

District Council of Madison, Inc.
Society of St. Vincent de Paul



NEWS

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CONTACT: Ernie Stetenfeld – (608) 442-7200, Ext. 402
Gayle Westfahl – (608) 442-7200, Ext. 440

St. Vincent de Paul members issue “*Invitation to Serve*”

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization in which members join together in friendship to grow spiritually by providing person-to-person services to neighbors in need.

Across the Diocese of Madison, 35 parishes host St. Vincent de Paul member groups, known as “conferences.” In Dane County alone, 18 St. Vincent de Paul conferences serve local people in need through home visits and other forms of direct, personal service – without regard to the religious affiliation or belief of those assisted.

On Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, many St. Vincent de Paul member conferences will hold an “Invitation to Serve” weekend to offer their fellow parishioners the opportunity to grow in Vincentian service, friendship and spirituality. (Some St. Vincent de Paul conferences are holding Invitation to Serve events on alternate weekends.) At Masses on Invitation to Serve weekend, St. Vincent de Paul members in participating parishes will make themselves available to discuss how they grow together in holiness through their service to people struggling with poverty. Members will invite interested parishioners to attend scheduled local follow-up meetings to explore what it means to become a member of the Society.

“St. Vincent de Paul members strive to see the face of Christ in the people we serve,” said Ernie Stetenfeld, executive director of the Society’s District Council of Madison. “That’s how we grow in holiness. We serve together in friendship and find ourselves evangelized by the neighbors in need we are privileged to serve.”

For those interested in exploring the Society but not able to attend a local Invitation to Serve follow-up meeting, Stetenfeld said the Society’s Madison District Council will hold a one-hour informational session at 9:30 a.m. on Sat., Oct. 14, at the Middlecamp Center for Vincentian Charity, 2033 Fish Hatchery Road in Madison. No registration is required, but questions may be directed to Gayle Westfahl, membership director, at gwestfahl@svdpmadison.org or (608) 442-7200, Ext. 440.

Find more information about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, including a list of the 35 Diocese of Madison parishes that host member conference groups, at svdpmadison.org/members.

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“To be involved in the service of Jesus is a sacred trust to which we have been invited.”

– St. Vincent de Paul

Helping Our Neighbors In Need
