

Holy Cross Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Report to Parish, FY 2021

The Holy Cross St. Vincent de Paul Conference (SVdP) is an all-volunteer Catholic lay charity that helps poor and needy persons in Las Cruces. The COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected the services we provided in 2020 and 2021. To continue to safely serve our neighbors in need, instead of making home visits, our ministers meet with families at the office or on the phone to provide critical financial assistance. With vaccinations available, our activities increased significantly in the summer and fall.

How We Help: The Holy Cross SVdP Conference has a *Financial Assistance Program* and *Thrift Store*. Needy families may receive financial assistance, primarily to help pay their utility bills. The Financial Assistance Program is funded through Sunday collections at Holy Cross, and also from sales at the Thrift Store. Parishioners donated \$28,166 in 2021 to the Holy Cross SVdP Conference, and 100% of these funds were used for emergency financial assistance.

All of the merchandise in the Thrift Store is donated by Good-Hearted people throughout the whole community who share our concern for the poor and wish to do something to help. Our Thrift Store enables us to provide clothing, furniture, and household items to the poor and needy in our community, using a voucher system. Merchandise is also sold at modest prices and the income is used to support the Financial Assistance Program (for utility bills). To learn more, pick up one of our brochures in the Church foyer or follow us on Facebook.

Assistance Provided to the Poor and Needy in 2021:

- We provided **\$57,377 in financial assistance** (mostly for utility bills) for 254 families in Las Cruces (an average of \$226 per family).
- Holy Cross SVdP ministers gave out 148 vouchers to help 474 people (including 264 children) receive clothing, furniture, and/or household items from the Thrift Store.
- St. Genevieve's SVdP gave out 63 vouchers to the Thrift Store to help 159 people (including 66 children).
- The used value of merchandise given out through our voucher program was \$15,101.
- In total, **1,432 people were helped** with direct financial aid or in-kind services.

All-Volunteer Ministry Collaboration: Parishioners from Holy Cross, Our Lady of Health, Our Lady of Purification, Santa Rosa de Lima, St. Albino, St. Genevieve, Pastoral Center, and St. Albert the Great contributed 7,098 hours of work in the past year to provide Holy Cross SVdP services.

How You Can Help: Use your envelopes to contribute to Sunday collections, be a volunteer, or donate merchandise to the Thrift Store—we especially need furniture, household items, and children's clothing. The Thrift Store is located in the Southwest Trade Center at 580 S. Valley, and is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm, and also in the morning on the first Saturday of each month. To schedule a pickup of your furniture donation, contact the Thrift Store at 575-527-4041,

Grateful For YOU !! We are able to help our neighbors in Las Cruces because of the generous financial and material support of parishioners at Holy Cross. As always, we are especially grateful to Father Richard Catanach, who is our Spiritual Advisor and a Friend to the Poor.

On that day, O Lord, when I finally stand before You to give an account of my life, I pray I will hear You say, "Come, O good and faithful servant to share your Father's joy, for when I was hungry, thirsty, naked, homeless, ill and imprisoned, you offered your gifts in charity, and you lovingly did it for Me." Amen.