



# SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN

## SPRING 2025

### Please welcome the new assistant executive director of St. Vincent de Paul/Food for Family

William Kanich is the new assistant executive director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, having joined the team in February 2025. With a robust background in business and charity work, William is poised to make a significant impact within the dioceses, collaborating with various conferences, thrift stores, pantries, and kitchens. A proud graduate of Mount Aloysius College in 2020, he brings a fresh perspective and innovative ideas to the organization, eager to elevate the mission of service and compassion. William's passion for community engagement and his entrepreneurial spirit promise to usher in a new era of growth and outreach for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, making him a great addition to SVDP/FFF. One of Wills Favorites Quotes (see below)



- **Empty Bowls Dinner Bottle works Arts**  
**3rd Ave, Johnstown 5:00 -7:00**
- **Mid Atlantic meetings**  
**April 25-26, 2025**
- **17th Annual Golf outing**  
**Sept 5th - Park Hills Golf course**

#### ANY EVENTS BEING PLANNED?

Let us know so we can get it on the calendar. Newsletter will be released quarterly

#### CONTACT US

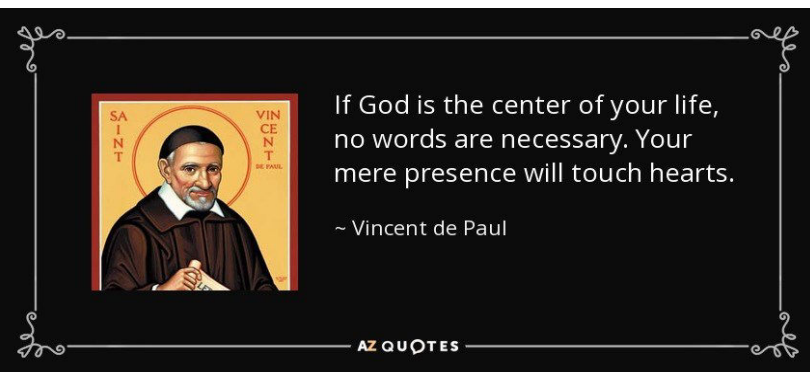
(814) 943-1981

[avcdepaul@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:avcdepaul@atlanticbbn.net)

[www.svdpcares.org](http://www.svdpcares.org)



Memory/ Honor of Donation



### Famvin Quote of the day, March 17, 2025

We should hope that God will be more honored by our submission to His providence in awaiting His orders than if we ventured to anticipate them (V:165).



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

## Monastery Gardens

What a great start to the season! Earlier this month, we prepped rows for planting, built new garden beds, watered seeds, and reconnected after the winter break. It felt amazing to be back in the dirt and working together!

There's still plenty to do, and we'd love for you to join us!

Whether you're an expert gardener or just want to learn, there's a place for you here.


Interested?

Contact us at:


814-280-5377


[svdpmonasterygardens@gmail.com](mailto:svdpmonasterygardens@gmail.com)


Come Grow with us!




## SVDP Gardens at The Monastery.....


 grows fresh produce to support local food programs and those in need.


 powered by volunteers, the Gardens thrive through community support, teamwork, and dedication.

 a place for connection, the Gardens offer a space to make friends, enjoy nature, and give back

Volunteers Needed for the 2025 Season!!

 [svdpmonasterygardens@gmail.com](mailto:svdpmonasterygardens@gmail.com)

 814-280-5377

 [monasterygardens.weebly.com](http://monasterygardens.weebly.com)



### Name: Chuck Torres

Chuck was Born and raised in the town of Pottsville, PA, Chuck moved to Altoona about 3 years ago and was looking for a fresh start which brought him to SVDP thrift store as a volunteer now being an employee. Chuck has always been driven to serve his community. After a decade as a firefighter and EMT, he now brings that same hardworking, trustworthy spirit to his role as a team lead. Known for his friendly demeanor and collaborative approach, Chuck is dedicated to supporting his colleagues and ensuring projects are completed efficiently and to the highest standard here at SVDP. With over two and a half years of experience under his belt at SVDP, Chuck Torres has made a lasting impact at the SVDP thrift store. As a seasoned team member he takes on a variety of essential roles from driving the truck to furniture pick up to overseeing loss prevention and maintenance. But what Chuck loves most here at SVDP is the welcoming, family-like atmosphere that surrounds the store. "Everyone is welcome, and there's no judgment," he says. "We're all here to make a difference in the community." With his unwavering dedication and collaborative spirit, Chuck continues to be an invaluable asset to the SVDP team.



### Vincentian Retreat

On March 22 the Altoona-Johnstown Vincentian retreat was held at St Rose of Lima in Altoona. The guest speaker was Marge McGinley who has been a member and Spiritual Advisor for the Trenton Diocese Society of St. Vincent de Paul for 27 years. She spoke on Vincentian spirituality and how we can deepen our Vincentian spirituality while helping others. There was over 40 Vincentians from around the diocese who attended the retreat which ended with mass being held at St Rose of Lima Church.



**2025 MID-ATLANTIC REGION  
BON SECOURS RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER  
APRIL 25 - 26, 2025**

*Registration is now open for the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, April 25 - 26, 2025 at the Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center. We hope you'll join us for this Educational and Spiritually uplifting regional program. Don't miss out on this chance to connect with friends and nourish your spirit!*

**Register Now:** <https://meetingssvdpusa.regfox.com/2025-svdpmid-atlantic-regional-meeting>

Registration is \$85 per person (includes registration fees, lunch, beverages and workshops), registration closes: **April 11, 2025**

*Any questions registration, please contact Michele Schurk at [mschurk@svdpusa.org](mailto:mschurk@svdpusa.org), all other questions, please contact Paul Korkemaz at [pkorkemaz@svdpusa.org](mailto:pkorkemaz@svdpusa.org).*

**CHECK OUT SVDP THRIFT STORES FOR GREAT BARGAINS!**

Go to [www.svdpcares.org/thrift-stores](http://www.svdpcares.org/thrift-stores) for hours of operation.

Interested in volunteering? Call the store or go fill to the [form on line](#).



**ALTOONA**

1215 7th Ave  
(814) 943-1981

**CARROLLTOWN**

204 N Main St  
(814) 344-9309

**CRESSON**

115 Ashcroft Ave  
(814) 886-9566

**EBENSBURG**

Ebensburg Mini Mall  
(814) 472-4362

**JOHNSTOWN**

301 Central Ave  
(814) 535-4357

**N. CAMBRIA**

1907 Bigler Ave  
(814) 948-8828

**NANTY-GLO**

1005 Caroline St  
(814) 749-6043

**STATE COLLEGE**

1300 Benner Pike  
Ste B  
(814) 867-3131

**The Johnstown High School Key Club  
Proudly Presents our 14th Annual**

# EMPTY BOWLS DINNER

*"Part soup, part art, and a whole lot of heart!"*

Join us for a simple soup dinner served in a beautiful, handcrafted bowl of your choice. All proceeds will benefit local organizations that combat hunger and homelessness in our community.

**THURSDAY  
APRIL 24,  
2025  
5-7 PM**

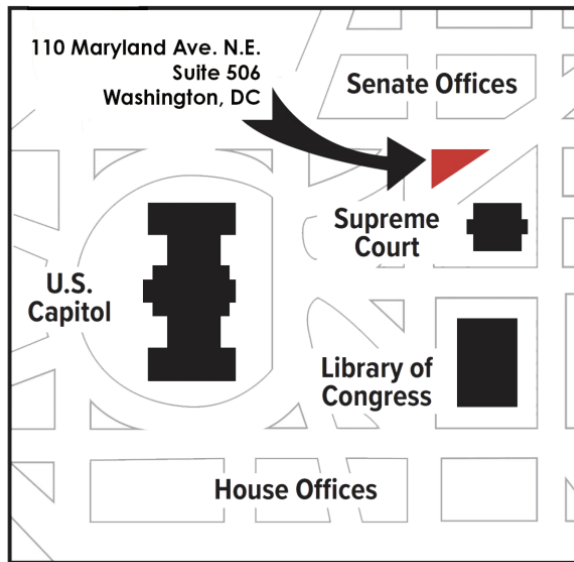
**STUDENTS: \$10  
ADULTS: \$15**

**All proceeds benefit the following agencies:**

- Kappa Kappa Gamma International
- Womens Help Center, Inc.
- SVDP
- Bottleworks Arts on 3rd Johnstown, PA 15906
- Check out our progress on IG! @GJHS\_keyclub

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **SVdP USA Will Open Washington D.C. Office to Advocate for Measures to Prevent Homelessness**



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA (SVdP), which serves more than 5 million people living in poverty a year, announced it will open a second national office in the heart of Washington D.C. this year to advocate on issues related to poverty and homelessness and to expand the organization’s presence among policy makers in the nation’s capital.

Speaking at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) in Washington D.C. SVdP National President, John Berry, said the time was right to take a bold approach to highlighting the causes of homelessness and the steps that can be taken to reduce the number of people who are unhoused.

“The Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s unique, personal approach to supporting so many people in need provides a distinct and important platform to drive awareness of how to help at-risk populations,” Berry said. “Homelessness continues to be a pressing issue that is often forgotten. We will use our experience and our national platform to drive greater awareness of this crisis and work to provide solutions that work.”

The soon-to-be named director of the Washington office will help lead the organization’s advocacy efforts, with an initial focus on homelessness among the elderly and families with children.

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### **A Mid-year Meeting to Remember in St. Louis**

Vincentians from all across the United States gathered together March 5-8 in downtown St. Louis at the Midyear Business Meeting of SVdP USA. While in attendance, leaders learned about governance, leadership, advocacy, and finance, while renewing and deepening shared spirituality and friendships with one another. More than 200 leaders were in attendance, representing all nine regions and hundreds of SVdP Conferences.

National President John Berry welcomed members with his Presidential Address on Thursday with this speech. He began his address in this way: “Every night, more than a half a million people in America experience homelessness. Imagine walking past them knowing they are someone’s mother, father, or child. As Vincentians, we cannot simply walk by — we are called to act. As Vincentians, and as Christians, we understand our profound responsibility to act boldly in service to others.”

To make our meeting times together more effective, SVdP USA is moving away from the Midyear Meeting starting in 2026. Instead, SVdP will focus on regional meetings and meetings of other affinity groups, including Executive Directors, Stores, Spiritual Advisors, Conference Presidents, and more.