

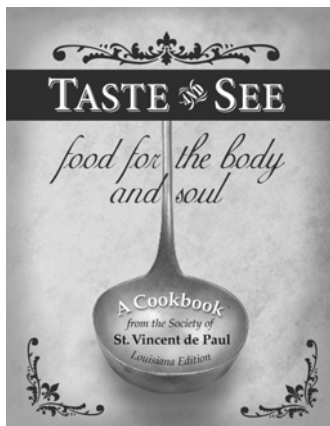
Vincentian Charities

Newsletter and Chronicle of Activities
DIOCESAN COUNCIL--SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL
Serving God's Poor in this Community Since 1865

Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Thanksgiving 2008 Edition

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Taste and See Official

It's official – our cookbook will be out next month! *Taste and See - Food for the Body*

and Soul is one cookbook you don't want to miss. This hardcover book is more than a collection of recipes, including some phenomenal recipes from Chef John Folse. It also contains a collection of short stories about how our charitable efforts have touched the lives of the poor and homeless.

St. Vincent de Paul's most important recipe is our recipe for success. We always seem to have the necessary ingredients to provide critical services for the needy in our community, but without a doubt, the most important ingredient is you. A meal is just our first step in an ongoing battle against hunger, and people like you are on the front lines.

Our ultimate goal is to eliminate hunger by addressing the causes of poverty. We want to give people the tools necessary to turn their lives around. There is truth in the saying, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

When we serve a meal, we are doing much more than meeting nutritional requirements and a cookbook is an appropriate fund-raiser for St. Vincent de Paul, since we are in the business of feeding the bodies and spirits of the needy. *Taste & See* will also create public awareness and raise much needed funding in these tough economic times.

This book itself is a great example of St. Vincent de Paul supporters who want to make a difference. Kathy Bishop has been a member of the St. Vincent de Paul family for years, and as a member of our Manna Givers Program, she prepares home-cooked suppers for guests at the Bishop Ott Shelter. Over the years, she saw many new dishes prepared

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Charles Moniotte, Rick Bayhi and Sister Carolyn Brady, CSJ, pose for a quick picture at our annual golf tournament.

St. Vincent de Paul Golf Tournament a Hole-In-One!

On October 27th we held our Annual Brian Harris St. Vincent de Paul Golf Tournament at The Island Golf Course in Plaquemine. Once again, the weather was fantastic and the turnout was great! The dollars raised will make a real difference in our community with programs

like Myriam's House, which provides transitional housing for homeless women, and our Uniforms for Kids effort that provides thousands of school uniforms to needy children each year. With the current economy, every dollar counts more than ever. That's why this tournament is so important.

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SVDP Thrift Store Reopens

We are pleased to announce that our Plank Road Thrift Store reopened on Monday, November 3rd, after being closed for 60 days following Hurricane

Gustav. As we reported in a previous newsletter, this store location suffered extensive damage, with several inches of water on both floors. All the repairs have now been made, Continued on page 2; see "SVDP Store Reopens"



Sister Bert Lieux, CSJ, Michael Acaldo, Sister Carolyn Brady, CSJ, Deacon Jim Wax, Jeff Say, and Pat Davenport at the reopening of the Plank Road Store.

In this Special Holiday Issue:

- National Recognition
- Bishop Ott Collection Drive Critical This Year

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by fellow volunteers, and that was the inspiration behind her idea for a St. Vincent de Paul cookbook that would serve as a public relations tool while generating much needed funding for our special works programs.

After countless hours of testing and tasting, the final draft of the cookbook has gone to the printer. *Taste and See* will be available through St. Vincent de Paul and can be preordered by filling out the form below or by calling us at 383-7837, extension O. Copies can be ordered in advance through the St. Vincent de Paul website at www.svdpbr.org. Remember, all proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will be used to provide critically needed services to the needy.

Pre-Order Your Taste & See Cookbook!

As soon as available, please send me a copy of the *Taste & See* cookbook at \$21.95 plus 9% tax – a total of \$23.93, plus shipping and handling of \$3.99 for a total of \$27.92. (To order more than one copy or to pick up your book to avoid shipping costs, call us at (225) 383-7837, extension O.)

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail your order to St. Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 127, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0127 or call us at (225) 383-7837.



Golf Committee members Ricky Blanton and Rock Rockenbaugh visit with supporters and golfers at the SVDP Tourney.

SVDP Hole-In-One Continued from page 1

We would like to thank Brian Harris, WINK Engineering and Eatel for their corporate sponsorship, as well as our associate sponsors, Kean’s the Cleaner and Desselle-Maggard. The gorgeous weather led to some great scores, but more importantly, it ended up helping us to raise over \$26,000 in this 12th annual event.

St. Vincent de Paul would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our Golf Tournament Committee led by Rick Bayhi, who once again, did a phenomenal job of leading this effort. Rick and committee members Ricky Blanton, Sister Carolyn Brady, Curtis Lanoux, Charles Moniotte, Mike Olinde, Jack Persac, Rock Rockenbaugh, Tom Tate, J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. (Honorary Parish Government Chair), and Brian Harris (Honorary Tournament Chair) were instrumental in making this year’s tournament another great success. St. Vincent de Paul is truly indebted to our sponsors and volunteers. So many people came out swinging for a good cause and ended up making a difference in the lives of many needy people.

SVDP Store Reopens Continued from page 1

racks and shelves have been restocked, and bargains are waiting for anyone who wants to make every dollar count. The primary purpose of this store is to serve the needy in the North Baton Rouge community, as well as providing a place for low-income people to shop. But many of our customers are people like you and me, who are looking for a good buy – especially in today’s economy.

That first day, there was a line of customers waiting for the doors to open, and there has been a steady stream of customers every day since then. This store is an important part of our revenue stream, with income going into our special works programs. Your ongoing support is needed, and we ask you to remember us when you clean out your closets, attic or garage. Because of the economic climate, we ask you – if you can – to drop your contributions off at one of our store locations, our warehouse at 1010 Nicholson, or in the drop box in your local parish. Or you can call 267-5447 to schedule a pick-up.

Our Plank Road thrift store was the first one we opened back in 1963 and has served the North Baton Rouge community in a remarkable way. With your help, it will continue to do so for years to come.

WBRZ’s Coats for Kids

Once again, WBRZ-Channel 2 and Pat Shingleton have asked St. Vincent de Paul to assist in the distribution of coats to needy children. We encourage you to support this important drive. For more information, call us at 383-7837, extension O.

Diabetes – a Real Problem in our Community

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation for their recent grant of \$22,500. This funding enabled us to update our pharmacy’s computer equipment and to purchase much needed diabetic medicines. Thanks to this grant, we have been able to say “yes” to so many people who have turned to us for this most critical need.

Every year, over one million Americans are diagnosed with this debilitating disease and we see that reflected locally. Without proper treatment, diabetes can rapidly damage the organs of the body, so the patients that come to us understand that they need to get on medication quickly. With the generous funding from this program, we have filled over 1,700 life-sustaining prescriptions. This program has enabled us to fill an average of 286 diabetic prescriptions per month for the past six months.

This grant has not only made a difference in the quality of life for these diabetic patients, it has helped to prevent catastrophic events like heart attacks and strokes, as well as unnecessary emergency room visits. We thank Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana for their generosity and continued support of this critical community program.



From left to right, Southeast Regional Chairman, Vince Murphy; Michael Acaldo; Pat Davenport, local Stores Director; National President Joe Flanigan, and National Disaster Chairman, Sam Carocci, pose for a photo as final repairs are made to the Plank Road store.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The work of our St. Vincent de Paul family in Baton Rouge after Hurricane Gustav made our National President, Joe Flanigan, want to come down and see for himself what we had accomplished for our community. He also wanted to see how we were recovering from the damage to our Plank Road store.

Mr. Flanigan stated, "I am impressed with Vincentians here locally. Your work during disasters has really made a difference. In addition, your programs are excellent." He was equally impressed with the local support and the volunteers who are involved in our charitable efforts.

Leaders of our local Society met with Mr. Flanigan; Sam Carocci, the National Disaster Chairman; and Southeast Regional Chair Vince Murphy to discuss a number of topics. During these discussions, our local Society was asked to assist the National Council in coming up with a program to encourage more St. Vincent de Paul groups to open charitable pharmacies. As the first St. Vincent de Paul charitable pharmacy in the nation, we will do everything we can to help with this worthwhile effort.



St. Nick is Coming to Town...

St. Nick is on his way and he needs your help. Every year, Bishop Robert Muench generously contributes his time to give out Christmas presents to needy children here at our Dining Room. Children 12 and under will be lining up early on Saturday, December 20th, waiting to see what ole St. Nick has for them.

We are so blessed to have Bishop Muench as our St. Nick, and his big smile as he hands out each present, lights up the room. The bishop, the volunteers, and especially the kids, have a great time!

We need your help this year more than ever. These are children that will probably have no Christmas presents except for the ones we give them. If you could donate a toy or two, it would make some child very happy. It doesn't have to be expensive. A doll, a board game, play dough –

whatever you can afford – will be passed on by Bishop Muench to a needy child.

You can also make financial contributions to this effort by sending your donation to St. Vincent de Paul, Gifts for Needy Children, P. O. Box 127, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. We anticipate an increase in the number of children this year, so please consider helping us with this year's effort.

Bishop Ott Collection Drive Critical This Year!

Join WGMB-Fox 44 and WVLA-Channel 33 in supporting our 17th Annual Bishop Ott Shelter Collection Drive. The items that are collected – things like soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and deodorant – go to our Bishop Ott Shelter Program.

There's one thing that the guests at our shelter have in common. Many of them feel like failures, and their self-esteem is at an all-time low. A person's sense of their own dignity and self-worth is fragile, and the simplest things can affect not only their opinion of themselves, but the opinion of others they come in contact with.

We've all heard the cliché, "You can't judge a book by its cover." But too often, people *are* judged by their appearance, and the effects of that are devastating and far-reaching. A man or woman with dirty nails and greasy hair doesn't have much chance of getting a job. And a dirty child never forgets the humiliation of being ridiculed by other children.

For most of us, toiletry items are just something we grab off the shelf and toss into our shopping carts without too much thought. But when someone becomes homeless, they quickly learn to appreciate what they once took for granted.

Below is a list of the toiletry items we need at our shelters. When you look at this list, think of the people who will be using them, and you'll understand just how important this annual effort is to our Bishop Ott Shelter Program and the people we serve. We also ask you to encourage your family, friends, church or social groups to participate in a collection drive for this worthwhile effort.

Needs List: soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors, sheets (twin & crib size); blankets; pillow cases; pillows; disposable diapers; baby wipes; towels; washcloths; men's, women's and children's underwear; disposable cups, plates & bowls; plastic forks, spoons, knives; paper towels; napkins; flannel shirts; sweat suits; jackets; gloves; rain gear; blue jeans; scarves; slippers; duffle bags; socks; pajamas; diaper bags; sandwich bags; laundry detergent; bleach; drink mix (tea, lemonade, etc.); toothpaste; toothbrushes; and feminine hygiene products.

Watch the *Beacons of Light* program! We encourage you to tune in to Cox Cable Channel 15 for a great show on the work of St. Vincent de Paul: Sundays at 3:00 p.m.; Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.; Wednesdays at 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.



Thanksgiving at our Dining Room will be Special

As we plan our Thanksgiving and holiday menus, it's hard

to believe that many people in our community are wondering where their next meal is coming from. Except for the generosity of others, Thanksgiving would be just another day, with very little in the cupboard or on the table. Some would have nothing at all. These people know the true meaning of hunger.

No matter what the weather looks like on November 27th, there will be a bright, warm place where the poor and homeless can share a special meal on this special day. There will be plenty of good food, and our Dining Room doors will be open for anyone who wants to join us. No standing in line. Our guests will be seated at tables, and our volunteers will be their servers. We've already planned the menu we hope to be able to serve. Plates will be filled with turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, green beans, yams, fresh bread and fruit cobbler. There will be second helpings for everyone.

On any given day, there are grandmothers at our tables who are trying to provide proper nourishment for the grandchildren they are struggling to raise. There are men who are unemployed and down to their last dollar. There are young women who have left abusive husbands. Many of our guests have made poor decisions and are now suffering the consequences. Others are just victims of circumstance. At our Dining Room, we begin every meal with a blessing, not questions. We know that everyone who comes here shares a common bond – they are hungry and have nowhere else to turn. Thanks to you, we are there for them.

We have much to be grateful for. At this time of year, many people in our community donate the things we need to prepare our holiday meals, while others donate items throughout the year – the canned goods, meat, fresh produce, paper products – that we need to prepare a well balanced meal 365 days a year. Some individuals donate their time to help in our kitchen or on the serving line. And of course, we are also grateful for every financial contribution. These dollars go toward food purchases, but also help to pay for things like electricity. Our average cost per meal is just over a dollar, and that's for a well-balanced meal that includes a meat, starch, vegetable, bread, dessert and drink. The list below includes items that we need, not just for the holidays, but on an ongoing basis. All donations of food, as well as financial contributions, are greatly appreciated.

Urgent food/supply items: salt, garlic powder, Tony's seasoning, bleach, paper napkins, plastic forks and spoons, oregano, dehydrated onions, salad dressing, hot sauce, parsley flakes, hinged fold-over compartment plates, and paper towels. **Urgent food items:** rice, sugar, dry beans and spaghetti; also the following canned goods: tomatoes, green beans, green peas, corn, tomato paste, tomato sauce, and all canned fruits. **Thanksgiving specific items:** ham, turkey, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, etc.

Address Service Requested

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
P. O. Box 127
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0127

