

St. John's Newsletter



Footsteps of Christ

The tragedies of the flooding in the hill country has touched us all in many ways. With compassion and mercy, many people have reached out to help, to pray, to fund, to do whatever we can for our friends, neighbors and strangers suffering. This is who we are as Catholic Christians.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, the Catholic Church reminds us that "works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities." (CCC 2447)

While we are called to show mercy individually, there are Catholic organizations that focus on these works of mercy including missionaries that go to different parts of the world to spread the Word of Christ and help people suffering physically. In the San Antonio Archdiocese, we have the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Charities.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul utilizes the monthly black bag collections to provide help to people in need in the Hondo community. Starting in 1833, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was established by a young Catholic university student, Frédéric Ozanam, who gathered friends in Paris. They financed their

works of charity for the poor out of their own pockets and from contributions of friends. He chose the 17th-century priest, St. Vincent de Paul, known as the Apostle of Charity, as patron of the organization. A few years later, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul spread worldwide and reached the United States in 1845. San Antonio was among one of the early foundation with the first presence beginning at St. Mary's Catholic Church in 1871.

Today, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of the Archdiocese of San Antonio involves over 1,400 dedicated Vincentian members and other committed SVDP volunteers who serve children, families, and individuals in need.



Established in 1941 as the social service arm of the San Antonio Archdiocese, **Catholic Charities** serves as a coordinating agency for other archdiocesan welfare programs, centering especially on the welfare of families and children in need. Throughout the history of the agency, programs have been established to better serve vulnerable populations in San Antonio and the 19 surrounding counties which make up the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The Archbishop Appeal

funds are a vital part of the services provided by Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities is coordinating the archdiocese support of the hill country flooding victims, including a **special collection August 2-3**.

So many people continue to generously aid those affected by the flooding with their time, talents and treasures. When there is a tragedy, the focus is on filling the physical needs of people – food, water, clothes, etc.

But we also need to be aware of their spiritual needs. Sometimes all we can do is pray. That is powerful and absolutely necessary.

Sources: <https://ccaosa.org/our-history/>
<https://svdpsa.org/mission-statement>

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WORKS OF MERCY

CORPORAL

Feed the hungry.



Give drink to the thirsty.



Shelter the homeless.



Clothe the naked.



Visit the sick.



Visit the imprisoned.



Bury the dead.



SPIRITUAL



Instruct the ignorant.



Counsel the doubtful.



Admonish sinners.



Forgive offenses.



Comfort the afflicted.



Bear wrongs patiently.



Pray for the living and the dead.