



Our Vincentian Voice



The Newsletter for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Belleville Diocesan Council
8800 West Main P.O. BOX 3415 East St. Louis, Illinois 62203
OFFICE PHONE: 618.394.0126

February 14, 2026

WELCOME

NEW FACES, NEW LEADERSHIP, and RENEWED CHARISM

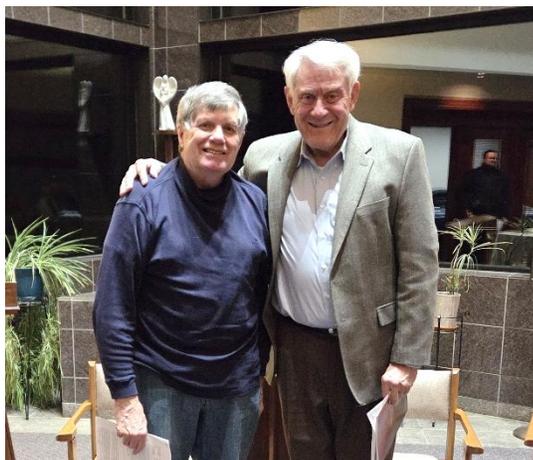
On January 20, 2026, Den Furdek was installed at Mount Carmel Chapel as the newly elected President of the Belleville Diocesan Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We are thrilled to welcome him!

We also extend huge welcomes to Vice President, Terry Bell and incoming Executive Director, Troy Herring. **We have a new team with new synergy!**

WITH GRATITUDE

Charlie Cullen, our retiring Council President for more than 2 terms retired from office at the installation on January 20th. We are so grateful for his years of service with the Society and his unwavering commitment and loyalty. Thank you, Charlie, for all you have done for SVdP.

Outgoing President (L) and Incoming President (R)



A State of the Union Message

from Pat Hoglebe, Retiring Executive Director

Dear Vincentian Members, Volunteers, Donors and Supporters:

BUILDING A NEW COUNCIL TEAM

More than six years ago, we began a plan for succession to provide for leadership, management, and supervisory continuity for The Belleville Council. The primary goal of succession planning is to ensure that an organization has qualified individuals ready to step into critical roles when those positions become vacant due to retirement, resignation, promotion, or other reasons. One aspect of succession planning is the scheduled election of a Council President. Den Furdek was elected President of the Belleville Diocesan Council in December, and he appointed Terry Bell as his Vice President.

In January 2025 we hired Troy Herring as the Chief Operating Officer, and he began training to assume the role of Executive Director in February 2026. Fast forward and we are there now. Troy is taking over the E.D. position on Monday, February 16th. These three individuals are all important additions to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and bring commitment and experience along with the Vincentian Values that will carry our organization into the future. We are extremely fortunate to welcome this new team of extraordinary servant leaders.



Our Vincentian Voice



February 14, 2026

BUILDING TEAM SUPPORT FOR THE WORK

A critical step in our succession planning has been hiring support staff to assist with the daily operations at the Outreach Ministry Center at 3718 State as well as at 8800 West Main St. in Belleville. These individuals help the wheel go around and keep the mission moving! We are excited to introduce our new personnel:



“The Wheel of Communication and Cooperation”

Janice Coffman is our new part-time Office Assistant/Clerk, and she manages day-to-day office and clerical duties, H.R. responsibilities, and multiple other tasks at 8800 West Main. Tekerry Sayles has been promoted to Head of Security and Chief Security Officer for the Outreach Ministry Campus. Barb Draper is our part-time Kitchen /Dining Room Manager and Mary Jo Huettner is our new Facilities Manager in charge of maintenance and janitorial needs for the Outreach Ministry Campus. Jean Schaefer is our Volunteer IT Specialist and Pete Kaeser is our Volunteer Warehouse Assistant who works closely with Rosemary Buchmiller, our long-time Store and warehouse manager. In addition, Rosalind Davis is a substance

abuse counselor provided by The St. Clair County Mental Health Board 20 hours a week. And we cannot forget “Gail”, our 24/7 AI receptionist who answers and routes all incoming calls with a cheerful and caring disposition! Of course, we are so appreciative for the rest of our conscientious staff who provide around-the-clock service.

We have not yet found a Charitable Services Coordinator so I will continue to manage the Charity Program full-time until we hire and orient a case manager for that position. In the future I look forward to continuing my service with the Society as a volunteer for the Council as well as the Outreach Ministry Center.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD...

We are moving forward with our Strategic Plan by implementing these changes, always trusting in Divine Providence to fulfill the Will of God. As I exit my current position and nostalgically look back at the past twenty-five incredible years with St. Vincent de Paul, I am grateful for our countless “Miracles on 37th Street” and all the lives that God has allowed me to touch. And although we mourn the loss of our dear friend and amazing Vincentian, Joe Hubbard, I am thankful for the many years he and I worked together and the significant accomplishments we were blessed to achieve- building stability and improving the facilities, operations, budget, and charity delivery for the Belleville Council. This for the Greater Glory of God. Joe’s legacy of service will live on through our effective succession planning.

THANK YOU

For the laughter, tears, joys, and sorrows, the highs, and the lows. They are part of the story and the memories I will cherish. Thank you for your prayers, support, and friendships through it all.

I remain your Vincentian servant in Christ.



Our Vincentian Voice



February 14, 2026

"Let our service today be the seed, and our compassion the water, so that love may grow in the world."

NEWS NOTES FROM PAT

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BELLEVILLE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

We are pleased to report that our name has been successfully changed to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Diocesan Council with The National Office and the change is in process with the IRS.

THESE ARE OUR FIVE NEW DISTRICT COUNCILS

District: South/West

RUTH MORTON DISTRICT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

St. James – Millstadt: RUTH MORTON Conf. Pres.

Immaculate Conception – Columbia: SUE TAYLOR Conf. Pres.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Waterloo: BARB ZARZECK Conf. Pres.

Holy Family – Cahokia: ROSE JORDAN Conf. Pres.

District: Belleville District 2

ROSEMARY BUCHMILLER DISTRICT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Blessed Sacrament – Belleville: TERRY TYRRELL Conf. Pres.

Queen of Peace – Belleville: PAT KEEFE Conf. Pres.

Rosale Rendu – ROSEMARY BUCHMILLER Conf. Pres.

St. Louise de Marillac – Special Works JUDY LEMANSKY Conf. Pres.

District: Belleville District 1

DIANE CRAWFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

St. Mary – Belleville JOHN BASSLER Conf. Pres.

Cathedral – Belleville RON LASSMAN Conf. Pres.

St. Luke – Belleville KRIS HOPPENJANS Conf. Pres.

St. Teresa – Belleville CAROL GASS Conf. Pres.

St. Henry's – Belleville JANET HORMBERG Conf. Pres.

District: EAST

JANEL HOUSLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

St. Joseph – Lebanon ANDY FAIRLIE Conf. Pres.

Holy Childhood – Mascoutah JANEL HOUSLEY Conf. Pres.

St. Boniface – Germantown JOHN FELDMAN Conf. Pres.

St. Bruno – Conference MARCIA HAGENE Conf. Pres.

VisionSVdP

Each of the District Presidents will receive instructions from the Council to explain how we will continue the dialogue for VisionSVdP. You will make recommendations from your discussions to the National Council.

Safeguarding Training

It's time to review our records and make sure everyone is up to date with our "Protecting Vulnerable Populations" Program which is required every three years. Look for an upcoming email.