**Reflections on Service**

"A prayer that does not lead you to practical action for your brother – the poor, the sick,
those in need of help, a brother in difficulty

- is a sterile and incomplete prayer. When

time is not set aside for dialogue with Him in

prayer, we risk serving ourselves and not God present in our needy brother and sister.

It is from contemplation,' from a strong

friendship with the Lord that the capacity is
born in us to love and to bring the love of
God, His mercy, His tenderness, to others.
Our work with brothers in need, our
charitable works of mercy, lead us to the
Lord, because it is in the needy brother and
sister that we see the Lord himself. "

Pope Francis

“What God asks of us in particular is to have great care to serve the poor.”

St. Vincent de Paul

“No matter how much we exert ourselves people will never have faith in us unless we show charity to those whom we wish to believe in us.”

St. Vincent de Paul

***Thank You!***

*We Vincentians are genuinely grateful
for the generous support, financial and
otherwise, offered up by our parishioners. Our client families are even more grateful. We thank you for any and all interest you take in our work.*

***Ways We Serve***

*• Client Visits* & *Assistance*

* *Relationship Formation*
* *Finances/Bills*
* *Housing*
* *Furniture*

*• Food Pantry*

o *Bags of Food given out Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday*

* *Help with the Food Bank Fresh Produce truck the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.*
* *Christmas turkey give-away to 250 families*
* *Thanksgiving turkey give-away to 150 families*
* *Help with the homeless*

**Summary of our Work in 2017**

About 750 bags of food were given out as well as almost 250 turkeys and a grocery gift card at Christmas and 150 food baskets donated by the parishioners at St. Ignatius of Antioch and St. Peter Martyr School with turkeys at Thanksgiving.  The number of people coming to our food pantry dropped by 17% from the previous year, which we hope is an indication that the economy is getting better.  With fewer people using the food pantry the Society stepped up its home visits and averaged more than one a week.  Using our own funds and by partnering with other organizations we were able to help about 150 families with rent, furniture and utilities.  In past years we bought beds for people that were sleeping on the floor.  We helped someone move into an apartment when they were living on a friend’s front porch.   We paid the PG&E bill for a disabled lady whose husband walked out on her.    We always try to give a hand up and not a hand out.  Which is why we are happy that about 75% of the people that come to our food pantry do so less than four times in a year.  We are there when they hit a bump in the road and need a little help to get back on their feet.  We also responded to over 400 phone calls asking for help.  Most importantly we visited these families in their homes to establish the personal relationships with each that are perhaps the most valued contribution we can make to better their condition. We offered ourselves.

*Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St.
Vincent de Paul,* a *Catholic lay organization,*

*leads women and men to join together to*

*grow spiritually by offering person-to-person
service to the needy and suffering in the
tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic
Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.*

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*As a reflection of the whole family of God,*

*members, who are known as Vincentians,
are drawn from every ethnic and cultural
background, age group and economic level.*

*Vincentians are united in an international
society of* *charity by their spirit of poverty,
humility and sharing, which is nourished by
prayer and reflection, mutually supportive
gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule.*

*Organized locally, Vincentians witness
God's love by embracing all works of charity
and justice. The Society collaborates with
other people of good will in relieving need
and addressing the causes, making no
distinction in those served, because in them
Vincentians see the face of Christ,* i

*"No Work of Charity is Foreign to the
Society. "*

***Questions* / *Interested?***

*Please feel free to contact any of our
Conference officers:*

*President:*

*Bob Liles*

*Vice President: Larry Hopwood
Secretary: Renee Sparks*

*Treasurer: Alizu Urbina*

*Spiritual Advisor: Francis Barnes*

*Call (925) 757-0941 and leave a message for us if you are interested in helping. Or just show up at the Parish Center on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9 to 10am and help us hand out food.*



***The Holy Rosary*** *Conference of*

**St *Vincent de Paul Offers***

***An Invitation***

***to***

**Serve**

***Mission Statement***

“To Serve the Poor is to Serve Jesus Christ”

