

INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE CONFERENCE

SVDP NEWSLETTER



Above
Judy Flanagan
 President
 Below
Jo Zielinski
 Vice President



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ABOUT OUR CONFERENCE

The St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy has a governing body, the Board of Directors, that provides oversight and fundraising to meet the requirements for an approved 501(3)c nonprofit organization. The pharmacy also has a St. Vincent de Paul Conference, the Infant Jesus of Prague Conference. The conference is tasked with meeting the requirements of the National Society of St. Vincent de Paul, providing the spiritual formation of the staff and keeping the pharmacy on mission.

Everyone who volunteers at the SVdP Pharmacy, and follows its guidelines, is considered an associate member of the Infant Jesus of Prague Conference. Active members are those who regularly attend the prayer and business meetings. The Infant Jesus of Prague Conference meetings are regularly scheduled on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 11:30. Sometimes the time is adjusted slightly to accommodate Tuesday's workload. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

The first meeting of the month is dedicated to business and the second meeting of the month is devoted to spiritual formation.

The Infant Jesus of Prague's spiritual formation includes *Vincentian Reflections*, material based on the coming Sunday's gospel reading, a reflection that is appropriate for the mission of SVdP, and a meditation and discussion. The *Serving in Hope* program consists of a DVD and study questions. As you may recall from Fr. Steve Wilson's talks, the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and what sets it apart from regular charities and other nonprofits, is two-fold. Vincentians strive to help the needy and through that process, grow spiritually.

September 27 is the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul. Traditionally, all conferences strive to celebrate around this date. Please see our "Upcoming Events" section for details on our Council's planned activities. The SVdP Pharmacy's conference has tentatively scheduled its ***Renewal of Vows Ceremony Tuesday, September 23***. At that time, active members will renew their vows, while new members state their vows for the first time. All are welcome to share in this event.



Above
Linda Sheehan
 Treasurer
 Below
Anne Long
 Secretary



Infant Jesus of Prague meets on Tuesdays at 11:30 on the following dates:

August 12

August 26

September 9

September 23

Spotlight on Tom and LaRue Eldringhoff



Tom and LaRue Eldringhoff

Tom and LaRue Eldringhoff are members of the Infant Jesus of Prague Conference at the Pharmacy. They actively participate in the spiritual formation during prayer meetings. The Eldringhoffs have been members of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish for more than twenty years. Tom and LaRue have three children and eight grandchildren. They began volunteering at the pharmacy more than ten years ago. Tom works in the pharmacy on Tuesdays stocking shelves and on Tuesday and Thursdays as a pharmacy tech. LaRue handles the phones on Tuesday and Thursdays in Reception. She is often the first contact the pharmacy has with the community and not only disseminates information about the pharmacy and schedules appointments, but offers resources for many other problems. Together, the Eldringhoffs provide an invaluable service to our program participants and the community.

Father Steve Wilson Transferred, SVdP Loses Their Spiritual Advisor

In the Gospel, we find that the demand of daily Christian living is to spend our life primarily searching for the kingdom of God. Know that as you give your gift of time to the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy to help the poor, you have indeed found the kingdom of God.

Redemptorist Fr. Steve Wilson, a native of Seattle, Washington who guided the post-Katrina merger between St. John & St. Louis Parishes, is leaving the Diocese of Biloxi for a new assignment in New York City.

Fr. Steve will be moving to New York where he will be the Director for the Redemptorist Formation Program (seminary) for North America.”

Fr. Steve had been the pastor for the Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Parish and the Our Mother of Sorrows Parish since 2005.

Although he is looking forward to his new assignment, there is much he will miss about Biloxi. Fr. Steve said, “From the very first day I arrived, all the people have been so warm and inviting. This has never changed and has been the source of great joy for me.”

Fr. Steve was the Spiritual Director for the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy. In this role he will be affectionately remembered as a mentor, teacher, counselor and friend. Fr. Steve has been a true leader, both physically and spiritually.



Father Steve Wilson receiving a going away gift from the Pharmacy

Help Needed with Bus Passes!

Our conference passes an envelope around before each of our meetings, and those who wish to make a donation can make a “love offering.”

Surprisingly, this money accumulates rapidly. The group has chosen to make donations in support of local hurricane & tornado victims, for helping other SVdP groups who may be struggling, and for trying to meet our own clients needs outside of medicine (such as paying for a set of dentures).

Several years ago, we started purchasing bus passes for our clients with serious transportation difficulties who otherwise could not get to the pharmacy. This endeavor has become highly successful. So successful, that with the continual rise in gas prices, our group can't keep up with the growing need.

Since everyone who works or volunteers at the pharmacy is a Vincentian, we are hoping that you can

help us keep this program alive by dropping a donation in the jar next to the time clock once a month or so. Full day bus passes are \$6 each.

The bus passes have been instrumental in ensuring our clients have access to their medicine.

Any help you can provide is very much appreciated.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT 20, 2014 **Friends of the Poor Walk**

The only fundraiser for the political arm of SVdP. Many people walk with their local parishes but some walk individually or in small groups. Donations come back to each conference to be used locally for the poor. If you want to order a shirt call Norman at 314-576-3993 x218.

SEPT 24-27, 2014 **National Assembly** meets at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. Any SVdP member can attend. There's a welcoming DVD on the national website.

SEPT 9, 2014 This is the last day to let Judy Flanagan know if you will be attending the potluck (Sept 28) and to let her know what you are bringing.

SEPT 27, 2014 **St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day.**

He is the patron of our organization which was founded by Bl. Frederic Ozanam. St. Vincent was a priest and educator who decided to also dedicate his life to care of the poor. His feast is celebrated in our diocese by a special Mass and potluck luncheon with Bishop Morin.

SEPT 28, 2014 **Mass** by Bishop Morin at the Nativity BVM Cathedral, Biloxi. We can attend Mass as a group. The potluck with Bishop Morin follows.

SCHOOL'S OUT

Many parents are bringing their kids to the pharmacy to wait for their meds and the kids are bored and misbehaving. Several of us are picking up books, colors, paper and puzzles to keep them busy (many are not exposed to these items in the summer).

If you have books that your grand-kids may be tired of, or want to pick up something at the store, we can use it. TP



Meet Our Newest Team Member



Please join me in welcoming Brenda Smith as the SVdP Pharmacy's newest team member. Brenda is our new Administrative Assistant and will be working in tandem with all of our volunteers in all areas of the pharmacy.

Brenda grew up in Biloxi and attended St. Martin High School. In 1982 she began a 25-year career in the US Air Force as a training specialist. Following her retirement she worked as an administrative assistant for the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi in the Tribunal Office and as an office manager for the Nativity BVM Cathedral Parish.

During her free time, Brenda is the proud parent of a high school senior and spends most of her free time as a dance mom or behind the lens of a camera as an amateur photographer.

Nursing Home Medicine Coming Soon

It has been a long time coming, but the SVDP Community Pharmacy will soon be receiving unused medication from Nursing Homes. This past March, the State Board of Pharmacy unanimously approved a proposal from our Pharmacy to serve as a "Pilot Site" for a State Drug Redistribution Program. The policy went into effect on July 1, 2014.

This is a major step for our program, but we will continue to go very slowly through the process. Ultimately, this program

could save our organization several hundred thousand dollars per year in medicine expenses.

We are still working out the details of how the program will be fully implemented. It will definitely involve some changes to our existing structure. We're not certain to what level we will need to change our sorting/dispensing process at this point.

This is the direction we must go to ensure our sustainability into the future. Both, Baton Rouge and Houma SVDP Pharmacies have



implemented this program, and have been very helpful to us during this process. It is our hope to begin picking up from our first location in August.