

## 2023 Summer Update from President Gemma July 27, 2023

"There is a calmness to a life lived in gratitude"

Hello to all.

As we anticipated we had a very busy July for SVdP

- Father Bob's picnic was successful. Many people came to wish him well and he was presented (in the pouring rain) his gift from the members of SVdP. If you have not seen the memorial as yet it is by our Celebration Garden and near the vegetable garden. Thank you, Charlie Rott, for taking care of the design and ordering of Father's gift. Father Bob was very, very pleased.
- Meg Otchy and garden volunteers have given immense care to our vegetable garden and the vegetables and plants are thriving under their master gardening talents. As hot as it has been, this group of our volunteers just doesn't quit!
- Donations to SVdP have been generous and consistent which allows us to help many individuals in the community who need financial support. Tom Jones will give a full report in September.
- Mary Serughetti, our member who collects and calculates our data of hours, mileage, etc. has reported close to 5,000 hours of volunteer time and our fiscal year does not end with all calculations until September 30th. Please keep up your excellent effort with sending your vol. hours to Mary.
- Paul and Pat Capelli, and Charlie Yannelli have completed several deliveries of furniture throughout this past month. Our guests are thrilled and grateful when the furniture is delivered to their homes.
- Marlene Kern, Tressa Damato and I had our first meeting to discuss having dinners at St. Luke's for those who need a hot meal and some company to share a dinner with once a month. Father Michael has approved our new venture and Kathleen Muzzio and I have met to coordinate efforts between parishioners and SVdP as we move forward. There will be a meeting on **August 17th at 10:30 AM** in the SVdP conference room if you would like to be a volunteer to help with dinner coordination and setting up and cleaning up from the monthly dinners.
- Just this week, after much time, emails, phone calls, etc. our SVdP conference received a donation of a car for one of our guests. Completing this task for the first time was a bit challenging, however now that the Board knows all the steps, we hope to help other guests in the future. The guest has to be working full time and has a commitment to their employment. We are immensely grateful to the owner of Causeway Ford in Manahawkin.
- Our home visits have been many and Joe Damato and Michelle Jones manage to keep everyone organized. There are so many individuals in our community that are being so very challenged because of the rents in the area being raised dramatically and there is no available housing. We anticipate the requests for help will continue to be many.

- Christine Cotgreave, Genevieve Yachnik and all the volunteers have been diligently working to keep Helping Hands organized, plus an incredible resource for families for clothing and small household items along with having special events/"gifts" for the children who visit. Their energy level is almost unexplainable!
- Kathy Catron has reported that we have had over 4,000 women, men, and children come to the pantry for food. Many of our volunteers start their day at the pantry at 7:00 AM. John Connelly and Frank Vaccarino are still offering their guidance, their volunteering efforts, and their time. The number of volunteers for the pantry keeps increasing and we are grateful. We have several members who pick up food at local stores and this is making a big difference with what we can offer at the pantry.
- We are moving forward with our SVdP website. Andrea McGahan was our original guiding light as we attempted to move forward to develop this resource for both our members and the parishioners. Kathy Minton, a new member, is now also sharing her time and talents for increased technology for our conference. She still works with Owen MacCarrick on ideas for the website and Kathy just recently developed an online store for SVdP clothing items (vests, jackets, blouses, t-shirts, etc.) Kathy will explain all the details at our September meeting. The merchandise will be ordered through Farro's Tees.
- **September 15th at 1:00 PM** is our next general meeting. There is a lot to present to our membership (and several new members will be attending). There will be a light lunch served, plus water, soda, coffee, tea, and dessert. **Please** attend this meeting if at all possible.
- Our recommitment ceremony is on **September 24th at the 10:00 AM** mass. This will be presented by our Spiritual Advisor, Debbie Weingroff. Additionally, a special thank you to Debbie and the Soroptimists of the Central Jersey Coast for their financial donations, and for purchasing \$500.00 worth of back to school supplies for our families.
- Mary Jo Phillips is recovering very successfully from her surgery - yeah!! Your prayers are the answer
- Please keep our members Ruthanne and Carl Galanit, and Colleen Kehler in your prayers. We will remember our member who recently passed away, Vito DeMonte, at our recommitment ceremony. in September. Thank you, Karen Rott for always taking care of mass cards and additional correspondence with our members as needed.
- Jill Bradley, thank you for being such an exceptional conference secretary. All the hours you give to the Board is greatly appreciated.
- I am leaving for Spain in a few hours and will be returning on August 13th. Please take good care, and keep close to heart all the good **you** do, for so many, every single day.

Blessings always, Gemma