

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

GOOD MORNING! I am John Houlihan, newly installed President of the St. Vincent DePaul Society for South Walton County. As you may know St. Vincent DePaul began his advocacy for the poor almost 400 years ago. 175 years ago Frederic Ozanam and his fellow university students established the St. Vincent DePaul Society in Paris. Their pattern of visits and material assistance to the needy quickly spread to other European cities and to North America.

The St. Vincent DePaul Society in South Walton County began about 4 years ago under the direction of Tony Logue who has just completed his term as President of our conference. Over the years we have assisted many families and individuals of all ages and faiths who faced acute financial hardships. They either seek our assistance directly via our telephone number or are referred by others. During the past year we have assisted over 91 needy families with over \$75,000 worth of assistance. Our method involves visits by our members who go out "2 by 2" to determine how we might assist those needy who come to our attention. Our assistance typically includes payments for groceries, gasoline, pharmacy, car repair, and/or late rent.

I would like to ask you to consider joining us as a volunteer or as a contributor or both. Please give some thought to determine how you might join us in our efforts to assist the needy here in South Walton County.
