

St Vincent de Paul Society
Our Lady of Lourdes Conference
December 2013

We would like to extend an invitation to members of the Parish to join in the work of our St Vincent de Paul Conference. As you know we assist members of the community in times of need. We work with other local agencies such as Lower Cape Outreach Council, the Homeless Prevention Council, and various Councils on Aging. We offer assistance without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or marital status.

We meet monthly as a conference in the parish hall. These meetings typically last between an hour and an hour and a half. We review recent cases and discuss issues relating to our work. We presently number 24 advocates. We follow a weekly schedule of monitoring calls to our Helpline (508 349 2055). Advocates sign up to monitor the Helpline according to their availability. A week long commitment to do this occurs approximately every two months.

Advocates work in mixed pairs, female and male. We return calls and inquire as to how we may assist. If the need falls within the parameters of what we do we arrange to visit the client. The visits are typically brief and always completely confidential. If it is determined that we can help the advocates gather pertinent information to be communicated to our treasurer who issues a check to the appropriate party. New members of St. Vincent de Paul are not expected to begin making "home visits" until such time as they feel they are ready to do so.

Every September the Cape and Islands District of the Society offers a daylong training conference known as the Ozanam Conference after the Society's founder Frederick Ozanam. As the work continues over the course of time we mentor each other as we learn from our collective experience.

If you are at all interested in becoming an advocate please give us a call at the helpline. We will respond to your interest in a timely way.