

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

**Officers:**

- Diocesan Council President: Bill Sparks
- Diocesan Council Vice President: Warren Wright
- Treasurer: Janet Jobko
- Secretary: Kym Haskins
- At Large: Jody Stahr, Darrell Bragg
- Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Shawn Corcoran

**District Council Presidents:**

- East: Open
- East Rural: Thomas Winans
- N-NW: Charles Kielkopf
- N-NE: Walter Ohm
- E-SE: Lesha Farias
- South Rural: David Lanning
- Inner-City: Gina Langen
- S-SW: Joffre Moine

**Committee Chairs:**

- Ozanan Orientation: Rose Ann Stevenson, Maureen Meck
- Voice of the Poor: Warren Wright
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2011 Friends of the Poor Walk: Patti Aellig
- Publicity: Open

**Secretary, Pat Summers**

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**Send news items and articles for The VOICE to Charles Kielkopf [kielkopf.1@osu.edu](mailto:kielkopf.1@osu.edu) or to the Diocesan office.**

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Diocesan Council of Columbus  
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due to space constraints. All of these nominees will be recognized at our April 30 Top Hat Award ceremony.

**Michael Cunningham's, St. Cecilia, Columbus.** Michael's favorite Vincentian service is the Christmas Turkey Dinner program which is a marvel of efficiency with no food ever wasted.

**Susan D'Orazio, St. Elizabeth, Columbus.** Beyond several "hands on" Vincentian works Susan emphasizes service at the Clothing Distribution Center where she volunteers at least three days each week.

**David Gahn St. Cecilia, Columbus.** David is tireless and fearless in cheerfully responding to calls for transportation from known and unknown clients.

**Dale Keeler, St. Leonard, Heath.** Dale is president of the Board of Directors of St. Vincent Haven. Amongst his many other Vincentian works, Dale goes out almost daily to tend to the needs of the local poor.

**Charles Kielkopf, Immaculate Conception, Columbus.** Charles is editor of the VOICE and developer of the Diocesan SVdP website. He participates in weekly food calls and has volunteered at the Clothing Distribution Center every Thursday since it opened.

**Fred Kottonstette, St. Agatha, Upper Arlington.** Fred is a fantastic fund raiser for Vincentian projects. He greets the poor in person while volunteering every Tuesday at JOIN.

**Vernon Myer, St. Ladislav, Columbus.** Vernon is a long serving Vincentian and South Side Community leader, devoted to visiting sick and shut-ins above and beyond directing the important *Corpus Christi*- St. Ladislav food pantry.

**Susan Sonderman, St. Augustine/St. Gabriel, Columbus.** Susan's organizational

talents have been essential for starting a new Conference. Susan participates enthusiastically in person-to-person home visits.

**John Stover, Church of the Ascension, Johnstown.** John is a founding member of his four year old Conference. He has initiated a variety of Vincentian service including the special service, developed with his wife, Neva, for free loaning of medical equipment.

**James Wollenberg, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Columbus.** James, a Vincentian since 1970, has been a foundation stone in Diocesan ministries of St. Lawrence Haven and the Saturday Food Program.

**Patricia Woods, St. James the Less, Columbus.** Patricia is the dedicated and highly competent manager of the much needed, and used, food pantry at St. James the Less. Pat always seeks the face of Christ in her clients.

#### Changes of officers

**St. Margaret of Cortona,** Joe Wickham replacing Ann Stuntebeck.

#### Help Wanted

The Diocesan Council needs a publicity officer. The responsibilities are to submit articles about Diocesan Vincentian activities, events and services to local publications.

#### Remember in your prayers.

Dale Henry, St. Mary, Groveport

Deacon George Lovensheimer, St. Mary, Chillicothe,

Robert F. Mahler, A founding member of the Immaculate Conception conference

## Voice of the Poor

### 2011 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, Washington, DC

The SVdP Columbus Voice of the Poor advocacy ministry was represented with Warren Wright attending the 2011 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering from February 13 to 16 in Washington, DC. The theme of the gathering was “Protecting Human Life and Dignity: Promoting a Just Economy”. The gathering, organized by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, educated hundreds of attendees on the justice issues requiring advocacy with our US representatives and Senators. Attendees visited Capitol Hill to lobby their representatives and senators on two issues, budget priorities for the poor and vulnerable and health care reform. The message delivered on budget priorities was that spending cuts should not disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable, those who most need assistance in these troubled economic times. The health care message was “reform, don’t repeal” the health care legislation passed in 2010. Specifically, House and Senate bills are pending that would prohibit the use of federal funds for abortion and protect conscience rights for health care providers who refuse to perform abortions under the new health care law. Representatives and senators were requested to support these pieces of legislation.

In addition to Warren Wright, six other Ohio attendees from Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, and Wooster visited the offices of Rep. Steve Stivers, Rep. Jim Renacci, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Rep. John Boehner, Senator Rob Portman, and Sen. Sherrod Brown

### March 2011 Legislative Advocacy Workshop

Thirty SVdP members attended a Legislative Advocacy Workshop on March 26, 2011 at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Columbus. The gathering, sponsored by the

our Voice of the Poor Committee and the Diocesan Office of Social Concerns, educated attendees on advocacy, its roots in Catholic Social Teaching, and the issues impacting those we serve in our home visits that are currently in front of the Ohio legislature. Jerry Freewalt of the Diocesan Office of Social Concerns and Jim Tobin of the Ohio Catholic Conference were the main presenters of the above topics.

If anyone is interested in being part of our Voice of the Poor advocacy ministry or would like an audio CD or summary of either the Washington D.C. or St. Mary Magdalene conference sessions, please contact Warren Wright at [joannwarrenwright@yahoo.com](mailto:joannwarrenwright@yahoo.com).

## On the Invitation for Renewal

The February 23-27 Invitation for Renewal at beautiful Seton Cove inspired Charles and Marge Kielkopf of Immaculate Conception with the notion that being a Vincentian is not just volunteering to help the poor.



Rather being a Vincentian is having a vocation to grow spiritually by seeking the face of Christ in the poor. And this vocation lies in a rich Catholic tradition beginning with St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac.

## From the Conferences

Ten outstanding Vincentians were nominated for the 2011 Top Hat Award. These nominees are listed below with only a tiny fraction of their Vincentian contributions listed



# The Voice

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

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## President's Message

### Bill Sparks

Thanks to all Vincentians who advanced our mission, in so many ways during this long winter.

Throughout the whole Diocese our stores, clothing distribution programs, pantries, havens, lunch programs, home visits, etc., served the poor these hard winter days.



Our **Top Hat Award Mass and Dinner** on a spring Saturday, April 30, is an ideal occasion to gather in Vincentian friendship to share ideas on our accomplishments so far in 2011. The Top Hat events begin with 4:30 PM mass in St. Francis DeSales Chapel, followed by a Vincentian recommitment ceremony and dinner at which the Top Hat Award is announced. All nominees will be recognized at the dinner. Brief synopses of the nominations are below. The humorous and spiritually insightful Fr. Joshua Wagner addresses us after dinner. Plan to attend this wonderful mass and dinner and spend an evening of fellowship with Vincentian friends. Call 614-221-3554 to make reservations for the dinner which costs \$15.00.

Winter weather has not hindered our educational and political advocacy programs. We have already held two Ozanam Orientations. Your conference presidents will keep you informed about plans for upcoming **Ozanam Orientations**.

Remember also that the National Council offers opportunities to develop Vincentian Spirituality. Again I urge you to think seriously about participating in one of our **Invitation for Renewal** programs. This is a

three and a half day program put on by our National Office and is held in Indianapolis. It is for all active Vincentians and I recommend it highly. The next session begin on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Contact Pat Summers or me for a brochure and more information. There is a brief report on the February 23 Invitational for Renewal below.

Warren Wright, our Diocesan Council Vice President and head of our **Voice of the Poor Committee** reports on two recent political advocacy sessions.

I look forward to hearing, Ralph Mellencamp, a fine historian of our Society and Executive Director of the Madison, Wisconsin SVdP Diocesan Council, facilitate our **Day of Recollection** on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Please put that date on your calendar and plan to attend. More information to come in the next issue of the VOICE.

Finally, of course, remember our **Friends of the Poor Walk**, Saturday, September 24, at the Desales High School track. Come out and make it a Saturday morning picnic before the OSU game. We are really pleased that Bishop Frederick Campbell will be our honorary chairman this year.

*Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!*



**April 30**, Top Hat Awards Dinner, St. Francis DeSales High School

**June 24-26**, Midwest Region Meeting, Dayton, OH

**August 28**, Day of Recollection, St. Therese Retreat Center

**September 24**, Friends of the Poor Walk, St. Francis DeSales High School Track

**December 5**, Bishop Campbell's Volunteer Appreciation Mass, St. Joseph Cathedral