



Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church

15415 Red Robin, San Antonio, Texas 78255

(210) 695-2944 x 115

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"No work of charity is foreign to the Society."

THANK YOU for your Angel Tree Gifts!



Every Christmas you never let us down!

You make it possible to spread joy to many families in our parish and the neighboring community.

One family was so excited to receive the gifts that they asked us to stay and watch them open their presents. An unexpected bike was left in the narthex and we found a family who was thrilled to receive it. A family with a newborn baby was evicted from their apartment and by God's intercession we were able to get them their much appreciated gifts as they were packing up the last of their belongings. Another family knew we were coming around dinner time and shared their home cooked meal!

The following is from a note we received from St. Alphonsus SVDP for the Angel Tree gifts delivered to them:

"These families were so happy to receive the bags of gifts today. They wanted to convey their gratitude to your SVDP conference and to your parishioners for their hard work and generosity. We are all blessed to have friends such as yourselves. Thank you for allowing our conference to participate in the angel tree event."

God bless you all,
Jose, Elida, Linda, Sylvia, Art, Manuel, and Cecilia"

RETURN FROM NIGERIA: THE LEGACY OF EMILIA

You may remember Nigerians Ken and Precious Nwafor (...and son Ebube). Four years ago they buried their six day old baby Emilia at Holy Cross Cemetery. She succumbed to an inoperable heart defect. Our parish and SVDP united with them through Emilia's birth, death, and burial.

This summer the family returned and reconnected with our Vincentians. It was an emotional week visiting Emilia's grave ... a short life that greatly impacted all our lives.

We also took the Nwafor's to the River Walk and enjoyed a boat ride down the river. We toured the Alamo. They visited parish families. Ebube happily splashed in a backyard swimming pool with a parishioner's grandchildren. He also got his wish to ride a horse! They attended Mass and we introduced them to Father Lewis. We completed the week with a potluck dinner. It was a great week of fellowship and remembrance of Emilia who brought us all together!



TRAFFIC LIGHT BEGGARS

You pull up to a red light, and on the corner, working their way down your lane is someone begging. At all costs, you try not to make eye contact with them. You feel uncomfortable. After all, we have been taught that these people may be using the money we give them for drugs or alcohol, that we are only helping with a symptom, not fixing the root cause, that the life of this person is not being improved by our giving.

The Catholic Church sees things differently. We have been given a guide with the Corporal Works of Mercy. (Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, etc.). In 2017 our Holy Father, when asked about begging, said that giving to someone in need "is always right." Jesus, himself, said "Give to everyone who asks you..."

If you feel uncomfortable giving money, consider keeping socks and bottles of water in your car. Socks are the number one requested item of the homeless. Small snacks in individual packages are also good. Look the person in the eyes. Let them see Christ's love in you.

St. Vincent de Paul Quote: "Consider God's generosity towards you rather than your own unworthiness in His sight, and live in His strength rather than in the thoughts of your own weakness."

FACT: OUR ATONEMENT SVDP

Vincentians made 81 home visits to families in need during 2019

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance or a home visit, please call us at (210) 695-2944 x 115

Have you thought about becoming a member of SVDP?

- You will be serving God.
- You will be growing spiritually.
- You will be helping those in need.
- You will be working with a dedicated group of Vincentians.
- YOU ARE NEEDED.

Please contact Mary Ellen at (210) 260-0595

2019 Atonement SVDP Financial Update

During 2019 – Our parishioners donated **\$32,361** in cash for our mission of charity.

During 2019 – You gave In-Kind donations of **\$23,500** for our annual projects: coats, sweaters, shoes, Angel Tree gifts, toiletries, baby shower gifts, and school supplies.

During 2019 - We distributed **\$15,402** in food, rent, and utility assistance to our own OLA families and those in our geographic area.

During 2019 - We sent **\$2,000** in disaster contributions to SVDPs in Rockport, TX and Victoria, TX to minister to the ongoing needs of families affected by 2018 Hurricane Harvey.

During 2019 - We distributed **\$1,725** to SVDP conferences in our district to assist their specific families in need of help.

During 2019 - We sent **\$15,500** to SVDP Conferences serving in the following poorer communities:

International Twinning – SVDP conferences:

San Justino de Jacobis - Peru and St. Gozaga Goza - Njeru Town, Uganda

Local & Area Twinning - SVDP conferences:

San Antonio, TX -St. Agnes, St. Alphonsus, Christ the King, St. Ann, Little Flower, and Natalia, TX - St. John Bosco

We are most grateful to our parishioners for your continued monthly support!

Iraqi Refugee becomes American Citizen

We are so proud to celebrate with Ola and her family. Our SVDP has followed her success as she provides a brighter future for her young children!

