



Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Patrick Church
175 St. Patrick Street
McEwen, TN 37101
19 October 2020

2019-2020 FISCAL ANNUAL REPORT
“No work of charity is foreign to the Society”

Dear Parishioners,

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Patrick Church is a parish-based Conference. It is the basic unit of the Society. Our members show their commitment through person-to-person service. Vincentians serve in hope. Our vocation is to follow Christ through service to those in need and bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. The essential elements of our Society are Spirituality, Friendship and Service. We have now completed our thirteenth year of operation.

It is impossible to start a new year without recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of the past! None of this would have been possible without your prayers, your concerns, your generosity, and your most precious commodity-TIME. Sharing the wonderful accomplishments made possible by you is our purpose in this letter. Without your support, the St. Vincent de Paul conference at our church would not exist.

Our Vincentians, with the SVDP Youth Group, reached out with **30** in person visits and **172** phone visits to assist our Neighbors in Need. We had to limit in person visits as of March 2020 due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic but were still able to assist **1800 +** people in Humphreys County. This program is supported by our dedicated SVDP members and, in conjunction with the other programs listed below, contributed to **3000+** hours of volunteer labor and more than **6000** of use of their personal vehicles to assist those in need. We were able to assist with:

1. Housing
2. Medicine
3. Utilities
4. Furniture

5. Food Pantry
6. The Homeless
7. Clothing
8. Second Harvest Give-Away
9. SVDP Christmas party
10. Gas vouchers
11. Visits to the elderly at home and in nursing homes by our SVDP Youth
12. And much more

The above list does not show the caring and compassionate attention that is given to each and every Neighbor. It does not show the appreciation on the faces of the needy. It does not show the many prayers said with our Neighbors and sharing our faith with them.

Our conference has worked with local churches and organizations in an ecumenical way to promote unity.

OTHER ANNUAL PROGRAMS:

Provide school supplies, Thanksgiving baskets for the needy, Giving Angel Tree, Annual children and families Christmas breakfast and party, Trunk and Treat. On occasion, due to generous donors, we are able to expand these programs and serve additional Neighbors.

To maximize the effective use of limited resources, all recipients requesting support are interviewed either in person or via phone to ascertain the accuracy of the information provided based on 1) urgency of the need, and 2) effort of the recipients to become self-sufficient. We then prioritize the assistance to be sure it goes to the most in need.

We are working to address the “root cause” of poverty and mitigate society abuses which contributes to their condition. We provide our Neighbors with community resources such as employment, housing, utilities external to our conference in Humphreys county in order to give our Neighbors a hand up versus a hand out.

Our work has had a significant impact on the reputation of the Catholic Church in our community as a true witness of Christian values to all of God’s children. SVDP’s good works to all faiths supports our church’s efforts in achieving Catholic evangelization. This holds true especially in our successful food distribution through Second Harvest.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please consider joining us. Contrary to what many believe, our primary mission is not helping the poor, but the **spiritual development of our members** which is enhanced by our commitment to helping our brothers and sisters in need. The amount of need in our community exceeds our ability to assist everyone requesting help. This is a very fulfilling ministry and can be learned very quickly. Our Good Lord will bless you for your commitment to

others. You can participate in and determine how much time you can dedicate to SVDP. If you are interested in getting involved directly, please email us at SVDP.mcewen@yahoo.com or contact our office at 931-582-8454.

Those of you that continue to contribute financial and moral support to this ministry need to know how significant this ministry has been. Our St. Patrick monthly collection yielded \$39,639. In addition, we also have many generous outside donors.

THANK YOU for allowing us to fulfill this Mission. This is what St. Vincent de Paul is all about. With your help, we have been able to make life a little bit easier for those less fortunate or food insecure.

May God Bless you.

Serving in His name.

The Officers and Members of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Patrick Church.

*****Please see following for the works of our St. Patrick SVDP Youth Group*****

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL YOUTH GROUP

We are pleased to add that we presently have 9 members in our SVDP Youth Group. Covid-19 has limited their visits to our elderly Neighbors in the home and nursing homes in the community but there is no limit to their dedication to our Neighbors and members of the church in other ways:

- Praying together
- Presenting prayer cards to our Lord on Adoration Friday
- Visiting the shut-ins of the parish and community. They bring their guitars and play and sing spiritual hymns. This is quite uplifting for our folks who cannot leave the house.
- Filling food boxes for the Conference pantry
- Making gingerbread houses.
- Working with Trunk and Treat.
- Orchestrating a food drive in school.
- Assisted with Friendship Day
- Helped with Conference at the Christmas party and breakfast with Santa for our Neighbor families.
- Prepares Cans of Kindness and distributes them at various venues.
- Sent greeting cards for various holidays to our church members.
- Friendship.

These young adults are the future of St. Vincent de Paul. Always keep them in your prayers. They spend many hours working selflessly for others. The Holy Spirit guides all of us! They serve in His name.