



The Voice

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Columbus Diocese

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President's Message Warren Wright

Happy Fall to everyone! As we enter a new Vincentian year, I'd like to thank everyone for all of your work this past year on behalf of SVDP. Your work is making a big difference to those we serve.



Bob Zabloudil, Jody Stahr and I recently attended the 2015 SVdP Annual Meeting in Providence, RI. The theme of the gathering was Trust in Providence, Abound in Hope. Fr. Clarence Williams of St. James the Less here in Columbus was the keynote speaker addressing the topic of diversity. It was a spiritually energizing meeting, with liturgies celebrated each day, opportunities for Eucharistic adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, enriching workshops on a variety of Vincentian topics, and social activities for getting to know fellow Vincentians from around the US.

The 2016 meeting will be held here in Columbus from Aug 30 to Sept 3. The theme of our gathering will be Hear the Cry of the Poor. The program is still being determined. Bob Zabloudil is chairing our host organizing committee. Bob will start providing details in our Winter 2016 newsletter. Jody will be co-chair of volunteers along with Cathy Rossi from St. Mary's Delaware and shares her thoughts on attending the Providence meeting in this newsletter. I encourage everyone to consider volunteering and/or attending the 2016 meeting.

It will offer a great opportunity for growth in your Vincentian vocation.

Our mission statement states that our primary goal is to grow in holiness. To that end, the Serving in Hope modules, Voice of the Poor module, and Vincentian Guide to Diversity/Multicultural Issues are excellent materials to use at conference meetings. A few conferences have used the Serving in Hope modules. Margaret Kennedy, spiritual advisor of St. Elizabeth conference, describes her experience using the modules. Every conference is encouraged to use them as an instrument for spiritual growth. If your conference does not meet twice a month as recommended in the Rule, consider having a second meeting devoted entirely to spiritual reflection and discussion. The Serving in Hope and other modules could be used by your spiritual advisor during these meetings. The Vincentian Guide to Diversity/Multicultural Issues is relatively new; each conference president will be receiving a copy shortly from the diocesan council.

On a business note, the diocesan council is no longer able to assist conferences with rents and other elevated expenses for those we serve. We have completed the use of over \$100,000 of restricted funds that were available during the past three years. In order to obtain funds to start this assistance again, the diocesan council has established a donor advised fund (DAF) with The Catholic Foundation. As this fund grows, we will be able to begin the rental and other assistance again. Inside this newsletter, Jim Anzelmo, Director of Development at the Catholic Foundation, briefly describes the DAF and how we can make it grow.

Finally, HB 56, the Ohio Fair Hiring Act, just passed the Ohio House by a vote of 89-1. This bill removes the box on public employment applications which applicants must check if they have ever been convicted of a felony. Now it

must be passed by the Ohio Senate and signed by the governor. Thanks to the two chapters of the Vincentian Ohio Action Network (VOAN), the Newark Think Tank on Poverty (NTTP) and Restored Citizens and Communities for Change (RCC4C), for their efforts in seeing HB56 passed.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or ideas. We are a Holy Spirit-driven group, relying on the movement of the Holy Spirit in all Vincentians.

Blessings,
Warren

God never spares His servants from trial because He does not wish to spare them the merit and glory", Frederic Ozanam

Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!

Sunday October 18, 2:30 and 3:45PM, "Up River," Documentary on Newark Think Tank 101 W. Main St. Newark, OH

October 24th – 9:30am-12:30pm New Presidents Meeting (existing presidents welcome) at St. Paul's Church, Westerville.

Monday November 30, 6PM, Bishop's Appreciation Mass, 6PM, St. Joseph Cathedral

Up River Documentary

"Up River," is an original documentary that profiles a number of local grassroots leaders involved in the building of the Newark Think Tank on Poverty, which just celebrated one year as an organization. Hear their stories and learn more about how the Newark Think Tank on Poverty (NTTP) is bringing people together in our community to create change.

A film by Doug Swift MA MFA. Funding provided by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. A one year project that documents in depth interviews and community action by NTTP.

Vincentian Day of Recollection

Our annual Day of Recollection was Sunday, August 23, 2015 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Martin de Porres Center on the campus of the

Dominican Sisters of Peace. From 9-10 there was a continental breakfast along with opportunities for Vincentian friendship. There were 67 Vincentians, representing 24 conferences. A soup and club sandwich lunch from 11:30-12:30 separated the morning from afternoon sessions. Mass at 2PM in Motherhouse chapel concluded the Day of Recollection. Fr. Charlie Klinger, Diocesan Council spiritual advisor was the celebrant. Fr. Klinger's homily connected the themes of the Day of Recollection and the Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary time's Bread of Life gospel. If we truly believe in the Real Presence, then we really believe that Christ himself can be the food –that which gives life – to each and every human being. That is recognizing the Face of Christ in the vast variety of human beings.

Our facilitators Cajie and Fidelis D'Cunha are from the SVDP Detroit Council. With Power Point presentations this husband and wife team led us in prayer and reflection on "Recognizing the Multi-Cultural Face of God". They are immigrants from India of Portuguese heritage with significant real life experience of recognizing the face of God in people of diverse cultures.

They did not labor what is obvious to Vincentians by arguing for the general principle that all human beings are equally children of God. Their task was uncovering our biases which in fact stop us from acting on the general principle of equal dignity and worth. The emphasis was on whether or not these biases hindered us from accepting diversity in the membership of our conferences. Discussion brought out that except for inner city conferences there was little diversity in conference membership because of lack of culture and racial diversity in parishes. So, Vincentians left the Day of Recollection looking forward to being prepared to welcome diversity in their conferences if the demographics of their parishes changes.

Friends of the Poor Walks

Seventh Annual Columbus Friends of the Poor Walk, October 3, 2015

The weather forecast called for all day heavy rains, 30 mph winds and temperatures dropping to the low 50's. South Carolina was experiencing a 1,000 year rainfall due to Hurricane Joaquin and the weather was heading west to Columbus. What were we to do? We had been planning the **St Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk** for 9 months and had spent hundreds of hours in preparation. Our twelve member Walk committee decided to gather for Prayer at 7:00AM the day of the Walk to seek God's direction. Following our prayer there was no clear sense of direction except everyone felt the he or she had a job to do and we got to work. By 9:45AM, 428 people had gathered, a number that far exceeded our earlier expectations. Not a drop of rain was felt and although it was cold there was a spirit of joy in the air felt by everybody. SVDP President Warren Wright opened followed by Fr. Charlie Klinger, who had just returned from the Papal visit in Philadelphia, led with a prayer and then blessed the people with Holy Water. The key note speaker Sabree Akinyele spoke of the power of acting on God's will and believing the Lord can and will use you to serve others. It was a stirring message.

In some ways it was the most powerful Walk we ever had. In some ways it was the most difficult Walk we had. And in some ways it was the most joyful Walk we ever had. I felt like the Lord was telling us that, All things turn to good if we trust in Him and not rely solely on our selves". Bless the Lord!

From Chairperson John Willig

Circleville Walk

We had 17 walkers and have \$1331 and waiting to collect \$20. I am pleased. Our rain held off too. The Youth Director thought 14 of the youth would come so they may have slept in with the weather report. Everyone liked it and will spread the news with the others.

From Pat Meves,

Value of National Assemblies

I recently had the opportunity to accompany three other Columbus Diocese

Vincentians to Providence, RI for the Annual National Saint Vincent de Paul Conference. Although I have been an active Vincentian for a number of years, this is the first chance I have had to attend this Annual event. It was an amazing five days full of educational opportunities, idea sharing, fellowship, and most importantly spiritual growth.

The National Saint Vincent de Paul Leaders were able to present their vision for the future of the Society in the United States. This vision includes efforts to work together as "One Society", to always strive to strengthen our spirituality, to work to develop strong servant leadership, to increase our numbers with an emphasis on improving our diversity and our outreach to the young, to embrace accountability within the Society, and to continue to advocate for justice at all levels.

There were a number of inspiring speakers including Columbus' very own Father Clarence Williams and the Saint Vincent de Paul's International Vice-President for Youth, Julien Spiewak from France. Along with the keynote addresses, there were a multitude of small breakout sessions which enabled conference members from across the country to share projects and ideas. We also were able to attend an international youth session where young Vincentians from over 10 countries (including Iran) were able to have a simultaneous session via the internet

Strong spirituality permeated the entire experience. Daily mass, adoration, and confession were available. To attend daily mass in a ballroom full of fellow Vincentians, all raising their voices together in song and prayer, along with incredible music, was powerful to say the least. To be gathered with over 600 fellow Vincentians from across the country was an extraordinary experience, one that I won't forget.

The theme for the Conference was ***Trust in Providence Abound in Hope***, and I dare say everyone who attended left **hope filled** for the

Society, but more importantly **hope filled** for those whom we serve.

It was an experience of a lifetime and I strongly encourage all Columbus Vincentians to make plans not only to attend next year's National Conference which is being held in our home town (Aug 30th-Sept 3rd), but to become actively involved in planning and making our event as memorable as this year's Conference in Providence.

Jody Stahr, St. Paul, Westerville

Catholic Foundation Donor Advised Emergency Funds For SVdP.

St. Vincent de Paul's outreach extends into virtually every community in the Columbus Diocese. When the poor and vulnerable have no other place to turn, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is there for them and together, with your support, we always will be.

We have often helped individuals and families who, due to unfortunate life circumstances, face eviction, utility shut-offs, lack of food, or the inability to purchase needed medication. We previously had a fund to cover the emergency needs of individuals and families in our diocese. The money in that fund has been used up due to high demand.

St. Vincent de Paul has established a new fund to help cover the emergency needs of individuals and families in our diocese. The fund helps those who have experienced an unforeseen setback that requires them to receive assistance with paying rent, utilities, and basic household necessities.

We have set up the fund with The Catholic Foundation. We work with The Catholic Foundation as our trusted partner because they assure peace of mind that our fund is invested in alignment with our Catholic teachings and values.

We need to build up the fund in order to continue to have an impact on those individuals and families in sudden need. You can help us grow the fund by contributing to it at any time and in any amount.

You may donate by a check sent to:
James A. Anzelmo, Esq.
Vice President of Development
The Catholic Foundation
257 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Please make the check payable to The Catholic Foundation, and note on the memo line "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council of Columbus Donor Advised Fund."

To donate by stock, or to name the fund in your estate plans, contact James A. Anzelmo at 614-443-8893 or janzelmo@catholic-foundation.org.

Join us in continuing the mission of St. Vincent de Paul by helping individuals and families with an emergency need.

VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY

"Try using the "Serving in Hope" Modules. It is a tool for deepening our Vincentian spirituality. The faith sharing that occurs strengthens the bond of friendship between members. With these two aspects, members are more productive in aiding those we serve.

Each session in the module is divided into two parts. You can do one section per meeting. Members can take turns reading a paragraph at a time and then have a faith sharing discussion. This can take place immediately after the opening prayer - - a spiritually refreshing way to get a meeting off the ground.

There are six modules. Once through, you can start over. Older members may find it to be a refresher while new members will be instilled with Vincentian spirituality and the historical and practical information about the society.

Give it a try. You may find that all the members will grow in holiness to better serve those we serve.

Margaret Kennedy, St. Elizabeth

Newark Progress

1) True Core Federal Credit Union has agreed to partner with St. Vincent de Paul to start the Low Income Low Interest Loan program.

This came about through John Lutz, one of the Newark Think Tank on Poverty's Leadership Team members. John sits on the Board of True Core and really helped to position the program well so that it was an easy sell to the other board members and board president.

<https://www.truecore.org/>

2) We also had some of our NTTP members (who are community activists) work on bringing solar to downtown Newark. Fr. Jan Sullivan, Pastor of St. Francis de Sales, has agreed to participate in the dedication, and offer a blessing on the installation. This will happen sometime in October. (We tried to make this coincide with the Pope's visit.) Those who were responsible for the project really wanted to use this project as an example of the kind of work communities can do, in response to the Pope's encyclical, *Laudato Si*.

3). Buses - the elementary school children of St. Francis de Sales will be making lunches for those who have found employment now that they have transportation, via the bus, and these employers are giving people with felony convictions and records the chance to work, starting out as temporary workers.

RCC4C

RCC4C stands for "Restored Citizens and Communities For Change." This is the name of the community action group being organized by Wendy Tarr *et al.* with an emphasis on drawing people recently released from incarceration to define their unique problems, articulate solutions and then implement these solutions through public policy. Getting results through political processes requires special knowledge and skill. At its September 21 meeting Amanda Hoyt of Faith in Public Life FPL

<http://www.faithinpubliclife.org> gave a lucid presentation on how to use information readily available on the web to advocate directly with legislators for policy changes. Participants had the opportunity to practice using this information

in small groups. Groups planning legislative advocacy would profit from Ms. Hoyt's presentation.

RCC4C meets every 3rd Monday at 5PM in St. Francis of Assisi. The meeting finishes at 7 as people need to catch the bus and/or get to work. SVdP conferences are encouraged to provide a dinner for those attending. Contact Wendy Tarr @ 614-512-7106 to volunteer for a 3rd Monday dinner.

A Nearly Virtual Furniture Bank

Heather Swiger is starting a program for transferring, throughout the Columbus area, furniture and appliances from people who want to donate them to people who need them. Lists of needs will be sent to Conference presidents and placed on our website

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org>. People with furniture and appliances to donate should contact Conference presidents or Heather Swiger directly by calling 614.241.2569 or

hswiger@colsdio.org. Heather will arrange for Vincentian volunteers to pick up from donors and deliver to clients. There will be limited storage space.

New Presidents

St. Anthony – Nancy Thatcher replacing Walt Ohm.

Immaculate Conception, Columbus – Charles Kielkopf replacing Mary Ann Rahal

St. Mary Groveport – Mark Miller replacing Mary Miles

Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Kimberly Kremer replacing Frank Schmidt

St. Elizabeth – Toni Ventresca replacing Bob Zabloudil

Remember in your prayers

Mike Ohm, St. Anthony

Ed Dagenfield, St. Andrew

Paul Tyus, St. Dominic, St. Lawrence Haven volunteer

DIOCESAN COUNCIL**Officers:**

- Diocesan Council President: Warren Wright
- Diocesan Council Vice President: Bob Zabloudil
- Past President: Bill Sparks
- Treasurer: Janet Jobko
- Secretary: Marie Placide
- At Large: Jody Stahr, Maureen Meck, Sylvia Siemer, Will and Jennifer Matson
- Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Charles Klinger

District Council Presidents:

- East: Carl Smith
- East Rural: Richard Shannon
- N-NW: Charles Kielkopf
- N-Central: Maureen Preston
- N-NE: Rich Rossi
- E-SE: Barb Spangler
- South Rural: David Lanning
- Inner-City: Gina Langen
- S-SW: Joffre Moine

Website address:

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org>

Committee Chairs:

- Ozanam Orientation: Maureen Meck, Kevin Murphy
- Voice of the Poor: Danielle Gray
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2015 Friends of the Poor Walk: John Willig
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith
- Music: Joann Wright
- Photographer: Angela Ray

Secretary, Pat Summers

(e-mail: psummers@colsdio.org)

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Send news items and articles for The VOICE to Charles Kielkopf kielkopf.1@osu.edu or to the Diocesan office.

It is 1839. Frederic Ozanam, 26, has overcome his youthful fear of matrimony. The famous Dominican preacher, Fr. Lacordaire OP is pressuring him to enter the Dominican novitiate while the Abbe Noirot who has counseled Frederic since childhood is strongly advising him to consider marriage. Frederic is praying that if his vocation is marriage he will find the right person. Abbe Noirot is praying to the Blessed Mother that Frederic will meet Mademoiselle Amelie Soulacroix since the good Abbe has decided that she is the right person for Frederic. Frederic does not even know that there is a Mademoiselle Soulacroix. Perhaps the Blessed Mother took initiative in this match-making because soon Frederic has occasion to visit the house of Monsieur Soulacroix about university business.

“He paused to say a few polite words to Madame Soulacroix, . . ., when his eyes fell upon a girl who had just entered an adjoining room pushing a little boy in a wheel chair. As the young lady leaned over the child’s shoulder to point to a page in the book he held, Frederic thought her smile the sweetest he had ever beheld.

Madame Soulacroix asked him to be seated. Doing so, he carefully selected a chair from which he could gaze upon the entrancing girl in the next room.”

When Monsieur Soulacroix came in, Frederic found ways to extend the conversation so that he could look into the next room. In the subsequent weeks, Frederic found more and more university business to discuss with Monsieur Soulacroix. Soon the young people became acquainted and to enjoy each other’s company. However, the affair was not moving fast enough for Abbe Noirot. The Abbe discussed marriage with Monsieur Soulacroix without Frederic’s knowledge. They agreed and brought the matter to Frederic who was relieved that someone else had begun the discussion with Amelie’s father. Of course, it depended upon Amelie’s consent which she readily gave.

Adapted from pp. 138ff of Apostle in a Top Hat, James Patrick Derum, Fidelity Publishing Co. St. Clair MI 1962