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- Voice of the Poor: Warren Wright
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2010 Friends of the Poor Walk: Dennis Hanzel
- Publicity: Marilyn Dougherty

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## From Lesha Farias, Newark

Vincentians from 5 of the 6 conferences in Licking County gathered at St. Francis de Sales in Newark for our first Ozanam training. Our day began with mass with Pastor Fr. Bob Penhallurick as our celebrant. Rose Ann Stevenson and Kevin Murphy from St. Edward the Confessor Parish were our skilled Ozanam Orientation trainers.

The 30 or so participants were very engaged throughout the day, asked good questions, shared personal stories and perspectives, which made for a vibrant and invigorating experience for all. The St. Francis de Sales conference provided and served a delicious potluck lunch which was a special treat and a great time for us to get to know each other.

It was an important day for our conferences which work together already, but especially now that we have so many new Vincentians, and two new conferences. Meeting each other in person and sharing our calling to this important work, will bear many fruits in the years to come as we strive to serve God's poor in our community and to grow as friends in Christ.



A total of 28 Vincentians attended in the Ozanam Orientation held at St. Andrew Church on March 13, 2010, following the Saturday morning Mass. The purpose of Ozanam Orientation is to introduce to new members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul who we are

and what we are all about, and to re-acquaint veteran members with our spirituality and heritage. Led by Bill Sparks (Diocesan President) and Cindy Coykendale (St. Andrew Conference President), the participants viewed videos, absorbed Power Point presentations, and engaged in lively group discussions. Some of the topics covered were our Founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam; our Patrons and History; our Organizational and Accountability Structure; our Core Values; and our Home Visit Policies and Procedures. Six parishes were represented at the session: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Timothy, Newman Center, St. Andrew, Holy Spirit, and St. Joseph Cathedral



Vincentians at the St. Michael's Orientation.

## Social Services Commission

Bishop Campbell, under the auspices of the Department for Catholic Charities and Social Concerns headed by Mark Huddy, has formed a Social Services Commission to assist him in organizing, delivering and funding social services within the Diocese. He has asked that St. Vincent de Paul serve on that commission along with Catholic Social Services, J.O.I.N., St Vincent Family Center, and St. Stephen's Community House. Warren Wright and Joff Moine will join me on the Social Services Commission Board representing St. Vincent de Paul.

Mark Huddy and myself to learn more about our needs, please let me know. We will contact them and share our story. **This is important** so please give it some thought since the most important thing at this point is to have names of people we can contact.

 *Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!*

**April 24**, Top Hat Award and Recognition Banquet. Reservations due April 19; \$15 per person,

**August 22**, Day of Recollection, St. Therese's Retreat Center, Facilitator Sheila Gilbert, Spiritual Director and National Secretary, The Society of St. Vincent De Paul,

**September 25**, Friends of the Poor Walk, Whitehall Park,

### The Vincentian Vocation

To help recruiting, to understand the Vincentian vocation, we asked Vincentians to tell their stories on why they became Vincentians.

Tim Macken from Marion told the following story about Vincentians in Marion.

Around forty-six years ago my father took ill and all the consequences of such an event quickly developed for our family. The first and foremost issue for us was the loss of our father's love and leadership; the second was of course the loss of income.

It wasn't long after my father took ill that we were unable to sustain the wonderful home we had lived in for many years. The day soon came that will forever be a bitter memory for me, but one with a sweet ending thanks to special group of people.

I remember the day as if it were yesterday! All of our furniture had been moved out of the home and placed strategically around the outside of our house. I didn't realize what was going on until the auction began and I

witnessed strangers carrying off our possessions.

How strange it was to witness all our furniture being loaded into vehicles and then see them quickly speed away with their new goods. I started crying and couldn't stop until I was being cradled safely in my mother's arms.

After watching my world being sold away we headed out in a taxi to our new home, an apartment situated over an old laundromat. I remember climbing the stairs to our apartment knowing that everything was gone, everything!

When the door opened and we entered what a wonderful surprise filled our eyes! There was all our furniture! Our beds, our couch, our dining room table, and our TV! How could this be? I just saw it sold and carried away. We were all in shock; how could this have happened?

The Saint Vincent DePaul Society is how it happened! Unbeknownst to our family a lot of the members of The Saint Vincent DePaul Society had attended the auction and purchased all the furniture that would fit into our new apartment. They had sped away with our possessions so that we would arrive with the furniture all set in place and ready for our use.

This charitable act is why I joined the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. I will never be able to fully repay the gift given to my family on that bitter sweet day, but every day with a Vincentian spirit leading the way, I will do my best to come close.

### Ozanam Work Shops

On Saturday, March 13 the Ozanam orientation committee offered three Ozanam workshops at St. Andrew's, Upper Arlington, St. Michaels, Worthington, St. Francis, Newark. The workshops were great successes.



# The Voice

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

April 2010

Volume 30, Issue 2

## President's Message

**Bill Sparks**

Several topics deserve attention.

### **Ozanam Orientations:**

These orientations provide a solid grounding in the Society of St. Vincent De Paul with information for everyone, **even long time Vincentians**. A whole section is dedicated to Home Visits with plenty of time for discussion so that all will feel more comfortable with the home visit. The Orientations are held on a Saturdays from 9am to 3pm and have been very well received. The next orientations are May 8<sup>th</sup> in Lancaster and November 6 here in the Columbus Area. If there is enough demand, we will add additional locations for the November 6<sup>th</sup> date. Let Pat Summers in the SVDP Office at (614-221-3554) know if you are interested in either of these orientations.



### **Voice of the Poor:**

Each conference should have a member working with Warren Wright on our Society's social action effort: Voice of the Poor. That person should be interested in joining our advocacy efforts with the legislature in areas affecting those that we serve such as housing, hunger, health care, immigration, etc. Contact Warren Wright [warren@heartland-petroleum.com](mailto:warren@heartland-petroleum.com) or 614-402-2734 for more information.

### **Region Meeting:**

Our Mideast Region meeting will be held in Fort Wayne on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to meet Vincentians from around the Region as well as update yourself on what is going on within the broader SVDP organization and gaining ideas to enhance what you do at the conference level. It is a lot of fun as well, so if you have any interest, save the date and let me know if you have any questions. [wbsparks@columbus.rr.com](mailto:wbsparks@columbus.rr.com)

### **Annual National Meeting:**

Another great opportunity to meet Vincentians from around the country, learn a lot about what is going on within SVDP, and attend several very meaningful workshops is the Annual Meeting. This year it will be held in New Orleans (a great location) from September 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any interest at all please contact me and I can fill you in with more details. [wbsparks@columbus.rr.com](mailto:wbsparks@columbus.rr.com)

### **Buying Clothing Center/J.O.I.N. Building:**

We need to raise funds to pay for the building on Main St. which our Clothing Distribution Center and J.O.I.N. share. It is important that we do our part to provide the funds to purchase the building as the lease is running out. If you know of ANYONE, (they need not be a Vincentian) who would be willing to meet with