



St. Vincent de Paul Waukesha County

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

"Doing A Little Good"

Pope Francis has spoke frequently of mercy and forgiveness over the last decade. In one homily he said, "God's patience has to call forth in us the courage to return to Him, however many mistakes and sins there may be in our life. ... It is there, in the wounds of Jesus, that we are truly secure; there we encounter the boundless love of His heart. " The cross serves as a reminder of the ultimate forgiveness offered to every sinner.



St. Vincent De Paul
Digital Photo by Sheryl Cozad

The St. Dismas Jail Ministry is a partnership of our Council and local Vincentian members that supports the entire person, their material, emotional and spiritual needs to heal and offer an opportunity for reconciliation. Our Waukesha team understands that the St. Dismas ministry can sometimes be controversial. This ministry highlights our Vincentian values of "charity and justice to bring hope, solace and support without judgement" to those who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated. Tom Pipines, our St. Dismas President and Linda Pischke share their stories from the St. Dimas Ministry and how it impacts their lives and world view. It is another way St. Vincent de Paul, through the dedication of its members, does a little good in Waukesha County.

- by Bob Glowacki, Chief Executive Officer

St. Dismas Ministry

Named after the "good thief" from Catholic tradition, the St. Dismas program conducts outreach to the Waukesha jail. Over two dozen Vincentians provide Bible study and delivery of the Eucharist to inmates. They regularly write to inmates giving messages of support and encouragement. During their incarceration, inmates are unable to access services like eye exams. St. Dismas staff coordinates exams and provides eyeglasses.

Many times after release, St. Vincent de Paul on Sunset Drive is the first stop for former inmates. We call these services "Aftercare." These men and women need clothes, a bus pass or help finding shelter to prevent re-incarceration. St. Dismas staff have many stories of former inmates. Recently, one of our friends came to share his exciting news: he secured a job with a major manufacturer in Waukesha paying over \$20.00 per hour. St. Dismas had provided clothes and bus passes after his incarceration along with encouragement. Judene, a Dismas staff member expressed, "I was truly moved that he took the time to come by and say thank you for all the help that St. Dismas provided him."

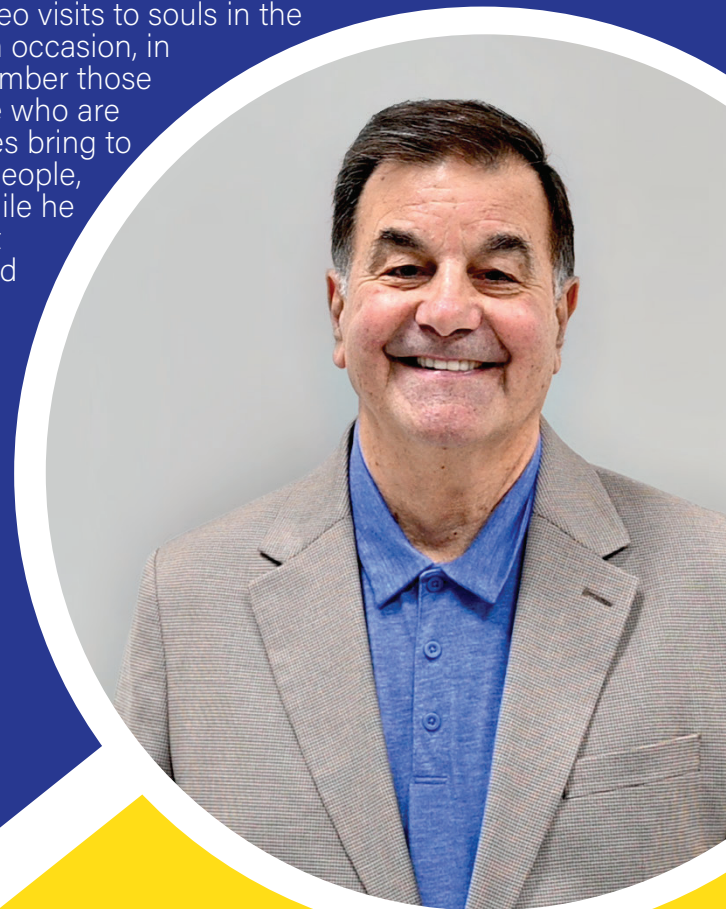


Tom Pipines: Beyond Judgement

You recognize his face and voice from sports highlights of the Bucks, Brewers and our beloved Packers. Tom Pipines was the voice of sports for nearly 30 years in Southeast Wisconsin. Now, his voice carries a message of hope and redemption to those incarcerated in Waukesha County. After retiring from broadcasting, Tom was invited to join the St. Vincent de Paul conference at Queen of Apostles Parish. What called Tom to St. Vincent de Paul and to the St. Dismas Ministry? Tom reflected, "it was a gift to meet some amazing people in my 40 years as a television sportscaster. But God has blessed me with a chance to interact with 'the least of these' while making video visits to souls in the jail, participating in services in the old Huber facility, and on occasion, in Sunday Services." For Tom the Gospel called him to 'Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.' Tom's experiences bring to mind for him a quote from St. Mother Teresa, 'if you judge people, you have no time to love them.' With Tom's ever present smile he said, "I have met men and women who have seemingly lost everything. But, by God's grace, they have found or regained their Faith."

One of the highlights of my life has been to connect with souls in the Jail. Tom shared how incarceration was a blessing for a 20-year-old young man who expressed he has made the Lord the center of his life. When he is released from prison, he wants to help others avoid the pitfalls that he experienced.

Another woman Tom recently met was in her early thirties and a mother of two children. She suffered the indignity of being a sex trafficking victim. Despite her trauma, brokenness and addiction, Tom sees her growing in her Faith with the desire to heal and be a wonderful mother. Tom's spiritual life has been profoundly affected, "These people are among many who have transformed my life. They have taught me the true meaning of the unconditional love and mercy of our Lord."

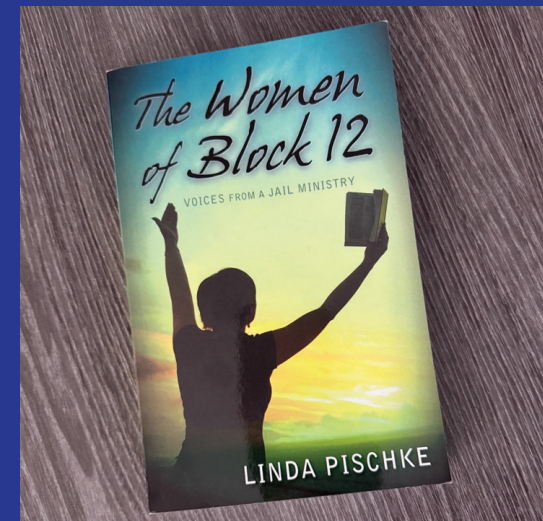


2,270

The number of service hours provided by two dozen Vincentians to support the spiritual needs of individuals in the Waukesha jails. Your support enables us to continue offering hope and guidance to those seeking renewal during their time of incarceration.

4,187 - People were helped in 2024

HOPE AND SOLACE



Walking through the doors of cell block 12 for the first time, Linda heard the security door open and close behind her, "Buzz, Bang, Buzz Bang." She was walking in to conduct her first journaling class with women inmates. Linda was uncomfortable, uncertain and completely out of her element. Little did she know as she walked through those doors, her life and her attitudes would change dramatically to the point of authoring a book titled, "The Women of Block 12." She reflected, "The women were desperate to have someone listen to them. Their stories moved me because they were so raw. Their honesty humbled me."

Today, she continues to support formerly incarcerated women through a Friday support group. The women named their group "Joyful Souls." The group provides an outlet for women to share their stories and to create a new life. We have seen many success stories and transformations beyond what you could ever imagine. One woman came from a life of drug addiction and prostitution to earning a master's degree in counseling. Another woman, we will call her Dee, came to the group because her probation officer made her come and have me sign her attendance sheet. Dee resented that. Now Dee is a recovering addict, has a stable relationship, is raising her children and owns her own small business.



8th Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors GOLF OUTING

With a stroke of your favorite golf club you can help our neighbors in need. Our golf outing has raised over \$100,000. All proceeds provide food, clothing and shelter to our Waukesha neighbors. Golf with us at the Broadlands Golf Club on **Monday, August 11th**.

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE



PRESENTING SPONSOR



Visit our website to register today!
<https://www.svdpthrift.net/golf-outing-2025>

FREE EVENT!



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FEST

JUNE 14th

601 RYAN ST, PEWAUKEE, WI

**FROM
10AM - 6PM**

Be a part of our celebration! St. Vincent de Paul is looking for friendly vendors to sell their house goods and creations!

FREE VENDOR SPOTS AVAILABLE

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS



VENDOR SIGNUP

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

The cost of living for food and shelter skyrocketed since the pandemic. With your help St. Vincent de Paul can help our neighbors in need.

Be the Change today!

\$25

Provides bus tickets for a new job!

\$100

Provides financial education through our Getting Ahead program!

\$200

Shelters a neighbor in need for two days!

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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St. Vincent de Paul - Waukesha County

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