



The Voice

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Columbus Diocese

April 2012

Volume 32, Issue 2

President's Message

Bill Sparks

I hope to meet many of you at our Top Hat Dinner on Saturday, April 21st at De Sales High School. It begins with mass at 4:30 followed by dinner, a very special musical presentation, and a few very timely remarks by Jim Foley, the president of the new Christo Rey Catholic High School that will be opening in Columbus in 2013. Those who remember the inspiring music played at our 2011 "Friends of The Poor Walk" should encourage others to attend.



The real meaning of the Top Hat Award is to bring Vincentians together to reflect on our many efforts across the diocese and celebrate our ministries. So the spirit of the Top Hat Award, then, really dwells in the nominations which characterize how fellow Vincentians have exercised in extraordinary ways their privilege to serve the poor and needy.

The nominating process asks all of us to find models for exercising our Vincentian

vocation. Excellent models have been presented in this year's nominees. Brief synopses of the nominations are presented in this issue. Selecting this year's recipient was a daunting challenge for the Diocesan Council. All nominees will be honored and recognized at the Top Hat dinner.

Another article in this issue reports on an encouraging event of which we can all be proud. On Sunday, January 29, there was a Vincentian Youth Commissioning Ceremony in St. Anthony's church. Who can help but be encouraged by so many young Catholics seeking to grow spiritually by Vincentian service? I hope you had the opportunity to read the February 25 *Catholic Times* report by our new publicity director: Dianne Keller-Smith. Here we offer a brief report plus a group picture.

Mention of our *Catholic Times* reminds me of the favorable publicity we have received in the past few months. Our Society was recognized as one of the significant Catholic Charities in the Diocese. Indeed in the Bishop's letter announcing a Catholic Charities Awareness Campaign, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was singled out by name. We can be proud and appreciative that Bishop Campbell is so supportive of who we are and all that we do.

Ozanam Training has always been important. It is now more important. A resolution by our National Board states that all new active members and new conference presidents **need to** attend an Ozanam Orientation within a year of becoming a Vincentian or president. It goes on to state that all existing members are **encouraged** to attend an orientation to reacquaint themselves with the spirituality and heritage of the Society. We have already held one on March 10 at the Newman Center. A second is scheduled for October 12 at St.

Andrews. Others can be scheduled for anywhere in the diocese if there is a sufficient number of attendees. Call the Council Office (614-221-3554.) to indicate an interest.

On Saturday, February 25, The Diocesan Council Board for SVDP met to plan our direction over the next three years. A spirited discussion led to proposals which, once refined, will provide the basis for a Strategic Plan looking forward. A major proposal was to increase collaboration and cooperation between the Council, the conferences and those we serve.

The process was facilitated by Marilyn Tomasi, the marketing director at the Mid-Ohio Food Bank and a Director of the Catholic Foundation and St. Vincent's Family Center. Incidentally, if you have not visited the new Mid-Ohio Food Bank Complex, I suggest visiting between 8AM – 4:30PM Monday – Friday. 3960 Brookham Drive, Grove City, OH 43123. This is state-of-the-art facility for serving the needy. They even have a demonstration kitchen for teaching food preparation skills.

It is not too early to make summer plans for attending our August 26, Day of Recollection at St. Therese's Retreat Center. Paulist Fr. Vincent (Vinny) McKiernan CSP will direct our reflections. Fr. Vinny is well known throughout the diocese for his insightful and spirit filled presentations and gatherings.

Also take some good walks this spring and summer to get in shape for our September 29 Friends of the Poor Walk. This is a fun and fund-raising event.

Finally, check out our website from time-to-time. We try to keep it up-to-date with announcements and new links to various services and organizations. www.vincentianvoice.org.

Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!

April 21, Top Hat Award Mass and Dinner, 4:30 PM, St. Francis DeSales High School, Dinner reservations required, 221-3554

August 26, Day of Recollection, St. Therese's Retreat Center, Coffee, rolls at 9:30 AM,

Presentations 10AM to Lunch, Post-lunch presentations conclude with Mass at 2PM Fr. Vinny McKiernan CSP, a Paulist Father from the St. Thomas Newman Center is the leader.

September 29, Friends of the Poor Walk 10AM Saturday morning at the DeSales High School track

Youth Commissioning Ceremony



Father Thomas Petry of St. Anthony Parish invited the students to listen to the authentic voice of Christ during the St. Vincent de Paul Youth Commissioning Ceremony and Mass on January 29 at St. Anthony Church in Columbus. Students from Bishop Ready, Bishop Watterson and St. Francis de Sales high schools and St. Anthony and Newark St. Frances de Sales middle schools committed to promoting the works of the Society among people their age. As a sign of their commitment, the teens brought canned goods to the altar during Offertory to help stock food pantries.

What do our young Vincentians do? Making sandwiches and babysitting are just some of the things that the junior high and high school students in the St. Vincent De Paul Society do to help the poor.

Why are they Vincentians? Allison Pressey of St. Francis de Sales in Newark, said her grandmother told her about the society and “explained how you can help people. It makes me feel good.” Logan Broskie of St. Anthony School said “I love helping the poor and helping people.”

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| TOP HAT NOMINEES |
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Conferences nominated outstanding Vincentians for the 2012 Top Hat Award. Below are mentioned only tiny fractions of their Vincentian work and spirit listed in the nominations. The nominees will be recognized at our April 21 Top Hat Award ceremony.

Joan Marzano, St. Elizabeth, Columbus,
Marguerite Marshall nominated Joan who has been a member of the St. Elizabeth conference for eight years. Marguerite points out how Joan's relation with her employer **Target** and shopping savvy facilitates acquiring food and clothing for those they serve at Bryden House and elsewhere. Marguerite writes "For almost 8 years Joan has been the primary shopper for the Church Food Pantry."

Maureen Preston, St. Michael's, Worthington,
 Maureen, who has been a Vincentian fifteen years, is currently serving as President of the St. Michael's conference. Besides noting her significant involvement in many Vincentian works both of her nominators noted her focus on face-to-face contact in home visits. **Janet Plunkett** wrote "She has re-emphasized our Vincentian charity of visiting all the clients we help." Kathleen Hickey observed "When I accompany her on a home visit, I marvel at her ability to make clients feel important and unashamed of their situation,..."

Donna Krajnak, St. Michael's Worthington
 Donna, who has been a Vincentian for more than fifteen years, was nominated by her conference president: **Maureen Preston**. Maureen reported how Donna has served the poor in Worthington and North Columbus by developing an extremely well stocked and organized pantry in which Donna works five days each week. Maureen writes "Donna can be counted on to get involved with every project we do throughout the year."

Joann Stahler, Immaculate Conception, Kenton

"Joann has been a member of the Immaculate Conception SVdP Conference in Kenton, Ohio since it restarted in 2006" writes her nominator, **Danita Podach**, conference president. In Hardin county Vincentians link those they serve with several other agencies and churches. So an excellent manager such as Joann is invaluable. However, she does more than manage. She collects and organizes material for other outlets. This involves activities as diverse as sorting clothing and procuring toothpaste.

Paul Breen, St. Andrews, Upper Arlington
 Paul, who has been a Vincentian for more than twenty years, is very active in parish service community services. The nominators report "A long time Monday volunteer at St. Lawrence Haven, once a month Paul delivers the sandwiches from St. Andrew." They also call attention to his personal contact with those we serve: "He often goes on client home visits providing care and down-to-earth advice." His nominators were: **Cindy Coykendale, Jane Sotak, Sarah Smith, Kathy Duhigg and Kathy Jones**.

Dale Keeler, St. Leonard, Newark
 Dale, who has been a Vincentian for seven years, is president of the Board of Directors for St. Vincent Haven, a SVdP men's homeless shelter in the Herb and Pat Murphy Center. He is very active in all the operations of the Center. His nominator: **Deacon Larry Wilson**, comments that Dale is usually working with the executive director "putting out the fires of day-to-day activities at the shelter." He concludes: "I truly do not know how we could get anything done without his help."

New Presidents

St. Timothy, Danielle Gray-Farmer replacing Mary Fabro

Remember in your prayers

George (Dick) Cleary, Immaculate Conception, Columbus

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

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- S-SW: Joffre Moine

Committee Chairs:

- Ozanan Orientation: Rose Ann Stevenson, Maureen Meck
- Voice of the Poor: Warren Wright
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2012 Friends of the Poor Walk: Patti Aellig
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith
- Music: Joann Wright
- Photographer: Mark Marshall

Secretary, Pat Summers

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