



# SVDP MESSAGE

## St. Vincent de Paul at Holy Family

As I think of the hardships we've had to endure, the sacrifices we've had to make, the suffering of those who have contracted the virus and those who have lost their loved ones as a result of COVID-19, I am reminded of the traumatic and devastating experiences other generations had to bear. My mother and father grew up in a rural community outside a small southwestern town during the Great Depression. We, their children, grew up hearing the stories they and other family members had to tell. My mother, being the oldest girl of nine children, was heir to the newest, although handmade, clothes. She remembered how proudly she wore her first store-bought coat to school on a cold winter morning, and how crushed and humiliated she had been when the other children made fun of her because the coat was two sizes too big so it would get a couple years worth of wear before being recycled by her younger sisters. My father, being the youngest boy in his family of seven, had to wear his brother's old shoes with the loose sole that made a ridiculous noise as he walked. He was ridiculed, teased, and forced to defend his honor in a fight with the bully in the schoolyard at the end of the day.

Grandpa Martinez cried when he recalled having to bury his mother and baby sister when they died of the Spanish Flu. Grandma stopped putting up a Christmas tree after receiving the news on Christmas Eve that her oldest son, Louis, had been killed in the Philippines during WWII. Grandma Velasquez wore the stain off the wooden beads on her rosary praying for my father who was off fighting the same war. Both families endured poverty and hardships I can only imagine, but they had a surplus of love and faith. Their love of God and faith in His mercy, earned them strength of character, integrity, simplicity, and reverence. The lessons learned through their experiences were the virtues of love, humility, respect, kindness, compassion, and generosity.

I marvel at my parents' and grandparents' endurance, patience, and perseverance. They did not allow their past to scar them, to make them bitter, or selfish. They told their stories with pride and a sense of humor. They didn't lose their faith and continued to trust in God. We can learn from their example, and use this time of trouble to become better people, better followers of Christ. They taught us by example.

***So faith, hope, love remain; these three; but the greatest of these is love.***

Corinthians 13:13



***Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.***

Matthew 11:28

V.L.

***This is a beautiful and intimate story of a family's poverty, hardships but mostly their love. They truly lived a life of Christian Love.***

**ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENT RESOURCES Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pg 2**

<https://www.orangecountyfl.net/EmergencySafety/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-ResidentResources>

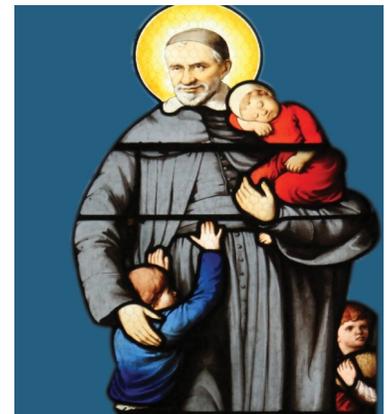
## SPIRITUAL ADVISOR'S CORNER - LOVE

*Lord, I want to show the kindness of your heart today.*

*Please show me who I can help, and in what way.*

*I want my words and deeds to convey your love for us,*

*This I pray.*



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Orange County Eviction Diversion program has opened for applications. The information can be found at [Economic Development](#) and at 407-836-3111. There are many restrictions but \$20 million dollars has been allocated for this program.



***We Love Our Guests!***

***Remember to keep your trunk and car clear when you come to get food and wear a mask.***

## Financial Assistance

### **CARES Act Funding for Individuals and Families**

Orange County's CARES Act Funding for Individuals and Families will provide a one-time payment of \$1,000 per household for residents affected by COVID-19.

### **Reemployment Assistance**

State-run Reemployment Assistance benefits are available to residents who have been negatively impacted as a result of the mitigation efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

## Home and Utility

**Eviction Diversion Program**—Orange County's Eviction Diversion Program has a total capacity of \$20 million, and will provide up to \$4,000 in past-due rent, paid to the landlord, for tenants/renters who are in imminent danger of eviction due to COVID-19.

**Mortgage Relief -Landlord-Tenant Education Series** - Homeowners with Federal or Government Sponsored Enterprise (GSE) backed mortgages may be able to request forbearance or mortgage relief at this time. Additionally, services may be available for homeowners to enter into Foreclosure Prevention Counseling with their service provider.

A series of videos and frequently asked housing questions have been created in partnership with the Community Legal Series of Mid-Florida to educate residents on housing rights and preventing eviction.

**Limited Extension of Mortgage Foreclosures and Eviction Relief**—Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' executive order will allow landlords to move forward with the eviction filing process for non-payment of rent for evictions that are not COVID-19 related. However, the Executive Order does not allow the Writ of Possession can only occur after 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2020.

**Orange County Utilities**—Water service disconnections for nonpayment and late fees will resume September 28, 2020. If you have fallen behind on payments and need help bringing your account current, please call Orange County Utilities at 407-836-5515, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

## Social Services

**Second Harvest Food Bank**—Residents in need of food assistance can visit Second Harvest Food Bank's online food locator to find a list of feeding partners near their residency.

**OCPS Grab & Go Meals**—Summer meals will be distributed Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon. Students and/or a parent or guardian can pick up breakfast and lunch at select OCPS sites across the County.

**United Way 211**—Residents impacted by COVID-19 can contact Heart of Florida United Way's 2-1-1 service to be connected to critical health and social service resources in the community.

**Seniors First and Meals on Wheels**—Seniors First, Inc. is the largest social services organization in the region, providing direct service and programs to our community's vulnerable elderly population.

**Mental Health Assistance**—Aspire Health Partners is offering a dedicated telephone line to assist residents with mental health concerns related to COVID-19. Residents can call the helpline to be connected with a caring mental health professional by calling 407-875-3700 X2.

**CareerSource of Central Florida (CSCF)** - If your job has been impacted by COVID-19, contact CareerSource of Central Florida. In partnership with Orange County Florida Government, CareerSource has a program to connect you with the skills and/or training you need to land a career in key industries.

**Health Insurance**—Residents who have lost their health insurance or have experienced a change in income within the last 60 days may be eligible to qualify for a special enrollment period through the federal ACA Marketplace.

**MORE INFORMATION AT:** <https://www.orangecountyfl.net/EmergencySafety/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-ResidentResources>