

Ministry Description

Title: Member, St. Gall Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP). Members are referred to as “Vincentians”.

Supervisor: The President of the St Gall Conference is Brian Allen. Much of what is done by the Society however, is self-guided.

Description: To be a Vincentian is to pursue greater spirituality and increased Christian faith in order to bear witness to the love of God. To accomplish this goal, Vincentians are called to bring the love of God, the compassion of Jesus, to serve the poor and suffering. The Vincentian’s “job” is to demonstrate spirituality by tending to the needs of the poor and needy and to seek and find Jesus in those they serve.

Specific Tasks: The primary task of Members of the Society is to love God and the least of those he serves. In order to do this there are tasks that must be done. There are two monthly events where the conference gathers together. One of these is a monthly meeting to keep our efforts organized. That meeting is split between spiritual reflection and business activities. The primary business activities are visiting with those that request assistance and accumulating the resources to provide the help that is needed. A visit consists of meeting in their homes with those that petition for help. A visit always requires one male and one female and needs to occur within a reasonable amount of time of their call for help. Each visit is individual but typically will require about 1 hour. During the past year there were 25 visits. Fund raising tasks are also necessary. There is one large annual event that is a 5K Walk for the Poor designed to obtain donations for the Society. SVdP also sponsors the Coffee and Rolls or Donut Sunday generally on the last Sunday of each month. This activity is designed to promote fellowship within the St. Gall church and promote the work of SVdP. It also serves as the second monthly gathering of the Conference members. There are also occasional events when people ask for physical assistance such as transportation, home maintenance or moving. The conference tries to respond to these requests as best we can in cooperation with members of the parish. Other tasks and events are encouraged but are dependent on personnel and resources available.

Skills or Attributes Required: All that’s required is a sincere concern for the needs of other people. Specifically, people skills, including having the understanding and patience to interview people and assess need is a key attribute. Advertising and fund raising skills are crucial to maintaining the resources to serve the poor. Financial and accounting skills to manage budgets and file reports are important. Having technical or construction skills or just a strong back or a

pick-up truck to occasionally provide assistance with physical needs is always welcome. The most significant task is just pitching in to help with the everyday tasks including setting tables, serving food, and making a 64-cup pot of coffee.

Time Required: You are welcome to join and provide whatever time you have available. You will find the places to fit in. The needs always vary and there is no set schedule. Some months may require nothing and others may have activities most every week. Duties are shared among those available. On the current average monthly basis, you could expect to need approximately 2 hours for a meeting, 3 hours to serve coffee and donuts, and 4 hours for conference activities.

Training: Training needed depends on your existing skills but, whatever you need will be provided.

Benefits (How does it fulfill the parish mission): Jesus said that whenever you serve the least among you, you serve me. Vincentians are called to increase their faith and spirituality through prayer and reflection on the scriptures, as well as, to demonstrate their love of God through serving the poor and suffering. This echo's the parish mission statement in every way.