

# Pastors Letter to Parishioners

February 4, 2010

Dear Parishioners:

Thirteen years ago in response to our parish addressing the social outreach needs of our community, we adopted the model of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Through this parish ministry, I collaborate with their leadership in assisting me as the pastor in addressing the requests of those seeking financial assistance from the Church. As the pastor, and as secretary/treasurer of the parish, in the creation of this parish ministry, and in accordance with Diocesan policy, I am the treasurer and sign all the checks.

Recently the National Office of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is requesting that all their societies (Conferences) should be totally independent of any given parish in accordance with regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. I expressed my concerns to those involved in this ministry here at the parish and explained that I wanted to maintain this outreach as a parish ministry and continue to involve the local Churches of our township. With this in mind, I informed the Metuchen Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society that we will continue to maintain our outreach ministry under the auspice of the parish as it has been from the beginning. Since we are not able to call it the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the new name will be the **“Outreach Ministry of Saint Augustine.”**

Nothing will change in our approach of dealing with the many financial requests we receive. I am grateful to those who participate in this very sensitive ministry and for the confidential and compassionate manner in the way they reach out to those who come to us in their time of need. The Outreach Ministry of Saint Augustine will continue to involve the Churches of the township and I’m pleased to share that members from their congregation serve in this Outreach Ministry.

Since we are not able to use envelopes with “St. Vincent de Paul Society,” we are in the process of printing new ones that will state: **Outreach Ministry of Saint Augustine.** Until the new envelopes are placed in the gathering area, for those who wish to continue to donate to our Outreach Ministry - use the “My Offerings” envelopes found in the gathering area and write on them “Outreach Ministry” with your envelope number. Please make your checks payable to **“Outreach Ministry.”** Since the fiscal year 2002 (*that’s as far as I can go back in my computer*) to the present, our parishioners and offerings we have received from the other houses of worship, have donated \$468,065.46 to this ministry and \$429,547.88 has been given in assistance. This Outreach Ministry truly has become the compassionate hands of Christ helping those in need and it’s only possible because of you!

Through the involvement of our parishioners, your generous spirit, and with the mandate of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we will continue to respond to the needs of our community through our many social ministries which have been and will continue to be under the patronage of Saint Vincent de Paul. We go forth inspired by the words of Saint Vincent de Paul: *“Let all things be done with charity!”* Thank you for your understanding in this matter and for your continued support of our Outreach Ministry. I remain,

In the Peace of Christ,

Father Robert G. Lynam  
Pastor