

Volunteers Serve Dinner to 140 Guests

By Kathleen DeCaire-Aden with Kirsten Bobber

What happens when 140 guests are expected for Sunday dinner and no one is signed up to supply or serve the meal? The Lord provides. That was the case at Emmaus House of Hospitality in Lake Zurich, a nonprofit organization that serves those who are hungry and struggling to stay in their homes. Emmaus House had several openings for volunteer groups to host its weekly Sunday night dinner when Kathleen DeCaire-Aden, president of St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP), contacted them and offered the Society's help. Because the two missions align, St. Mary's Vincentians enthusiastically filled one of the openings this August.

As a result, 140 men, women, and children received a hearty dinner of mostaccioli, salad, corn, bread and fresh fruit cheerfully served by 13 St. Mary parishioners. Funds for the meal came from the generous support of St. Mary parishioners to the Society.

DeCaire-Aden said, "We know that in serving them we are the hands and feet of Christ, who was most humble in service to His Father. And here's the thing with God's plan, as soon as we committed to hosting the Emmaus House dinner, the St. Mary SVdP intake line started to ring with several significant cases of people needing help, including flood victims in Mundelein. I truly believe that God was telling us to do more, to never turn away from serving the least among us."

She added, "The St. Mary community continues to allow the Society to respond and act with sympathy, humility, compassion, and respect – loving the poor, the suffering and the marginalized. We'll be back at the Emmaus House in 2018 and continue to take every call into the intake line to help those in need."

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call 224-522-8863. To volunteer for the Emmaus House or similar SVdP service projects, email svdpkda@gmail.com. The Society meets

the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the church meeting rooms. All are welcome.