



The Voice

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Columbus Diocese

January 2012

Volume 32, Issue 1

President's Message

Bill Sparks

I have been blessed to serve with so many Vincentians who advanced our mission in so many ways in 2011.



During 2011 we were able to help almost 50,000 people with food, clothing, furniture and many other things. We made almost 7,000 home visits. At St. Lawrence Haven we served a sack lunch to over 300 people each day and at our Clothing Distribution Center, we served over 600 people each month. We can all be thankful that the Society (and the Spirit) gave us the opportunity to help so many people.

Plan to attend our 2012 Top Hat Award Mass and dinner on April 21 at DeSales High School. Fr. Shawn, our spiritual advisor, will celebrate mass before a dinner which will include presenting the Top Hat Award, and a short entertaining speaker. This reminds me that nominations for the 2012 Top Hat award will be due in March so think carefully about nominating

a fellow Vincentian who has offered distinguished Vincentian service over the years.

This year will have a fifth diocesan event: we have five Vincentian youth groups throughout the diocese that will be commissioned into the Society on Sunday, January 29th at 2PM at St. Anthony's Church. The ceremony will be incorporated within a mass celebrated by Fr. Thomas Petry and will satisfy the Sunday obligation, so please feel free to join us and support our Vincentian Youth.

Coaches tell us "Even the varsity needs to practice." A goal of the National SVdP is to have every Vincentian take Ozanam Orientation during the next three years. These stimulating training sessions begin after an 8:30 Mass on Saturday, provide a simple lunch and conclude by 3:00PM. So far we have scheduled an Ozanam Training for March 10th at St. Thomas More Newman Center at Ohio State and another session at St. Andrews in Upper Arlington on October 13th. If you can attend the Newman Center Orientation, please call Pat (614-221-3554) in the office to make your reservation. We will plan for more throughout the diocese as needed-- and more importantly will travel to your area with a training session. Just let us know your needs through your conference president.

In February our Diocesan Board of Directors will meet for a full day Saturday, the 25th, to go through a planning process with Marilyn Tomasi, a seasoned facilitator for strategic planning. We will evaluate where we are and what we are doing, but more importantly, look at the future and discern what else we may do as St. Vincent de Paul within the Columbus diocese. As a part of the process, we will be sending out a questionnaire to our presidents to get their input and involvement for the process.

Please pray for our success.

I want to give a special thanks to the Catholic Foundation for their support and help over the years. This year especially they have awarded us a grant that will help fund our weatherization of the client waiting area at St. Lawrence haven. The article below outlines what we are doing, but I wanted to be sure that we recognize the Catholic Foundation for making all of this possible.

Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!

January 29, Youth Commissioning Ceremony, St. Anthony's. 1300, Urban Dr. Columbus, OH 43229

March 10, Ozanan Training, 8:30AM-3PM, Newman Center, 64 W. Lane, Registration 221-3554

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

St. Lawrence Haven

The existing area where those we serve wait to get into St. Lawrence Haven's sack lunch line provides protection from the elements, but has no protection from cold or heat and actually has a number of water leaks. Thanks to a grant from the Catholic Foundation, we are now able to "weatherize" the waiting area by adding insulation and heaters. In addition we will be able to fix the leaks, replace the front door to keep water and outside cold from coming in, and level the sidewalk so that water doesn't naturally flow into this area. Pete Sullivan of Sullivan Builders, a St. Francis of Assisi Vincentian, volunteered to be the general contractor for the project. Construction is underway and should be completed soon.

The best part of this improvement is that it will provide a dignified space for those we serve to wait before going through our food line.

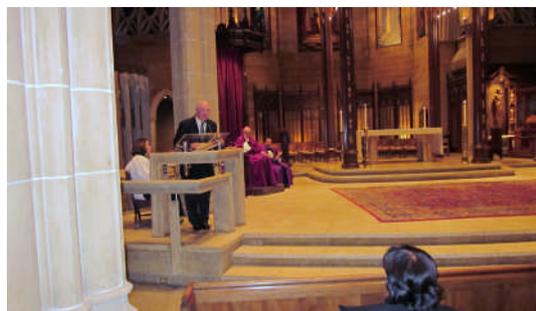
Voice of the Poor

from Warren Wright

The diocesan VOP committee met on January 21 at St. Andrew's and will meet March 3 at St. Mary Magdalene from 10 am to 12 pm. The committee is investigating the workings of low-interest loan programs for addressing the still exorbitant costs that the poor pay for payday lending loans. The Belleville, IL SVDP Council has implemented such a program with some success for those they serve. We will continue to search for empowering poverty-alleviation opportunities and advocate for better public policies. To that end, we will be making appointments to visit our state legislators in the spring. If you are interested in joining us, contact Warren Wright at joannwarrenwright@yahoo.com.

We will be represented at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, DC from February 12 to 15, 2012. The theme of this year's gathering is "Faithful Citizenship: Protecting Human Life and Dignity, Promoting the Common Good". Lobbying visits to Ohio Reps and Senators will be made on February 14 focusing on issues to be determined by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

2011 Bishop's Appreciation Mass



A heavy rain hit Columbus Monday evening December 5. The rain did not prevent over 150 Vincentians and guests, from many conferences of the diocese, gathering, at 6:30PM, in St. Joseph's Cathedral to deepen Vincentian

spirituality by celebrating our annual Bishop's appreciation mass for volunteers at the Diocesan Council's four programs. Bishop Campbell was the principal celebrant and homilist at the mass. This year appreciation was expressed for all the contributions of all Vincentians. After mass Bishop Campbell circulated amongst the guests who were enjoying the hearty buffet supper in the Cathedral undercroft. Despite the rain outside Vincentian friendship was thriving inside.

A big thank you to the Cathedral Conference for providing the buffet dinner enjoyed by all.

From the Conferences

St. Anthony's Bryden House Wedding,

Four times each year the St. Anthony conference provides a meal for the Bryden House Residence Center for seniors and disabled. A romantic opportunity presented itself for their December commitment. Two of the residents were going to get married! Jeanie Diggins, St. Anthony's coordinator for their Bryden House ministry, seized the opportunity to make Saturday, December 10, a very special day for the couple and all of the residents. They prepared the wedding reception breakfast including the wedding cake.



In the chapel room of this former St. Ann's hospital, there was a simple but moving non-denominational Christian wedding ceremony using very traditional language. At least ten members of the St. Anthony conference along with many residents attended the wedding ceremony.

Immaculate Conception's *Farmer's Feasts*

Patrons' donations at the cashier's desk enabled Bob Evans restaurants to donate forty *Farmer's Feast* Thanksgiving Dinners for distribution by the Immaculate Conception conference on Wednesday, November 23. The pre-cooked dinners feeding four to eight people, needed to be refrigerated before being re-heated for serving. An IC parishioner, Jack Smith, who owns and operates Smith's Deli generously provided refrigerator space for the night of November 22. The boxes are rather large and heavy. Unfortunately, one of our members lost his balance while carrying a dinner out of the Deli. The box fell into a large storefront window. Fortunately, only the window was shattered. The window was replaced the same day. Jack Smith's insurance covered all of the replacement cost except for a \$372 deductible. We promptly contacted the agent for SVdP liability insurance, Deb McCarty at Lauterback and Eiler. Within three days Philadelphia Insurance sent a \$372 check to Jack Smith.

We thank God that many families enjoyed a good Thanksgiving dinner, that no one was injured and that we had good insurance.

New Presidents

Church of the Ascension, Johnstown – Donald Litterini, replacing Don Vocca

Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Newark – Ferrell Vanwy, replacing Tony Ghiloni

Immaculate Conception, Kenton – Danita Podach, replacing Kim Reffner

Sacred Heart, Coshocton – Richard Shannon, replacing Tom Winans

Remember in your prayers

Gene Maciejewski, St. Mary, Groveport – Past Conference President

Steve Joyce, St. Mary Magdalene – Top Hat Award Winner in 2007

Jim Siemer, President St. Stephen the Martyr conference

Gene Bailey, St. Leonard, Newark

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: Tim Hickey
- 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
- 2012 Friends of the Poor Walk: Patti Aellig
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith

Secretary, Pat Summers

(e-mail: psummers@colsdio.org)

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Phone: (614) 221-3554

Manager, Diocesan Ministries, Heather Swiger: *St. Lawrence Haven & Clothing Distribution Center:* (614) 241-2569, hswiger@colsdio.org

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

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