

WHAT DO WE DO (AND WHY DO WE DO IT?)

Vincentians are often asked these questions. We are blessed to be able to respond with our Mission Statement, based on the work of St. Vincent DePaul and Blessed Frederick Ozanam.

“Together in Christ’s Love We Serve Those in Need”.

So that answers *what* we do--now, why do we do it?

The Gospels tell us to love God above all others, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We believe this is our ministry. We know that our work as Vincentians isn’t just handing out food, helping with rent and utilities, meals, counseling--all that is important. **But the real reason we volunteer here is that this work enables us to grow spiritually as we help our neighbors.**

We are guided by Article Three of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which details requirements for social justice based on respect for all. This Article clearly states the importance of the rights of all people--we cannot discriminate based on ethnicity, material wealth, living conditions, inequality or other personal bias.

Society will ensure social justice when we can provide conditions that allow individuals to be treated with dignity and respect. The equality of all people depends on this--without treating others as we would want to be treated, our society will continue to be fractured.

We are each charged to make the effort to reduce excessive social and economic inequalities by recognizing the needs of all our neighbors. Some of these needs are material, such as food, clothing, housing and medical help. Here at the Hertel Center, and partnering with other churches and agencies, we strive to help as much as our resources allow. We are also committed to working for change--defining and reducing the causes of poverty and providing services are critical for a strong community. We ask that all residents keep their elected officials aware of the needs of the marginalized in our community and continue to ask for true change.

Thanks to all of you for sharing your goods, your time and your concern for the poor. Most importantly, we thank you all for your prayers.

We are always in need of volunteers (particularly drivers and Spanish speakers). We are open week-days from 9 - 11:30. If you have any questions, contact us via this website (www.svdphillsboro.com) or at 503-693-7528.

Pat Feetham