

## St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Bulletin Report – June 2021

Dear Parishioners,

In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus instructed his disciples "to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;" to trust in God's providence, to trust that their simple mission of service would bear fruit through God's merciful love. We are always tempted to maintain control of our needs and resources but we learn from Jesus' instructions the necessity of abandonment to Divine direction and protection.

As God sends us out to serve those in need, we often feel powerless faced with momentous suffering and loss, and wonder about the meagerness of our contribution of a food hamper or a portion of the month's rent, a listening ear or our assurance of prayers. However, we are asked to trust that the Holy Spirit blesses us and our encounters with compassion, hope and healing. God sends us out, so it's His Providence we bring, not ours.

In June, by responding to our emergency phone line, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul assisted fifteen single adults and nine families with food; five single adults and two families with rent; two single adults and one family with hydro; and one single adult with medication not covered by OHIP.

In addition, we distributed our Friendship Take-out Dinner in the church parking lot: June 16, we served 60 people, including 21 deliveries. During the summer, we offer one dinner per month. We served a dinner on Wednesday, July 14, and our next take-out meal is Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to thank the Helping Hand Food Bank for their frequent donations of bread, meat and other goods. In addition, we are blessed with assistance from Harvest Hands, St. Thomas, which has, for the last three months, been delivering fresh vegetables for distribution on the day of our dinner.

Please continue your support of the SSVP ministry and keep us in your prayers as we seek to be a sign of God's tender mercy for all.

Anne Stancek