

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Michael Church

2010 Overview for Parishoners

The generosity of the parishioners at St. Michael Church once again provided for many in our community during the course of the past year. We'd like to share with you an overview of some of the innumerable ways you supported those in need in 2010.

From a family you serve:

"I wanted to take a moment to thank you for all the help you have selflessly offered to my family and me. It is wonderful to know that there are people who are willing to do whatever they can to make the lives of those less fortunate, easier. Asking for help from anyone has never come easy to me, so it is a comfort to me that at the holidays, I never have to ask, I am simply never forgotten. You have all made the holidays brighter for my children, something that would have been impossible to do alone. I owe so much to St. Vincent de Paul and St. Michael parishioners, who always made me feel that I can call if I need anything! Please accept my sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks on behalf of myself and so many others you make a difference for every day.

Your generosity provided support to more than 4,000 people in 2010, including:

- An abundance of food donated at the Children's and other masses
- Fuel assistance and support for basic home expenses for more than 600 people
- Furniture and clothing
- More than 2,800 Christmas gifts through the Giving Tree
- More than 200 Christmas and Thanksgiving meals to families
- 2 used cars donated by parishioners

St. Vincent de Paul Society members made over 1,100 home visits and donated 6,600 hours of service in support of those in need.

Friends of the Poor Walk®

On October 30th the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Michael Parish hosted its third annual Friends of the Poor® Walk. More than 100 friends and family members participated; we were especially enthused to have many teenagers from the Confirmation One program support the Walk this year. A portion of the money raised provided Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to those most in need in our community.

From a family you serve:

"Thank you for making our year easier with the help that you have provided to us. It has been hard on us this year due to the fact that our financial income has been limited due to physical limitations, and disabilities in the family. We have struggled to keep food on the table and getting the things we need for our kids. This Parish has helped us make it through most these struggles and has made our holiday a hopeful one. Without your help we would not know what would have happened to our family. It has made our faith stronger that there are people out there willing to help those in need..."

Please see reverse for additional information.

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This year a member of our Parish included this letter with the gift he donated through the Giving Tree. Its sentiment of true Christian generosity and faith exemplifies the generosity each of you extended to those in need during the course of 2010.

Merry Christmas!

Friend...I've been where you are. I was so broke that at one point I and my nine year-old daughter would raid dumpsters for bottles – just to buy food.

You CAN overcome this test you're being faced with right now. Just don't lose Faith. Every day – pester the Lord constantly. Ask St. Jude (Patron Saint of hopeless cases) to be a "middleman" for your prayers. And, of course, pray to St. Joseph (Patron Saint of fathers) for this help too.

You CAN beat this problem. Just don't blame yourself or start to think you're a failure because that will castrate your emotions and the motivation you need.

God Bless! I'll keep you in my prayers.

-Just Another Dad

P.S. I've included some Psalms from the Bible that helped me get through everything. I brought them up to date a little and used them as part of my daily prayers.

Thanksgiving to God Who Delivers the Just

Based on PSALM 34

I will bless the Lord at all time;

Praise shall be always in my mouth.

I sought the Lord who answered me,

And delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God that you may be radiant with joy

And your faces may not blush for shame.

The angel of the Lord delivers all who fear God;

Happy are they who take refuge in Him.

Nothing is lacking to those who fear him;

Those who seek him lack no good thing.

The Lord has eyes for the just

And ears for their cry.

When the just cry out, the Lord hears

And rescues them from all distress.

The Lord is close to the broken hearted;

He saves those whose spirit is crushed.

Many are the troubles of the just

But the Lord delivers from them all.

The Lord redeems loyal servants;

No one is condemned whose refuge is God.

Please see reverse for additional information.