

## **FUND RAISING IDEAS | 8-15-15**

### **Collections & Envelopes**

1. We're part of the 'Outreach Ministry,' 40% of the funds collected for this combination of ministries is our share.
2. We also get grant money from the city, local casino. People are very generous, but it ebbs and flows. Personal appeals work best
3. Biggest resource time is Christmas. We also get weekly food donations. We use envelopes. 45% of the money we receive is done electronically.
4. Thanksgiving collection
5. Maundy Thursday collection
6. Basket collection
7. Special donations from parishioners
8. Our conference gets the 5th Sunday contributions, so this is about 3-4 times per year. We can raise 4-5K during these weekends. Donation truck in the parking lot really helps to raise our visibility.
9. About 1/3 of donations come from personal contributions—we don't get regular times in the parish where we can collect donations except for 1 time per month we take collections as people are leaving church.
10. Pass quarterly envelope, has large bequest, there's never a pitch from the pulpit.
11. Pass envelope once a month, and has a basket where parishioners can drop donations.
12. Steal models from other conferences like monthly inserts Sunday prior to SVdP collection including a specific client story or story of assistance.
13. Need to deal with electronic debits for parish because those families do not use envelopes (SVDP uses envelopes)
14. Monthly collection w/envelope \$2.5K to \$4k collection range. No pulpit pitch; no basket allowed; has gotten \$3K from night of Columbus, they're supposed to get rid of all their cash by fiscal year end, you need to apply
15. Once a month collection, mentioned in pulpit, Vincentians stand around with collection baskets (feels there's underline competition perception by administrators) but has opportunity to tell of Vincentian work at the pulpit
16. Has a website people can make donations through this, pass regular envelopes at some masses, has a designated Christmas collection; Vincentians stand around with baskets etc.
17. Set amount from the parish monthly
18. Donations from Vincentians

## **Grants**

19. We get funds from grants from Muckleshoot Casino tribe in Auburn and our thrift store sales, which have been down considerably this year.
20. Find outside fundraising opportunities – for example, See's Candy fundraiser
21. Outside grants, small city grants

## **Bequests**

22. We operate in the red every month, but a large bequest that we received helps fill the gaps—although we struggle getting money from this because of differing philosophies about how these funds should be used.
23. Push Vincentians to remember SVDP in their wills
24. Has benefited from bequests, Church has a Svc. Concession(?)Comm. Group and they apportion part of their fundraising to SVdP,
25. Adequate Funding Grant

## **Twinning**

26. We twin with another conference.
27. Some conferences are greedy and afraid to share
28. Twinning with wealthier conferences
29. Don't believe in Charlie Albert Challenge—unrealistic and demotivating. Another person felt the same way. One person suggested this challenge was more about the idea of no boundaries between parishes—that we are all in this together and should be helping one another. Andre responded well to her interpretation.

# **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT IDEAS**

## **Pastor Support**

1. Pastor is favorable to us and our new president is well-spoken, so this has helped us recruit many new members.
2. Secure pastor and parish staff support and fund raising will be easier.

## **Getting Younger Members or Older Members Or Any Members**

3. It is still a struggle to get younger folks because of work/family commitments, but some are doing this.
4. Should target retirees.
5. Create different kinds of jobs for younger potential conference members.
6. It requires a lot of interaction and cultivation, have 20 people volunteering and use their talents in different areas, some do home visits some don't.
7. Make personal invitations to specific people you want in your conference.
8. Offer membership to people who want to be Vincentians that don't involve home visits.
9. Ask Vincentians to each recruit one new member and act as a mentor

## **Events**

10. Sponsor a Vincentian Potluck Dinner and invite people to come and learn about SVdP.
11. Get acquainted with Vincentians – coffee and dessert, wine and cheese.
12. Get Vincentians to come to these events to help with recruitment.

## **Liturgy & Pulpit**

13. Recruiting happens through church
14. Pulpit pitch

## **RCIA**

15. Recruit people just completing RCIA.
16. Pulpit talk was significant in recruiting new members

### **Ministry or Volunteer Fair**

17. Our annual volunteer fair often draws in new members.
18. Church has a “Ministry Fair” once a year; it is broadcasted at the pulpit, lots of prospects that day, then no show for meetings!
19. Church has a sign-up roster of different ministries, (Youth, Nurses, etc.) SVdP is one of them & people can choose. The problem is retention.
20. Vincentians routinely visit with the different ministries and partner up on work.
21. Use name tag, “Ask Me” button to get parishioners to ask Vincentians about SVdP when it is a special SVdP day or event.
22. Create can do clerical, fundraising, IT jobs. If a person expresses an interest, make sure that they are involved.

### **Bulletin Reporting of Conference Activity**

23. Our regular monthly reporting is also helpful at recruiting new members—it often draws people in once they hear what we are doing. Stephanie is also very helpful with her pulpit pitches—she is really good at this.
24. St. Louise recruitment is going well—we also have volunteer fairs and often draw new members from other existing ministries in the church.
25. Lacking in new members. Need to develop better recruiting.

### **Home Visits & Meetings**

26. Make sure you engage volunteers immediately.
27. Meetings are boring for newbies. Take them on a home visit for the actual experience.
28. Our members come to the meeting regularly, but not always available for home visits.
29. CK has 24 active members on a rotation every 6 weeks.
30. Going out every 6 weeks might be too much of a gap. Do Vincentians stay engaged?
31. Vincentians willing to go on home visits but not meetings.
32. A President is taking random parishioners on calls to get them acquainted with SVdP
33. Have changed the meeting time to accommodate more people.
34. Previous meeting time was unreasonable for working people, more accessible now.

# COMMUNICATIONS IDEAS

## Pastor Support

1. Clergy and staff support essential

## Bulletin Stories

2. We do similar reporting in bulletin monthly—pastor talks about SVdP often—we collect money as parishioners are leaving church. We also publish personal stories.
3. Important to tell stories—even if we feel the visits are routine, they are not routine to parishioners and they seem to be effective.
4. You need to have a good secretary in the conference
5. Electronic Documentation Use Electronic SVDP Documentation System
6. Calendar of Communication Activities
7. Weekly column in bulletin – “Your SVdP Society in Action”
8. Bulletin inserts thanking parishioners for support. Quarterly updates on SVdP work in bulletins.

## Pulpit Pitches

9. Spoken word is more effective
10. Tell a story
11. Tell parish what we expect and need; we do terrible job of making parish aware of what we do.
12. You need to get in the parish’s face. It does not happen automatically
13. Regular communication: What they’ve done, money spent, people helped
14. Pulpit announcement at the end of mass
15. We don’t get up in the pulpit often enough. Announcements at Mass
16. Share personal story!!! They are powerful.

## Displays/Events

17. Set up display in back of church
18. The Stuff the Truck events really help raise visibility. Recommend getting our trucks to come regularly to accept donations. There is nowhere to donate around here, so Goodwill sets up a truck nearby and gets all the donations.
19. Have a donation box with SVdP logo in a corner
20. Always be present at Ministry Fairs.

## ADOPT A STORE IDEAS

### 1. Announcements & Inserts for Finding New Shoppers & Goods Donors

Write and place inserts and announcements into parish bulletins asking for shoppers and donations, multi-lingual. Include discounts to get people to trial shop.

### 2. Ask Parishioners to do Service to the Poor by Donating Time at a Store

Create special Work at St. Vincent's Day for parishioners to select days, jobs and times they can work at a particular store.

### 3. Host a Precinct or Conference Meeting at a Store

Consider hosting your next conference meeting or a precinct meeting at a St. Vinnie's store. This would be a good way of helping parishioners learn more about the store and the employees who work there.

### 4. How to Shop Thrift Seminars.

The Council is going to develop a "how to shop thrift" seminar approach with store maps and tips for how parishioners who haven't shopped thrift can have enjoyable experiences at the stores.

### 5. Great Finds or How A Store Helped Find a Unique Item

The Council is going to develop a tips booklet on how to hunt for unique or special items in its thrift stores.

### 6. Hosting Store Tours For Parishioners

The conference can talk with the SVdP store manager and devise a plan to have parishioners get guided shopping tours of the store at set times and on set days.

### 7. How to Save Money Shopping for Certain Thrift Items

Many people shop thrift because of the tremendous savings.