



# The VOICE

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

Fall 2017

Volume 37 Issue No4

## President's Message Warren Wright



Many blessings to everyone as we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

I am happy to report that our first *Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World* course at the Marion Franklin Opportunity Center

is now almost halfway through the 16 weeks of the course. Under the guidance of two co-facilitators, Khalifa Cochran and Anna Borsick, themselves *Getting Ahead* graduates, twelve persons that we serve are examining their lives, evaluating personal and community resources, starting to build bonding and bridging capital, and developing their future stories. They are being empowered to live more fully human lives. Thanks to Jody Stahr for helping pull these sessions together. The second course will start in Feb 2018 at the Mt. Carmel Healthy Living Center and is currently seeking investigators for that session.

Thanks to Jim Williams for agreeing to serve as Chair of the 2018 Friends of the Poor Walk. Jim has served on the planning committee over the last few years. He is looking for volunteers to assist with the 2018 FOP Walk. If interested, please contact Jim at [jwillia8@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jwillia8@columbus.rr.com).

For spiritual reflection, I share the thoughts of Fr. Greg Boyle, Founder of Homeboy Industries who has worked for over 30 years with

gang members in Los Angeles. He shared this reflection as part of the National Geographic' program *The Story of Us with Morgan Freeman – Bridging the Gap Between Us and Them*. His reflection can aid us in our ministry as Vincentians with those we serve.

“In my first 6 years, I was perilously close to burnout. I look back on that now and it's like being in a darkened room. You have a flashlight and aim that flashlight on the light switch. The healthy response is to say, “I own a flashlight; I know where to aim it so this guy can follow the beam of light and turn the light switch on.” What led me to burnout is that I was spending all my time trying to turn the light switch on for these folks. Then you realize no amount of me wanting that guy to have a life will be the same as that guy wanting to have one.”

“A former gang member in Houston, trying to help other gang members, once said to me, “How do you reach them?” I said, “For starters, stop trying to reach them and be reached by them.” That's a whole different thing. I've come to the understanding now that you don't go to the margins to make a difference. You go to the margins so that folks at the margins make you different.”

“I just want to make a difference.” I wish it was a sentence we'd retire. It's so soaked with you. But, if you go to the margins and cast your lot, with for example gang members, every day you are made different because you are allowing yourself to be reached and you're receiving them. That's exquisitely mutual – both parties at the same time inhabit their own nobility. It's not me to the rescue. We're all a cry for help; we're all in need of healing. That's one of the things that joins us together in the human family.”

Peace, 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

**Monday, December 4,** Annual Volunteer Recognition Mass and dinner by the bishop, 6:30PM, St. Joseph Cathedral, dinner after Mass in the undercroft, no charge but send RSVP by Nov. 27 to Pat Summers  
psummers@columbuscatholic.org or 614-221-3554

**Saturday, December 9,** One Warm Coat 4 mile run/walk, 9AM, Lewis Center, \$40 Register <https://raceroster.com/events/2017/14164/one-warm-coat-4-mile-runwalk/register>

**Saturday, January 20, 2018,** Ozanam Orientation at St. Francis deSales Parish, Newark, Ohio. Sign in begins at 8:30 a.m., the program starts at 9:00 a.m. **The deadline for registration is Tuesday, January 16 at noon. Register early** with Pat Summers  
psummers@columbuscatholic.org or 614-221-3554 The fee for the Ozanam Orientation is \$20 per person.

*The chair of the Ozanam orientation committee emphasized that Vincentians register as soon as they decide to come. Early registration is very important for planning.*

**Saturday, January 27, 2018,** Bridges Out of Poverty Constructs Training, 9 am – 4pm at the Seigel Center, Mt Carmel East Hospital, East Broad Street. Viewing and discussion of the 7 BOP videos that examine poverty through an economic class lens.

**Saturday, May 5, 2018,** The 2018 Top Hat Mass and Celebration at St. Charles Prep Chapel and Cavello Center. Mass at 4:40 pm will be followed by dinner at 5:30 pm in the Cavello Center.

### SVdP Servant Leaders' Workshop, Especially for New Presidents

Vincentian presidents and conference officers from throughout the diocese convened at St. Paul's, Westerville on Saturday, November 4 on conference best practices. Diocesan Council president Warren Wright, **St. Cecilia**, facilitated the Power Point presentations and discussions. Participating were: Kathy Vanwy, Laura Dotson from **Blessed Sacrament, Newark**, Terry Dinan, Nancy Thachter, Sue Wilson from **St. Anthony**, Tonya Holliman, Marie Placide, Toya Williams

from **Sts. Augustine & Gabriel**, Dcn. Doug Mould, Susan Mould, John Harsh, Pat Harsh from **Sacred Heart, Coshocton**, Cathy Horn from **Perry County Consortium**, Ed Weber from **Lancaster Community**, Harold Crabtree, Dcn. Dick Bussic from **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Buckeye Lake**, John Kutys from **St. John Neuman, Sunbury** Mark Miller from **St. Mary's, Groveport**, Peter Schlom from **St. Michael's, Worthington**, Susan McNally from **St. Agatha, Upper Arlington**, Charles Kielkopf from **Immaculate Conception**, Deb Zabloudil from **Microloan Program**, Laurie Davis, Lucy Hackman from **St. Margaret Cortona**.

This was the third annual "New Presidents Workshop." Again, it proved valuable information and best practices discussion for new presidents for whom it can be very confusing about what to do as a SVdP conference president. One theme, amongst several, might have seemed surprising to new presidents. New presidents should immediately keep in mind how they are going to pass leadership onto someone new. For a mark of an effective leader is how well leadership is passed on to keep the organization flourishing and focused on its mission. Now, since it has been explicitly recognized that SVdP walks with its two feet of charity and justice, present leaders need to mentor future leaders committed to our two-fold mission of charity and justice.

### Up Date on Microloan Program

To get the most recent information on our microloan program go to the excellent VOAN website <http://www.svdpcolumbus.org> and click on the microloan tab. Or re-read the update in the Summer 2017 VOICE which can be accessed on the front page of <http://www.vincentianvoice.org>

Deb Zabloudil introduced a new dimension for home visits at the "New Presidents' Workshop." She distributed a draft request for a microloan loan. This is a form which Vincentian can bring with them on home visits. If during the course of the visit, it turns out that a problem might be solved by a short term loan rather than a charitable gift, the people we are serving can be asked whether or not they

would be interested in filling out this form whose purpose is to diagnose whether or not the problem really is one suitable for being solved with a small loan. This is not an application for a loan. This is a form to be given to the SVdP's county loan board who will determine whether a loan might be the way to go. If so, the board will set up an appointment with the client to discuss whether or not an application for a loan is in order.

It is obvious that obtaining a microloan through the SVdP microloan program takes much longer than a PayDay loan. But the goal of the microloan program is to help people borrow money for emergency needs which they can repay and learn fiscal responsibility. The goal is not to loan people cash as quickly as possible regardless of ability to repay with the hope that they will have to keep borrowing and borrowing to pay off what they owe the payday lender.

### **Up Dates from VOAN** *Vincentian Ohio Action Network*

- In Columbus, VOAN sponsored a legislative luncheon on October 17 at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium that focused on helping people who have been directly impacted as a formerly incarcerated individual or a victim of crime to be in dialogue with legislators and their staff about current issues and proposed bills that are being considered in the statehouse. The event is entitled R3 Legislative Luncheon: Rehabilitation, Redemption and Restoration through Legislation. We had about 100 people there, including faith leaders and reentry experts. 15 legislative offices have RSVPd.
- In Delaware, we are working with a network that includes around 15 other churches. On Nov 12th we are holding a Cost of Poverty Reentry Simulation that will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Delaware to better educate and engage faith and community members around the challenges in reentry and how people can join the "Community of Grace" Network that helps with in-reach in the county jail, is sponsoring 2 recovery houses (one for men and one for women – both opened in 2017), and is working to advocate for reform in the justice system at the state level.

- In Newark, we are working on "Peer Advocacy" to assist people in navigating the social service agencies and identify the gaps and challenges to inform our collective action. We are also active in the planning and coordination with county agencies in leading the Licking County Reentry Coalition, and we have a "seat at the table" at various agencies and collaborative efforts in the community that engage with issues that we care about. At our October meeting, we discussed strategy for a new campaign that we can research and take more collective action on. Topics included access to addiction recovery services, public transit, safe and affordable housing, and gentrification in Newark's downtown region. The leadership committee will be voting on this issues soon.

- New Outreach: VOAN is expanding organizing efforts into two new counties – Muskingum and Fairfield - and has hired Lesha Farias to assist with this effort. Our focus is on addiction and criminal justice issues. We plan to be building more relationships with local SVdP and county partner throughout 2017-2018 to work together on helping bring about systemic change.

- ARCH – VOAN is collaborating with the Diocese of Columbus office for Social Concerns and has the support of the Catholic Foundation to do more congregational awareness, education and mobilization to support people who are returning from a period of incarceration and to help equip the church to be more engaged in these issues. We are making presentations and holding trainings throughout the Diocese. We currently have two Vincentians from St. Paul helping lead a "Getting Ahead" class inside of Chillicothe Correctional as part of ARCH, which will include a reentry support system, and others are trained and getting connected to opportunities to accompany people in reentry. If you're parish or conference would like to learn more about this, please contact us at [arch@svdvcolumbus.org](mailto:arch@svdvcolumbus.org).

- Website: The systemic change initiatives for SVDP Columbus, including VOAN, have an online presence at <http://www.svdpcolumbus.org>

Here you can learn more about Voice of the Poor, the mircolan project, VOAN and ARCH. Please check it out.

- Presentations: Wendy Tarr or a leader within VOAN would be happy to come share more about this systemic change work to your conference. We also are asking for your support to help us become sustainable in our work through donations from the conference that will help VOAN to do the work of leadership development and organizing for change, in collaboration with SVDP. If you would like to arrange this, please contact Warren Wright or Wendy Tarr: [wtarr@svpdcolumbus.org](mailto:wtarr@svpdcolumbus.org)

#### **TO DO – COMING UP**

- After the legislative breakfast, we will continue to follow a range of bills that deal with reentry and criminal justice reform, and support people advocating and sharing their stories to engage these issues.
- We plan to host a training for faith communities (Catholic and others in Franklin County) in conjunction with the Franklin County Reentry Coalition to help clergy and lay leaders learn more about what it's like when people coming back from jail or prison, and practical ways churches can become more involved and supportive – suggestions for how to do this and resources.
- We plan to bring on some organizers who've been incarcerated to help us with our expansion in various counties and to help us plan educational events throughout Central Ohio, i.e: documentary screenings, reentry simulations, and other events that we can use to help raise awareness.
- We are coordinating with an organization, Healing Broken Circles, to help with a central location for a "community center" that has leadership of people who are touched by the justice system to create opportunities to heal, learn and thrive.

By Wendy Tarr

#### **Systemic Change**

Many Vincentians watched and discussed the "Bridges Out of Poverty" videos. Almost as many Vincentians asked "What is the follow up?" Following up on how to confront problems

we have identified requires much training and planning. This training and planning has been done with help of the staff of aha! Process. They are the publishers of the Bridges out of Poverty book and videos. In this issue Warren Wright wrote that a pilot session is in progress at the Marion Franklin Opportunity Center. We look forward to reporting encouraging results from this pilot program in the Winter 2018 VOICE.

#### **2017 Friends of Poor Walks**

The *Catholic Times* gave an excellent report on the Columbus Friends of the Poor Walk. In case you missed it, you can read it below.

"Approximately \$25,000 was raised for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Columbus Council through the organization's eighth annual Friends of the Poor Walk on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Topiary Park in downtown Columbus. About 300 people participated, most of them walking four times around a quarter-mile course through the park. Money from the walk is used by the council and Vincentian conferences throughout the diocese for charitable works and social justice programs. The council's chaplain, Father Charles Klinger, pastor of Westerville St. Paul Church, opened the walk with a prayer for the people most in need and neglected in the nation. Vincentian Council President Warren Wright discussed the organization's work, thanked walkers for their participation, and introduced members of a family displaced by Hurricane Harvey who are being supported by Vincentians in Columbus.

Danielle Gray, honorary chairwoman for the walk, shared several inspiring stories about her contact with the needy in Columbus through the council. She spoke of an elderly woman who died of malnutrition; men who suffer from addiction and lack of employment opportunities; and families who cannot for one reason or another fend for themselves. The walk's chairman, John Willig, said, "God calls us to be his hands and his voice for the poor. Open your lives to allow him to use you for his purpose." Each walker received a T-shirt with a sketch of Jesus washing Peter's feet and a quote from John 13: "As I have done for you, you should also do." The choir from Cristo Rey Columbus High

School, located adjacent to the park, inspired many with its presentation of *As I Have Done for You* with guitarist/soloist Chris Sullivan, and *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. “

Copied from Catholic Times, October 1, 2017, p.4 See:

<https://columbuscatholic.org/documents/2017/9/October%201%202017.pdf>

**St. Joseph in Circleville** held a *Friends of the Poor Walk/Run*. Judy Schneider reported “It wasn’t as successful as previous years. We made \$722.00 this year. We are already planning on making changes for next year. “

### Reports From Conferences

Vincetians of **Immaculate Conception** did not let the September 27 feast day of St. Vincent dePaul pass without notice. Wednesday, Sept. 27, was right in the middle of Catholic Schools Week. The teachers and students of IC chose to do something through the parishes’ St. Vincent dePaul Society as their Catholic School Week’s social service project. A teacher, Kathleen Shambaugh and the conference president planned a drive asking each student to donate at least one non-perishable food item, one hygiene product or one household paper product. The students would bring them in at the usual Wednesday childrens’ Mass. Fr. Hoover’s interactive homily with the children held up St. Vincent as a Christian they should imitate

. Their generosity was overwhelming. Way more than 400 items were brought in. The excess which could not fit into the conference’s small pantry was immediately brought to a local Settlement House, Clintonville Resources Center, CRC. CRC has a choice pantry in which all of these items are in great demand. Yes! There are areas of great poverty in and around Clintonville.

In the afternoon, there was a special treat for the younger grades. A conference member, Jim Bowling, is a St. Vincent dePaul reenactor. He has a costume of a seventeenth century priest. Jim had already delighted children as St. Vincent dePaul for our parishes’ Vocation Bible School as they learned about saints. In costume, he really looks a bit like some of the pictures of St. Vincent. Two conference members carrying oversized holy card pictures of St. Vincent as

posters accompanied “St. Vincent” to five classrooms. The classroom teachers appreciated the break while Jim took over pointing out on the posters how St. Vincent helped poor and abandon children. The children asked questions. One little first grader asked him “Are you really St. Vincent?” He thanked the children and their parents for what they had donated in the morning. Just before leaving, Jim led them in a ditty of his own composing about St. Vincent being a “helper, helper, helper.”

### New Presidents

#### Conference presidents

**Lancaster Community:** Ed Weber replacing Jerry Welker

**Holy Spirit:** Bill Heinmiller replacing Judy Bracken

**Immaculate Conception – Kenton:** Louis Wrasman replacing Danita Podach

**St. Michael:** Pete Schlom replacing Maureen Preston

**St. Thomas More Newman Center:** Michael Kingery replacing Linda Cannon

**Sacred Heart, Coshocton:** John Harsh replacing Richard Shannon

**St. Agatha -** Susan McNally, replacing Patricia Caldwell

**Perry County Consortium –** Cathy Horn, replacing Linda Klingler

#### St. Nicholas, Zane

#### District presidents

**East southeast:** Kathi Jackson St. Edward the Confessor replacing Barb Spangler of Lancaster Community

**South-southwest:** Tony Jones St. Ladislav replacing Joff Moine, St. Mary Magdalene

**East-rural:** John Harsh replacing Richard Shannon, both of Sacred Heart, Coshocton

**St. Nicholas, Zanesville,** John Ginikos replacing Thomas Pitcock

### Remember in Your Prayers

**Juanita Walker,** St. Joseph Cathedral and 2013 Top Hat Award Winner

**Kristopher Swiger,** son of Heather and Wes

**Henrietta Klein,** mother of Heather Swiger

**John Klinger,** brother of Fr. Charles Klinger  
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

<b>DIOCESAN COUNCIL</b>
-------------------------

**Officers:**

- Diocesan Council President: Warren Wright
- 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: John Harsh
- N-NW: Charles Kielkopf
- N-Central: Maureen Preston
- N-NE: Rich Rossi
- E-SE: Kathi Jackson
- South Rural: David Lanning
- Inner-City: Gina Langen
- S-SW: Tony Jones

Website address:

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org>

**Committee Chairs:**

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/svdpcolumbus>

- Ozanam Orientation: Maureen Meck, Kevin Murphy
- Voice of the Poor: Danielle Gray
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2018 Friends of the Poor Walk: Jim Williams
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith
- Music: Joann Wright
- Photographer: Angela Ray

**Secretary, Pat Summers**

(e-mail: [psummers@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:psummers@columbuscatholic.org))

197 East Gay Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Phone: (614) 221-3554

**Manager, Diocesan Ministries, Heather Swiger:**

***St. Lawrence Haven & Clothing Distribution***

***Center:*** (614) 241-2569,

[hswiger@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:hswiger@columbuscatholic.org)

**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.**

As we move forward walking with our two feet of charity and justice, we need to realize that our rule requires us to walk toward systemic change.

### Rule 7.6 of Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Where injustice, inequality, poverty or exclusion are due to unjust economic, political, or social structures or to inadequate or unjust legislation, the Society should speak out clearly against the situation, always with charity, with the aim of contributing to and demanding improvements.