

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Nativity of Our Lord Conference

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a worldwide, Catholic-affiliated, faith-based organization dedicated to serving the poor. It has had a presence in Minnesota since 1856. Our Nativity Parish conference (chapter) was established in January, 2018 by 15 parishioners who have carried on its work since then. We serve needy residents of the East Metro, principally the central parts of St. Paul. We meet with them in their homes and provide both personal support and temporary financial assistance as our conference's means permit.



We meet as a conference twice a month. Between meetings we address requests for assistance through e-mail communication among ourselves. Nativity conference members also help staff the St. Vincent's Thrift Store on West Seventh Street.

The Nativity conference has been supported by startup grants from St. Vincent de Paul Minnesota and the Nativity Men's Club, plus individual donations from the members of the conference. We began visiting clients and disbursing assistance in June, 2018. Since then, through funding of about \$3,500.00, we have been able to serve 24 clients with urgent temporary needs—most of them mothers and their children, and primarily to resolve housing issues that threatened them with homelessness.

We have been able to do good work with limited monies thus far, but we see an expanding need for additional funding. We ask all Nativity parishioners to prayerfully contemplate our mission as a reflection of the parish's commitment to Catholic values. Please consider joining us by becoming members, or by donating to help us help the poor of our broader community.

We seek new participants of every interest. At present, we especially need those with experience in development, grant writing, and public outreach to assist our Nativity conference. We also encourage the Nativity community to support the St. Vincent's Thrift Store in St. Paul, whether through help in daily operations or by making or promoting more donations of merchandise. (Gently-used children's clothing is a large perennial need.)

If you wish to join us, call 651-334-2935. If you wish to make a cash donation, please make your check payable to "St. Vincent de Paul Society, Nativity Conference," and drop it off or mail it to the Nativity parish office.

If you have furniture, household items, or clean clothing to donate, please drop them off at our Thrift Store at 461 West 7th Street (access in the back off Sturgis Street). If you need such items, please visit the Thrift Store.

— Please consider a donation to St. Vincent de Paul as a part of your estate plan. —