

Society of St. Vincent dePaul  
Naples District Council

See the face  
of Christ.



Be the face  
of Christ.



# The Samaritan



*'No act of charity is foreign to us'*

## ***SVdP Naples Installs New Council President***

John Javaruski of St. Agnes Conference has become the president of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul Naples District Council, effective October 1, 2024. He will serve a three year term.



Moving to Naples in 2018, he and his wife Fran became members of St. Agnes Church and immediately became interested by the work of the SVdP Society. Joining SVDP in 2020, he became the Treasurer of the St. Agnes Conference, moving up to Council Treasurer in 2022.

John has a strong belief rooted in the teachings of the New Testament that reference the importance of helping those in need. Citing St. James, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

His SVdP Agenda includes:

- Enhancing the operations of the SVdP thrift stores, the food pantry, and the Meals on Wheels program
- Creating a Five Year Strategic Plan encompassing SVdP programs, fundraising efforts, and locations
- Making all SVdP locations attractive places to work and volunteer
- Ensuring that all of our conferences have the resources to help our neighbors adequately

John and his wife Fran are both Vincentians and have been married for 47 years. They have three children and two grandchildren.

**The Society of  
St. Vincent DePaul  
Naples District Council**

**Family Assistance Center &  
Administrative Offices**

4451 Mercantile Ave  
Naples, FL 34104  
Monday—Friday  
9:00 a.m. —3:00 p.m.

**Naples Thrift Store**

3810 Tamiami Trail East  
Naples, FL 34112

**Bonita Springs Thrift Store  
& Boutique**

3725 Bonita Beach Road  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

**Thrift Store Hours**

Monday—Saturday  
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
Sunday  
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Meals on Wheels**

239-775-0443

**239-775-2907**

[www.svdpnapples.org](http://www.svdpnapples.org)



## Naples' Conference Re-Cap

**St. Agnes Conference** continues to grow in members, assistance given and holiness. The **Feast of St. Vincent dePaul** was marked with a celebration of Mass attended by Conference members.

**St. Ann Conference** is home to the **Mini-Vinnies**, a group of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at St. Ann School in Naples. The group is dedicated to helping those in need and in September collected over 500 jars of peanut butter and jelly that were donated to the SVdP Naples Pantry.

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Conference** fields more requests for assistance than any other Conference in Naples. Historic records were set in August for the number of families that received food and financial assistance.

**St. Finbarr Conference** elected a new president, **Colleen DelDebbio**. Colleen became the Conference servant leader on October 1, succeeding **Anita Creamer**. The Conference held a celebratory Mass and Brunch on October 20th to honor the Conference founding members, **Tessie** and **Carlos LaMadrid**.

**St. John the Evangelist Conference** has had a busy summer, adding and training new members. The group also laid out plans for new Vinnie Van project, and its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

**St. Peter the Apostle Conference** celebrated the **Feast of St. Vincent dePaul** by attending Mass as a group. The Conference banner was placed on the altar for the Mass, and the homily centered on the virtues and teachings of the Society's Patron Saint.

## The JOY'S of Being a Vincentian

The **JOY** of enhancing your spiritual well-being and growing closer to God.

The **JOY** of knowing that your service not only helps others but is for the Glory of God.

The **JOY** of making new friends and working with like-minded people, doing tasks that you enjoy doing.

The **JOY** of living a life full of purpose.

The **JOY** of bringing Hope to others.

The **JOY** of helping others, knowing that what you do is having a positive influence in people's lives.

The **JOY** of being a Vincentian.

### Board of Directors

Deacon Hugh Muller, Spiritual Advisor

John Javaruski, President

Chuck Drago, Vice President

Alice Brady, 2nd Vice President

Colleen DelDebbio, Council Secretary/  
President, St. Finbarr

Fran Javaruski, Recording Secretary

John Goddard, Council Treasurer/  
President, St. Agnes

Tom Tette, Assistant Treasurer

Linda Murphy, President, St. Ann

Diane VanParys, President, St. Elizabeth Seton

Robert Westenberg, President, St. John the  
Evangelist

Pam Black, President, St. Peter the Apostle

Joseph Hamberger, President, St. William

Anita Creamer, President Emeritus

### St. Vincent de Paul Staff

Kim Schul, Executive Director

Samantha Maturo, Program Director

Bill Allen, Development Officer

Kim Tucker, Sr. Accountant

Joe Demkosky, Dispatch/Building Mgr.

Kathleen Casey, Volunteer Coord.

Brianna Cox, Exec. Admin Asst.

Carol Harris, MOW Coord.

Hilda Mowbray, Intake Specialist

Berlye Derival, Intake Specialist Asst.

Jerry Fenelon, District Store Mgr.

Manuel Alcantara, Store Mgr.

Catherine Sciandra, Asst. Store Mgr.

Ida Martinez, Asst. Store Mgr.

Ethan Sawyer, Asst. Store Mgr.

Store Staff & Drivers:

Anthony Alphonse

Aaron DeLeon

Leo DeLeon

Alex Hernandez

Albert Hunt

David Phillips

Juan Saldivar

Will Sirenord

See the face  
of Christ.  
Be the face of Christ.



We are men and women of every age, every race, every income level, who share our blessings of time, talent, and treasure with those who need **HELP** and **HOPE**, regardless of their age or background.

*“To live with Jesus is to live with the poor.  
To live with the poor is to live with Jesus.”  
— Jean Vanier*



## Joining SVdP Is So Much More...

**THE** Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was founded in Paris, France in 1833, by a young French student, Frédéric Ozanam. Ozanam was inspired by the efforts of St. Vincent de Paul, a 17th century French priest who had an untiring commitment to serving the poor, Ozanam’s mission was clear – help the needy on a one-to-one basis. Compassion in action was the heart of Frederic Ozanam’s spirituality.

In this spirit of love and justice, the Society provides person-to-person services to help our neighbors in need. Our efforts are directed with the dignity of every person in mind. We provide assistance and hope for families and individuals in our community who are often suffering, forgotten and deprived — the working poor, the homeless, the incarcerated, and all people living on the margins.



[Click here to learn about all the volunteer opportunities SVDP Naples has to offer...](#)





## **SVdP Vincentian Spotlight**

Our volunteer spotlight shines brightly on Ellen Cordoba from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Conference.

Ellen traces her dedication to service to her mother and recalls wanting to become a nurse at an early age. Graduating from college, she joined the Peace Corp, serving as a volunteer in Costa Rica for two years and also managing a Health Agency there. Married to a Costa Rican doctor, Ellen and her husband moved to Naples, where she practiced nursing for 35 years. Using her learned Spanish, much of her time was spent with the indigent population of Collier County, helping people stay healthy and out of the hospital.

After a year of restless retirement, Ellen heard about the Society and became a member of the St. Elizabeth Seton Conference in 2018. She found an affinity for doing case work—especially in the Hispanic community, where she was able to put her Spanish skills to good use. She faces the challenges of working with neighbors in the working class neighborhoods of Golden Gate City, where there is a shortage of volunteers and resources to serve this economically deprived area.

It can sometimes become overburdening, however, Ellen finds that an encouraging word from a fellow Vincentian or a thank you from a neighbor brings inspiration to keep at it. “The Society teaches us to follow Christ through service to those in need, and the marrying of my Catholic upbringing and my nursing career, I can bear witness to the compassionate and liberating love of Christ.”

*In a world that has become divisive and entangled in political and religious wars , I can find peace in the spirituality and friendship of my fellow Vincentians in our service to those in need of comfort both spiritual and economical.*

## **Thank You...**



**The Naples District Council** sincerely expresses its appreciation to Anita Creamer of St. Finbarr Conference for her leadership as President of the Naples District Council.

Anita successfully led the council in maintaining its assistance to neighbors during the perils of the Covid pandemic and has presided over the largest expansion of SVdP services in our history.

Fortunately for our Council, Anita will be staying on the board as the President Emeritus, and will continue her service as a caseworker at St. Finbarr conference. She has expressed her interest in providing further training and education for caseworkers, and will continue to serve the Council in this capacity. Anita is a blessing to our Society and we look forward to continuing to help others.

## **Thoughts on Spirituality...by Deacon Hugh Muller**

We sometimes forget we are spiritual beings, living in a mortal body. Our body will die. Our spirit will live forever. We often get concerned only with our mortal existence. Our priorities become the here and now versus eternity: we worry about our job, our finances, our family, and even the weather, they seem so important.

Yet we do not know when we will meet our Lord. Will He say, “well done my good and faithful servant”? Is it not the most important thing whether we go to heaven or hell? Reconciliation is available to cleanse our souls of sin and then to assist us in setting up or revising our priorities if necessary. Other spirits exist. Our Church celebrates the feast of the archangels. We have a guardian angel; through prayer you may seek their help in time of need. There are also bad angels. One of the greatest successes the devil has is that many do not think he exists. See Ephesians 6:12. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against powers of the dark world and spiritual forces of evil.

In making the sign of the Cross, we say in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Have you sought the gifts of the Holy Spirit? 1st Cor12:7-11 Have you asked for the fruits of the Holy Spirit? (Gal 5: 22-23)

Pray about your Spirituality. God loves you!





**FUNDING  
THE MISSION  
TO HELP OUR  
COLLIER NEIGHBORS**

# HONORING SENIORS... *Guiding Families* 2025–2028

**SVdP Naples will soon launch an ambitious, detailed four-year plan to help more of our Collier County neighbors and community.**

**Honoring Seniors ... Guiding Families 2025– 2028** will earmark your donations, contributions, and grants to achieve specific goals and objectives for our four key programs.



**SVdP NAPLES**  
*Financial, Food & Furniture Assistance*

**Financial, Food, & Furniture Assistance**

SVdP Naples turns financial, food (Choice Pantry), and furniture (Thrift Store) donations into life-changing assistance for struggling individuals and working families. In FY2022-2023, SVdP Naples provided over \$2.1 million in Financial, Food, & Furniture assistance directly impacting 42,583 Collier County seniors, adults, & children.



**SVdP NAPLES**  
*Meals on Wheels*

**Meals on Wheels**

SVdP Naples operates the only privately-funded Meals on Wheels operation in Collier County, delivering over 49,000 meals in FY2022-2023. With your donations and volunteer help, SVdP Naples will be delivering 77,000 meals to homebound seniors and disabled adults by FY2028-2029.



**SVdP NAPLES**  
*Life Skills Program*

**Life Skills (Credit, Budget, & Job) Classes**

SVdP Naples builds self-sufficiency by offering Collier County families free classes in financial literacy, credit management, and job search / employment skills. The best assistance program is a future full of escalating job opportunities and financial literacy.



**SVdP NAPLES**  
*Thrift Stores*

**Thrift Stores—Naples & Bonita Springs**

SVdP Naples is ready to pick up your thrift store donations free of charge ... just call Joe D. @ 239.775.2907x1016.



**Video Series Coming Back Soon!**

***“What’s Happening @ SVdP Naples!”*** with Kim Schul and Bill Allen

**Call Bill Allen @ 239.775.2907 x1020 to donate, make an IRA RMD charitable gift, or just chat about the plan!**

# Make a Difference this Christmas...

## Adopt-A-Family

Every year families are unable to provide the kind of Christmas that every child deserves. Start a new Christmas tradition this year by adopting a family in need! Sponsoring a family is a wonderful way to keep the true spirit of Christmas. It's a great project for families, office groups, organizations, clubs, and schools.

We visit with those families in need and provide a detailed list of names, ages, and wishes for each sponsor.

If you would like to adopt a family this Christmas, call us no later than **December 5th** to become a sponsor: (239)775-2907 and ask for Samantha or email: [smaturo@svdnaples.org](mailto:smaturo@svdnaples.org). Reach out and spread the joy this Christmas season!



## Donate to Feed a Hungry Neighbor Today

*Give today to help us provide nourishing meals for our hungry neighbors, especially our senior citizens in need*



- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Soup
- Dry Beans
- Rice
- Boxed Potatoes
- Canned Beans
- Canned Meat
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Oil
- Snacks/Crackers
- Cake Mix
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Flour
- Sugar
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Condiments
- Juice
- Hygiene Items
- Paper Products
- Diapers
- Laundry Detergent

*\*We welcome donations at our Family Assistance Center (4451 Mercantile Ave. Naples, FL 34104) Monday—Thursday 9am—4pm and Friday 9am—3pm\**

## Planned Giving...

Consider a PLANNED GIFT. Through a planned gift, you are able to help the Society for years to come. Planned gifts can be made through wills, trusts, insurance, and gifts of property. We encourage you to talk to your financial planner or attorney to learn ways in which you can ease your tax burden while investing in the lives of the needy of our community.

Our legal name is ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NAPLES DISTRICT COUNCIL, INC. We are a 501 (c)3 agency. Donations may be tax deductible; please consult your tax advisor.

[If you'd like to donate online or learn more about how your donation impacts your community click here.](#)

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer service by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. #CH3346



# Vincentians we have lost in 2024

*Denis Dugan Dan Eleczko Mary Ann Klouda Joanne Sassos*

*"and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" 2 Peter 1:11*

## Tributes

Tributes made from March 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

***In Memory of  
Brian & Shirley Benedict***  
*Craig Benedict*

***In Memory of  
Therese L. Larkin***  
*Frank & Elizabeth Nehr*

***In Memory of  
Carol Rosasco***  
*Pamela Callinan*

***In Memory of  
Bud & Eileen Bleem***  
*Jennifer Fisher*

***In Memory of  
Joan A. Longshore***  
*Irma Lesser*

***In Memory of  
Members of the  
Ruscito Family***  
*John Ruscito*

***In Memory of  
Members of DePetrillo Family***  
*John Ruscito*

***In Memory of  
Ralph & Yolanda Lotito***  
*Norman & Elaine LaButti*

***In Memory of  
Margaret Joanne Sassos***  
*Mary Joanne Bowersox  
Pamela Corneliussen  
Kristen DeChellis  
David Eynon  
Mary Kallos  
Kathy Cobbett Kent  
Linda Murphy  
Nikki Rosetti & Family  
Mary Trifelos*

***In Memory of  
Joseph Domiano***  
*Bill & Mary Thompson*

***In Memory of Bill McGarry***  
*The Great Barrington Maddens*

***In Memory of  
Denis Dugan***  
*Regina Conley  
Samuel Graham  
Fred & Anne Michaels*

***In Memory of Lawrence Mills***  
*Geraldine Daum*

***In Memory of the  
Munafa Family***  
*Rosalie MacKay*

***In Honor of Barrett Mills***  
*Geraldine Daum*

***In Memory of  
Mary Lou Jones***  
*John & Jody Burgess*

***In Memory of  
Brian J. Redmond***  
*Sheila & Kevin Kern Giving Fund*

***In Honor of Zuccaro Family***  
*Patricia Daniel*

***In Memory of  
Mary Ann Klouda***  
*Tom Klouda*

***In Memory of Tom Roettele***  
*Suzanne Seider*

We make every effort to include and accurately publish all tributes. If you notice an omission or error, please call us at (239)775-2907.

## Tribute



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Naples District Council would like to pay tribute to the late, Joanne Sassos. Joanne passed away on August 12, 2024. Joanne volunteered as a St. Peter the Apostle caseworker for St. Vincent de Paul Society for over 35 years and served as Council President for 2 years, Council Vice-President for 3 years, Council Secretary for 7 years, Council Trustee for 2 years and Conference President for 3 years. Many volunteers and employees at St. Vincent de Paul Society spoke highly of Joanne and we were all sad to hear of her passing. Her time and talents will not be forgotten and we know she will be missed by so many.



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
**4451 Mercantile Avenue**  
**Naples, FL 34104**

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*[Becoming a Vincentian: Details in this newsletter!](#)*

## Upcoming SVdP Dates & Events

<b>November</b> Thursday Thanksgiving Holiday Family Assistance Center (FAC) & Stores Closed	<b>28</b>	<b>December</b> Tuesday Christmas Eve FAC & Stores Closed	<b>24</b>	<b>February</b> Thursday Meals on Wheels Meeting Family Assistance Center, 9:30 am	<b>20</b>
<b>November</b> Friday Thanksgiving Holiday FAC Closed	<b>29</b>	<b>December</b> Wednesday Christmas Day FAC & Stores Closed		<b>25</b>	<b>February</b> Friday Feastal Mass & Volunteer Luncheon St. Peter the Apostle Parish, 12:00 pm
<b>December</b> Tuesday Volunteers' Christmas Celebration St. John the Evangelist Parish 6:00pm—8:00pm	<b>3</b>	<b>January</b> Wednesday New Year's Day Holiday FAC & Stores Closed		<b>1</b>	<b>March</b> Thursday Ozanam Orientation St. Agnes Parish, 9:00 am
<b>December</b> Monday Feast of the Immaculate Conception	<b>9</b>	<b>January</b> Thursday Day of Recollection St. John the Evangelist Parish, 8:00 am		<b>30</b>	<b>April</b> Friday Good Friday FAC & Stores Closed
<b>December</b> Monday Christmas Holiday FAC Closed	<b>23</b>	<b>February</b> Thursday Caseworker Meeting St. Ann Parish, 9:30 am		<b>13</b>	<b>April</b> Sunday Easter Holiday
		<b>February</b> Monday Presidents' Day Holiday FAC Closed		<b>17</b>	

