



SCLs Present Third Vincentian Charism Award

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs) have announced that Kathy Dean of Raymore, Mo., is the third recipient of the Community's recently established Vincentian Charism Award.

"Those who nominated Kathy for this award said if St. Vincent de Paul were alive today in Kansas City, he would be working alongside her ministering to the homeless. We are pleased to commend Kathy, whose life and work exemplifies the spirit and service of St. Vincent de Paul," reported Sister Constance Phelps, SCL Community Director. "For many years, Kathy has been a tireless advocate for the unsheltered homeless and through her leadership has been able to provide food, clothing, and other needed items to the poorest of the poor. She embodies the characteristic Vincentian virtues of humility, simplicity, and charity."

In 2004, Kathy started as a volunteer for Uplift, a charitable organization which uses commercial vans to serve the homeless in the Kansas City area. After volunteering, she served on the organization's board of directors, and became the organization's president in 2011, serving for 9 years without any monetary compensation (Uplift receives no federal, state, or local government grants. It is enabled only by donations and volunteers). Her record of selfless service reflects her deep commitment to the underserved. Kathy says, "My passion and my heart are on the streets of Kansas City. While we give people items necessary to survive, we also give our time, attention, hugs, smiles, and especially our respect." She says her work with the homeless has been the greatest blessing of her life.

The award honors the works and witness begun by Mother Xavier Ross, founder of the SCLs, who was deeply rooted in the charism and spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, a 17th century Catholic priest. St. Vincent de Paul served the poor and needy in France and was renowned for his compassion, humility, and charity.

Due to Coronavirus concerns, Kathy will officially receive the Vincentian Charism Award in a formal presentation on a date yet to be determined. Questions about the award and presentation may be directed via email to communications@scls.org.