



## Saint Vincent de Paul 1581-1660

I want to illustrate the life of Saint Vincent de Paul. He was born on April 24 1581 to peasant farmers. He did not have an easy life and in 1605 he was taken prisoner by the Barbary Pirates and auctioned off as a slave. He spent 2 years in bondage and returned to France in 1607.

In 1617 he founded the Ladies of Charity from a group of women within his Catholic parish. He organized these wealthy women of Paris to collect funds for missionary projects. He also found hospitals and gathered relief funds for victims of war and ransomed 1.200 galley slaves from North Africa. From this came the Daughters of Charity.

Vincent de Paul became leader of what is known as the Congregation of the Mission or better yet the “Vincentians”. These priests took vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and stability. He died in Paris in September 1660.

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta who was canonized 4 September 2016 followed in Saint Vincent de Paul's footsteps, helping to poor and the sick. Saint Stephen, 1<sup>st</sup> Martyr Catholic Church in Hinesville is following in their footsteps keeping this ministry alive.

We not only serve our Catholic parish but also the communities of Hinesville, Fort Stewart, Glennville, Jessup and wherever else is needed. We assist with food, help with electric and water bills, and just about any other needs in the communities mentioned. In according with our Catholic traditions, we serve others in need never expecting favors returned. However, we do accept prayers and your donation so our local ministry will be strengthened and continue to serve those most vulnerable on the margins of our society.

On October 1, 2016 we are having a Chile Dinner/Auction after the 5:00 PM Mass. This is our big "fundraiser" which help us help others. We are asking you to look through your closets and attics for item you would like to donate for this auction. But do stay with us for dinner. Get your tickets which are on sale after the various Masses.

Something different we are going to do this year concerning the auction is to put items on our St. Stephen's Web Site. Reia Duncan has graciously volunteered to do this. We feel if people see what is to be auctioned they may just come and join us. We truly would like to enjoy your company.

The money we raise will enable us to reach out to those in dire needs at Thanksgiving. Last year 2015 we filled 139 baskets and in the previous year 2014, we filled 150 baskets. Time are economically rough and no idea what the rest of 2016 will bring. We can only count on our entire parish community.

In late October and early November, we will place brown paper bags in the Narthex and ask you to donate canned goods to go along with the Turkeys we will provide. We even include the youth of our parish as they cover the boxes and then fill them with meals to be given out. We will be ready by Tuesday right before Thanksgiving.

If you have items to drop off other than the hours the office staff is available, give me a call to arrange when we can meet at St Stephen's. My number will be in the Parish Bulletin.

I have been privileged to be President for the last 4-5 years. We have a great bunch of people to work with when they can. We are always looking for new people wanting to be involved by joining us in helping to most in need. We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in our Social Hall. If you feel called to serve, join us and know that the "harvest is abundant and the servants are few".

As a footnote, The Chile Dinner/Auction tickets will be sold after every Mass. Our Chile is great and the comradery is even better. Take out is absolutely available as an option. The Chile Dinner is \$6.00; Hot Dog Meal is \$4.00; and just a Hog Dog is \$1:00.

Thank you and God Bless!