



"Ask Mike"
SVdP Chicago's very own
Vice President Mike Syslo
answers common
questions Vincentians are
asking to help them serve
their neighbors in need!

Have a question? Email us:
teresa@svdpchicago.org

July 2026

Q: If our conference receives monetary donations to directly offset the cost of a community dinner, do we need to pay solidarity dues on the donation because it is basically like a pass-through?

A: *Solidarity is paid based on total income less what we receive from other SVdP entities. The annual report is the basis for the solidarity calculation. There is a place for income from fundraising events and expenses from fundraising events. The solidarity on the amount of fundraising events is not likely to be significant.*

Q: Our Conference had set a limit of \$500 assistance to any given person or family. So, we were considering establishing a loan process to those whose need exceeds \$500. Is this a valid Vincentian way of assisting our friends in need?

A: *SVdP does not loan money to those in need. Our payments of utilities, rent, and other financial obligations are gifts with no conditions. We do not make loans. We are reminded by St. Vincent de Paul himself who told us that we need to imitate our Lord whose gifts were presented unconditionally.*

However, we do have a Micro Loan program established which is processed through a credit union. Please contact Elvia at our central office to get more information on this.