



Eleven years of St. Vincent de Paul Bellarmine Conference

The Bellarmine Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul recently completed its 11th year of providing hope and financial aid to neighbors living near Bellarmine Chapel. Your fellow Parishioners/SVDP Members visited and helped approximately 4,500 families during those 11 years.

Last year, which ended 9/30/17, the 40 Bellarmine Members visited 567 homes in Evanston and Avondale and gave 1279 people in those households hope for the future and financial aid totaling \$138,000.

During that year, your Bellarmine SVDP helped 218 families with rent assistance to avoid eviction. Did you see the report that Cincinnati has the 10th highest eviction rate in the nation? It also helped 160 families with utility payments to avoid electric or gas disconnect. Your SVDP Members have seen families go for months without electricity. These two forms of basic assistance make up 77% of the dollar amount of assistance provided to our neighbors by your contributions to our visit ministry.

Bellarmino also has a special works ministry of giving beds to those of our neighbors who have none. Your Bellarmine Members, who visit neighbor's homes in your name every week, have all had the experience of seeing neighbors who sleep on the floor every night. A bed is one of the basic needs upon which we all agree; every one of us should have a bed.

The other special work that your Bellarmine Conference organizes every year is the Thanksgiving food distribution that you are supporting today. The SVDP Members gather the names of our neighbors, who otherwise may not have much of a Thanksgiving meal, and organize the distribution of the bags of food and Kroger gift cards. Tomorrow, many parishioners will be helping the SVDP Members with distribution of those bags.

Many people ask the Members, how can I help? The SVDP Bellarmine Conference invites everyone at Bellarmine to help in its service to the poor. If you do not know a Member, ask Tim Severyn to provide a name to contact.