5. Click on the link above to make a donation to support his effort.

The **Johnstown Family Kitchen** has relied on this fundraiser for several years. Please consider donating to the event online or send donations to SVDP Diocesan Council, PO Box 231, Altoona, PA 16603. Be sure to note “Highmark Walk” in the memo.

[Click here](#) to register for the virtual walk and/or to make a donation online.

CONTACT US

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Memory/ Honor of Donation



[Click here](#) for daily reflections and a quote of the day.

Famvin Quote of the day May 29

– The needs of the poor are so vast; it overwhelms me to think of who needs help the most. Instead of dwelling on what I am unable to do, Lord, inspire me with an awareness of the needs of those I meet today and what I can do to make a difference in their lives. – St. Vincent de Paul

FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK “BE A PART” CAMPAIGN

In an effort to address the critical need within the communities due to COVID 19, [First Commonwealth Bank](#) initiated a “Be a Part” employee and community match campaign.

Rose Strittmatter, Executive Assistant to the President & CEO Community Engagement First Commonwealth Bank, said, “Our hope was to bring people together virtually to “be a part” in offering assistance to the families, neighbors and friends within the communities where we live and work. We chose your organization as you operate on the front lines serving those who are most vulnerable during this time.”

The \$3,000 check being presented below represents the bank’s portion of the donation.



Dana M. Peo, VP/Financial Solutions Area Manager, First Commonwealth Bank presents a check for \$3,000 from the “Be a Part” campaign to Sonny Consiglio, SVDP Executive Director.



[Click here](#) for more information on Voice of the Poor.



Photo courtesy of the [Tribune Democrat](#). Photographer, Thomas Slusser

Donna LaMonaca (center), volunteer, **St. Vincent de Paul Family Kitchen** in Johnstown along with her son, Geno (right) distribute free lunches in the Oakhurst section of Johnstown in early May. The 50 free lunches that included a hot dog and macaroni and cheese were donated by Randy Clark, owner of the Coney Island in Johnstown.

SENIOR BOXES PACKED WITH ASSISTANCE FROM ALLEGHENIES UNLIMITED CARE PROVIDERS

The **Johnstown Food for Families Warehouse** extends its thanks to the staff of [Alleghenies Unlimited Care Providers](#) for volunteering with their last two senior box packs.

Students from the Westmont School District normally assistance with the monthly packing but were unable to help due to the school closings because of the pandemic; so a plea went out on Facebook.



Volunteers pack senior boxes that contain, cereal, juice, canned fruits, canned vegetables, and other food products.

The staff members from Alleghenies Unlimited Care Providers and a few other community members offered their assistance.



Over 400 senior boxes are packaged each month at the warehouse for distribution to the food pantries in Cambria County.

These boxes are provided to individuals age 60 or older who meet the government income guidelines and are in addition to their regular monthly food distribution boxes.

ST. MARY'S NANTY GLO WORK WITH LORETTO INMATES

The male parishioners at **St. Mary's** work with the inmates at FCI Loretto to bring religion and other values to the inmates. During one of the visits parishioner Stanley Popich shared a copy of the **Catholic Register** with the men. The Register included a story of the Prayer Shawl Ministry; a program where the women at the parish make shawls to present to the sick and homebound in the parish and community.



Photo courtesy The Catholic Register

Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry and The Very Reverend Leonard Voytek, VF, Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Nanty Glo

This gave the incarnated men an idea to crochet blankets and donate them to the church. The warden called to see if the parish would accept their work. Judy Toth, conference member, said "I told the warden that I was very proud of them wanting to be part of something so wonderful."

On December 20, 2019 the church received a large box with prayer shawls, lap blankets, large blankets, scarves, and hats.

Included in the box was a handwritten letter from the inmates that explained how much it meant to them to be able to do something meaningful. They listed three reasons. 1. Being moved by the story in the Catholic Register ([September, 2019 issue](#)) and hearing Stan's [Stanley Popich] pride in the good work the Prayer Shawl Ministry is doing. 2. When the men heard how the ministry's work brought comfort and joy to those who were suffering they felt that something as incredible and powerful as this couldn't be discarded. 3. With not much to do, crocheting is a hobby they can do and used the hobby to give back. (It should be noted that the ministry offered to donate the yarn but the men said they would buy their own materials.)



Excerpts from the letter.
"Just as you all have put your words and Gospel into action, so have we. ...We thank you so so much for all you have done and continue to do. Your hearts and spirits have touched ours and we will be forever changed because of it."

Signed *Your Brothers in Faith*

Shown above: Father Voytek blessing the prayer shawls made by the inmates at FCI Loretto.

SVDP FOOD PANTRIES RECEIVE \$10,000 DONATION FROM THE BECKWITH INSTITUTE

[The Beckwith Institute](#) supports projects and innovation that improve patient care and patient experience across UPMC's locations.

However due to impact of COVID-19 they have decided to reach out to help combat food insecurity in our community.

SVDP Food Pantries are pleased to accept the generous \$10,000 donation from The Beckwith Institute and UPMC.

THE BECKWITH INSTITUTE | Patient Care Innovation Today and Tomorrow

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

KNIGHTS OF  COLUMBUS



2020

The Youth Ministry Golf Outing is rescheduled for September.

The Feed the Need Rodeo has been cancelled for 2020 and rescheduled in 2021.

- **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**
Youth Ministry Golf Outing
[Park Hills Country Club](#), Altoona
9:00 AM Registration
- **MAY 9—JUNE 30**
Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community
[Online Fundraiser and Virtual Walk](#)

2021

- **SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021**
Feed the Need Food Truck Rodeo
PNC Park, Johnstown, PA
Noon - 5:00 PM

**STATE COLLEGE THRIFT STORE
SELLING JEWELRY ONLINE**



Order by mail, free shipping on all orders
Perfect for Graduation & Mother's Day Gifts

[Click here](#) to visit their website.

PROPOSED THRIFT STORE OPENINGS AND HOURS

- Carrolltown May 18**
Mon 9 am-1 pm | Tue-Fri 9 am -1:30 pm
- Johnstown May 18**
Mon-Fri 10 am-6 pm | Sat 10 am-3 pm
Thur 9 am-10 am private shopping for customers 65 and over or those at high risk.
- Altoona June 2**
Tues-Fri 9 am-4 pm
Donations Tues-Fri 10 am-2 pm
- Nanty Glo June 9 (tentative date)**
Mon and Fri 5 pm -7 pm
Tue, Wed, Thr 10 am-2 pm | Sat 10 am-Noon
- N Cambria June 11 (tentative date)**
Mon and Fri 10 am-1 pm
Tue and Thur 9 am-Noon
First Saturday of the month 10 am -1 pm
- Cresson June 16**
Tue-Fri 10 am-3 pm | Sat 10 am-1 pm
- Ebensburg July (no set date)**
- State College no date set**

HOLY NAME PANTRY

During this critical time the **Holy Name Pantry** in Ebensburg continues to serve individuals and families in need on a weekly basis. Observing social distancing and wearing masks, boxes of food are loaded directly in the cars.

The pantry is open on Thursdays from 9:00 am to Noon.

For information call (814) 472-4362

Ginny Swope handing out numbers to recipients coming for food.



Mike Smith loading food in recipients car.