



The VOICE

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Columbus Diocese

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President's Message Warren Wright

Many thanks to all Vincentians who helped make the 2016 SVdP Annual Meeting a huge success. Special thanks to Bob Zabloudil, Deb Zabloudil, Cathi Rossi, Rich Rossi, Jodi Stahr, Maureen Meck, Joann Wright, Tim Hickey, Kevin Murphy, Joanne McHugh, William and Jennifer Matson, Bill Sparks, John Willig, Tim Kennedy, Margaret Kennedy, and Kevin Dunleavy for their outstanding work on the organizing committee and all of the many Vincentian volunteers too numerous to name here.



The SVdP microloan program in Licking County is underway, with one loan having been made from TrueCore Federal Credit Union. The first Financial Mentors training was conducted on July 30. In Franklin County, Metro Federal Credit Union is interested in being our partner on the microloan program. Details of the program are anticipated to be in place by the end of 2016. For more information on the program, see the article elsewhere in this newsletter and/or go to www.svdpcolumbus.org.

Annual Report season is underway. Thanks to those conference presidents who have gone online and prepared your 2015-16 annual report. For those who haven't, a reminder that the deadline for completion of annual reports is

Nov. 30. If you have any questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact Pat or myself.

Election of a new National SVdP President to replace current president Sheila Gilbert effective October 1, 2017 is underway. Conference votes for one of the two candidates (Ralph Middlecamp of Madison, WI or Bill Migley of Biloxi, MS) are due to the Diocesan Council office by Nov. 28. Election packages for conference voting were sent to all conference presidents for conducting the vote. After receiving the conference votes, I will determine the Diocesan Council vote by majority vote of the conferences and send the Diocesan Council vote to National by Dec 12, 2016. The winner of the election will be announced at the Midyear Meeting in St. Louis in late March 2017.

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Mass with Bishop Campbell will take place on Monday, Dec 5, 2016 at 5:30 pm at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Columbus. It will be followed by a volunteer appreciation reception in the undercroft sponsored by the St. Joseph Cathedral Conference. All are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Pat Summers by Nov 29, 2016 so we can plan for needed food and beverages.

Finally, our second Bridges Out of Poverty (BOP) Constructs training has been scheduled for Jan 21, 2017 at the Siegel Center of Mount Carmel East. The training will last from 9 am to 5 pm and include breakfast and lunch. The 7 BOP Constructs videos will be shown and discussed. This training, together with Ozanam Orientation, will be considered necessary training for all Vincentians in order to enhance our ministry as we make systemic change a key part of our ministry. We plan to offer the training in

January of each year. Thanks again to Mt Carmel for collaborating with us. To attend, please RSVP with Pat Summers by Mon, Jan 16, 2017.

As always, thanks for all you do in your Vincentian ministry to those we serve.

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!

Monday, November 21, RCC4C,, St. Francis of Assisi, dinner and discussions on restorative justice, 5-7PM, 386 Buttles, Columbus, Ohio, Drop in.

Monday, December 5, 5:30 PM, Bishop’s Appreciation Mass, St. Joseph’s Cathedral, It will be followed by a reception in the undercroft sponsored by the St. Joseph Conference. All are encouraged to attend. Schedule attendance with Pat Summers by Nov 29, 2016 so we can plan for needed food and beverages.
psummers@columbuscatholic.org

Saturday, January 21, 2017, Bridges Out of Poverty (BOP) Constructs training, Siegel Center of Mount Carmel East, 9AM to 3PM Breakfast and lunch included, \$5 donation at the door. Schedule attendance with Pat Summers by Mon, Jan 16, 2017.
psummers@columbuscatholic.org

Variable: District Council meetings, District presidents have been encouraged to call meetings of presidents in their districts to discuss how the Diocesan Council can better serve the conferences., Presidents can find out what District they are in by going to the Conferences page of the website vincentianvoice.org and clicking on the name of their conference.

Help Needed

At the Clothing Distribution Center, there is an urgent need for more volunteers and substitute volunteers. Contact: Manager, Diocesan Ministries, Heather Swiger (614) 241-2569, hswiger@columbuscatholic.org

Notes on the 2016 Friends of the Poor Walk

Columbus Walk from John Willig

This year’s Walk was one of the best ever. The perfect weather, the enthusiastic crowd, the powerful prayer by Fr. Charlie Klinger, the inspiring words of Honorary Chair - Sabree Akinyele, and what most people said was the highlight – the 50 member Bishop Watterson Choir lead by Christen Joyce.

Another highlight of this year’s Walk was the tan colored T-Shirt with Meltem Aktas’ famous portrait of St. Vincent giving Jesus, disguised as a poor man, a loaf of bread. Underneath printed in black were the words: “*When I was Hungry...*” from Matthew 25. Participants commented how appropriate this T-Shirt, this being the “Year of Mercy” called by Pope Francis and the canonization of Mother Theresa of Calcutta.

For me the Walk is as much about inspiration as it is about fund raising. It’s about being spiritually recharged to share God’s love and word to those most in need. Online contributions were up as were Corporate Sponsorship. Attendance was down significantly from last year but it was one of those incredible beautiful days.

Circleville Walk from Pat Meves

The St. Joseph Circleville Friends of the Poor walk was held at Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Park (MVCH). At least \$2609.50 has been taken in. It will help us help the poor in Pickaway County. Mary Kay Wood and her committee for the Walk did a great job. The weather was great. Praise and thanks to St. Vincent de Paul!

Experiences at the National Assembly

Many Vincentians attended the August 30 to September 3 National Assembly of Vincentians held in Columbus. Some responded to an invitation to write a report for The Voice of their experiences.

From Bill and Sheila Tompos, **St. Paul Westerville**

Bill and I enjoyed our volunteer time at the National Assembly. We did not attend any of the sessions, but did volunteer at the table where attendees checked in for their badges and packets. We came away with the impression that the attendees were very enthused about being at the event. We also were surprised at how far some of the attendees traveled to come to Columbus.

Jody Starr really worked in all areas. She is a wonderful example of stepping up and making a difference.

I do have a couple of suggestions for future events. Better signage on the main level for people looking for meeting rooms and food outlets. As a volunteer we made ourselves available to assist them but no doubt people wandered on their own. Another suggestion would be to have more information available at the check in table where local restaurants are located close to the hotel. Many people did not have a car. We made suggestions but something in writing would have been helpful.

From Joe Anclien, **St. Paul Westerville,**

I spent a half day volunteering and found the volunteers from our Council and other Vincentians from all over the country were wonderful. Everyone was so easy to work with it was amazing. I left thinking what a great organization!

From Charles Kielkopf, **Immaculate Conception, Columbus,**

I was able to attend a National Assembly by simply driving six miles south on High St. I seized the opportunity. I registered for the full assembly and did some volunteering as well. It was well worth the time, effort and money. The breakfast, three lunches, a dinner along with coffee and snack carts between sessions alone repaid a hungry person. Seriously, though, the meals served at huge round tables enabled us to discuss issues and share stories with Vincentians from the whole country.

I now regard participation in a National Assembly as an important part of Vincentian formation along with Ozanam Orientation and Invitation to Renewal. The Assembly was so much more educational than the professional conventions I attended as an academic. At those professional conventions people would read papers to sometimes nearly empty rooms with people waking in-and-out. Here the small sessions, or workshops, were just that-workshops. After a presentation, the self-selected participants in the workshop would focus on the topics raised by the presenters. (When one registered for the Assembly one had to select the workshops to attend.) Browsing between sessions was strongly discouraged. Of course, sticking to one session for the whole hour stops one from finding out what is going on in other workshops. But learning requires concentration. I was able to put together a series of workshops which gave me a mini-course on restorative justice.

Finally, I had the privilege of being a lector at the closing Mass by Bishop Campbell. We hear complaints that religion is being pushed out of "the public square." Well, the National Assembly in the Hyatt Regency was a dramatic counterexample to that complaint.

Microloan Mentors

On Saturday, July 30, a group of Vincentians from Licking County met at **St. Edward the Confessor Church** to receive training as financial mentors.



St. Vincent de Paul has partnered with TrueCore Federal Credit Union to offer low interest Microloans to the people we serve in Licking County. Using the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's financial empowerment program, *Your Money, Your Goals*, financial mentors received training on how to use 14 tools covering topics like monthly cash flow, your credit score, budgeting, saving for emergencies, etc. The toolkit provides those we serve with knowledge about the financial system to empower them to make more informed financial decisions.

Currently the Microloan program in Licking County is in its pilot phase with only a small number of test loans being made. We have a Licking County Microloan Board who is leading the development of the program. They are Jim Jackson (St. Edward), John Murphy (St. Edward) and Joe Tebben (Blessed Sacrament).

The basic criteria for loans are that home visitors will identify people who may have unexpected emergency expenses (car repair, home repair, education expenses, etc.) arise for which they may need a small low interest loan to help them with this expense. Loans can be made for \$500 or less. Borrowers must have a regular income and the loan cannot be used to cover regular monthly expenses like rent, utilities or food. The regular work of charity that SVdP does will still take place to help in these situations. Home Visitors

will recommend to the board that the person be evaluated for a loan by a trained mentor. Based on these recommendations and the information provided by the mentor, a decision will be made by the board.

For more information about the Microloan program, please contact Deb Zabloudil at debzabloudil@gmail.com.

From Deb Zabloudil, **St. Elizabeth**

2nd Annual New Presidents Workshop

There was a very good turnout for the second annual New Presidents and president's workshop held Saturday November 5 at St. Paul , Westerville. Diocesan Council president Warren Wright conducted a first rate workshop –the right stuff and well paced. It started at 9AM and ended at 1PM. During the Power Point presentations on best practices for conferences there was ample time for discussion. It was brought out how conference presidents need to lead their conference into participation in the Society's efforts for Systemic Change and political advocacy through Voice of the Poor. Amongst many suggestions from the participants a suggestion for recruiting was especially intriguing. If you know a parishioner who is interested in social and political issues, invite that person to join the conference and be one the conferences' representative to the Voice of the Poor committee. That offers the new members something they can do immediately.

Conferences throughout the diocese were represented. Participating were Daniel Townsend **Church of the Ascension**, Harold Crabtree, **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Buckeye Lake**, Joe Kruger and Val Kruger, **Seton Parish, Pickerington**, Nancy Thatcher, **St. Anthony**, Mary Jo Wall , **St. Colman, Washington Courthouse**, Lorri Kuczeynski, **St. Francis of Assisi**, Mary Alice Shields, **St. James the Less**, Jennifer Brown and Gretchen Tomson, **St. John, Logan**, Charles Kielkopf, **Immaculate Conception**, John Kutys, **St. John Neumann**,

Sunbury, Renee Shouse, **St. Joseph Cathedral**, Pat Meves and Judy Schneider, **St. Joseph, Circleville**, Brian Wilson, **St. Mary, Delaware**, Jane Nieman and Jerry Nieman, **St. Paul, Westerville**, Patrick Kent and Kathleen LaVelle, **St Vincent dePaul, Mt Vernon**

New Presidents.

St. Colman, Washington Court House: Mary Jo Wall, replacing Jana Deeks

St. Vincent dePaul, Mt. Vernon: Patrick Kent –replacing Tony Spiegel

St. Joseph Circleville, Judy Schneider replacing Pat Meves

St Paul, Westerville, Tony and Mary Nieman replacing Joe Anlien

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, George Medary replacing Tony Bishel

St. Joseph Cathedral – Renee Shouse replacing Kevin Dunleavy (effective Jan 1, 2017)

St. James the Less – Mary Alice Shields replacing Gary Grove (effective Jan 1, 2017)

Our Lady of Peace, Henry Rutland replacing Ron Wehner

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
- 2016 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.