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## St. Vincent de Paul Society in Immediate, Desperate Need WEEKEND FIRE DESTROYS DOWNRIVER THRIFT STORE

A terrible fire, whipped by Friday's high winds, has totally destroyed the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Flat Rock, Michigan. Gratefully, no one was hurt in the late afternoon blaze. However, all of the items in the store— clothes, furnishings, housewares, and electronic components— were lost to fire or water damage.

On an annual basis, the Flat Rock store (15,000 sq. feet) would handle thousands of customers and clients, as well as hundreds of referrals for additional outreach support. For now, those displaced by the fire are being directed to the Westland Thrift Store on Wayne Road, between Ford and Warren.

Donations of goods are welcome at any of the nine remaining Society Thrift Stores in southeast Michigan. Their locations and hours of operation, along with detailed information on how to send cash donations, can be found online at [www.svdpdet.org](http://www.svdpdet.org). To reach the local chapter by telephone, call— toll-free— 877.788.4623.

Leaving for Rome, Detroit's archbishop, Cardinal Adam Maida, offered his prayers and support for the leadership of the Society. "Once again, they are facing a major setback in their unselfish and vital ministry to the poor and marginalized of the archdiocese," the cardinal said. "But our local Vincentians, and the good people who support them, always find a way! I know it will be hard, especially this year, but I have great hope. And, I pray that all those served by the Thrift Stores, be they downriver, in Detroit, or Port Huron, will be well cared-for this holiday season."