***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 live 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.”*

*Vincent DePaul*

*“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.”*

*Vincent DePaul*

***Ways We Serve***

* *Client Visits & Assistance*
	+ *Relationship Formation*
	+ *Finances/Bills*
	+ *Housing*
	+ *Furniture*
	+ *Job Search, Resumes, and Interview Skills*
	+ *Advocacy*
* *Friday Foods*
	+ *Weekly Meals Boxes*
* *Retail Stores*
	+ *Donations of Clothing, Household Items*
	+ *Helping Stock and Sort*
* *Appreciation Dinner / St Joseph’s Dinner*
	+ *Acknowledge our resource partners*
	+ *Acknowledge our generous parish*
* *Administrative Tasks*
	+ *Database Management*
	+ *Resources Updates*

***Summary of our Work in 2017***

*Last year we conducted 311 family visits helping a total of 952 individuals. We distributed $28,068 in financial aid including rent, utilities, transportation, and food. We gave out an additional $37,327 of in-kind goods and services, mostly via our Friday Foods program, but we also provide clothing, furniture, auto repair, and moving of household goods where needed. Finally, we managed to present a needy familiy with a donated used car in excellent condition. All that notwithstanding, our most important contribution to the families we serve is our face-to-face compassion and caring. We go to where they are and engage them in relationship. We wish not to merely give out monies and things, but also to include them in community. We help with budgeting, job search and interview skills, and to assist in obtaining social services. We don’t exist for “hand outs”, but rather “hand ups”.*

***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.*