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SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN

DECEMBER 2020

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO HIS FRIENDS

There is an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver with a special song to sing for others, with a special act of love to bestow.

No one else can speak my message,
or sing my song,
or offer my act of love.
These are entrusted only to me

According to this tradition,
the message may be spoken, the song sung
the act of love delivered
only to a few
or to all the folk in a small town,
or to all the people in a large city,
or even to all the people in the whole world.
It all depends on God's unique plan
for each person.

At this holy time of Christmas, when we are recalling the fact that God so loved the world that He sent his Son into the world for us, I want to say this to you:

Your message has been heard in my heart,

Your song has warmed my world,

And your love has brightened my darkness.

Thank you, thank you for your message, your song your love.
You will always be in my own grateful heart and prayers.

Submitted by Alice Emanuel



A SINCERE THANK YOU

During this year the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Altoona Johnstown has been graced with donations from various organizations and individuals.

Most of our fundraisers were cancelled due to Covid 19 but many of you in the community did not forget that there are many individuals and families that continue to struggle everyday. Whether unemployed, underemployed or on lay off because of the many businesses suffering due to the pandemic many of you that were able to give have done so.

Because of the generosity from private and business donations, foundation grants, and the proceeds from the thrift stores the needs offices in Altoona and Johnstown can continue to help families and individuals in the community.

Thank you for **Helping Us Help Others!**
[Click here](#) to give.

CONTACT US

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

Famvin Quote of the day December 28

– O Lord, may I find true contentment in working quietly, knowing that my only true reward is in knowing it is done for your glory.

-St. Vincent de Paul

SVDP COMMUNITY GARDENS A MESSAGE FROM JIM YEAGER

Wow...This summer went so fast and we all have worked so hard providing fresh, nutritious vegetables to so many individuals. Dotty [Caminiti, community gardens co-manager] and I want to express our sincere appreciation for the all your help in making this project so successful this summer.

Due to Covid - 19 employment hardships in our community, we decided in February to open up additional field areas for growing produce. The decision came with optimism and outweighed the increase amount of labor hour to meet the challenge.

As a result, the summer of 2020 has produced over 13,081.4 LBS of fresh vegetables donated to local agencies. Because of your generous contribution of time and sacrifice we have succeeded in meeting the needs of so many people in our Community. Most importantly, we built a close friendship and garden community.



Through your continuous dedication, we have had an extremely successful season serving others. We want to thank you for your years of dedication to the Monastery Community Gardens Initiative.

The 2021 season will be here before you know it and already plans are being made for next year's gardens. All of us are stake-holders in this project and we are open to hearing from you with any suggestions to better our garden initiative.

We look forward laboring with you again in the hot summer sunshine of 2021. Hope you join us again next season.

Blessing to you and your family this Holliday Season.

Peace,
Jim Yeager
community Gardens co-manager

For more information on the gardens go to svdpcares.org/community-gardens

In December, the **EADS Group Charitable Foundation** awarded a \$870 grant to SVDP. The grant will assist us in supporting our mission to help those less fortunate.

A sincere thank you to the EADS Group Charitable Foundation Fund, a fund under the umbrella of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.



Justin Santichen, (left) Home Depot Specialty Assistant Store Manager at the 4128 Johnstown location presents a check for \$1,000 from the **Home Depot Foundation** to Greg Karcher, SVDP Johnstown Family Kitchen manager.



Altoona Thrift Store manager Deb Adams, assistant manager Charlotte Airhart and head cashier Kate McClure attend the Altoona Mirror Hometown Favorites banquet where area businesses were recognized as local favorites in a variety of categories.

Once again the Altoona store won in the Antique/Resale Shop category. Congratulations!



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



Altoona Curve goes to bat for **The SVDP Assumption Chapel Food Pantry**. The **James E. Van Zandt Medical Center** also took part in the food drive. Masks with the Curve and the Medical Center logos were given away to people donating non-perishable items. An estimated \$1,200 in product was donated.

Pictured from the left are Bob McManus, pantry volunteer; Jess Knott, Curve; Nate Bowen, Curve; Annie Choiniere, Curve absent from the photo, Danno McGrath, pantry volunteer



Christmas presents were able to be purchased and given out to the kiddos at the **Johnstown Kitchen** thanks to the **Christmas for Kids Youth Ministry** project.

In addition to the Christmas for Kids project the Ministry also provides backpacks at the beginning of the school year, summer reading and lunch programs and other needs within the community.



2021

- **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13**
Friends-day Wednesday Soup Sale
Johnstown Family Kitchen, 231 Bedford St
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**
Friends-day Wednesday Soup Sale
Johnstown Family Kitchen, 231 Bedford St
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10**
Friends-day Wednesday Soup Sale
Johnstown Family Kitchen, 231 Bedford St
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- **SUNDAY, JUNE 20**
Annual Feed the Need Food Truck Rodeo
PNC Park, Johnstown
Noon - 5:00 PM

THANK YOU TO THE HOLLIDAYSBURG KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 4245

The **Knights of Columbus** hosted a Chicken Dinner in December to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Altoona Needs office.

356 tickets were sold and with donations on the day of the event a check for over \$2,200 was presented to the Altoona Needs office.



Dan Weaver, SVDP Council representative, who spearheaded the initiative, said, “this was a team effort and I want to thank everyone for their help in selling the tickets.”