



# The Voice

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

January 2013

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## President's Message

**Bill Sparks**

I wish all of you a new year filled with joy fostered by living our vocation to grow spiritually through service to the poor and needy.

Two fundamentals of the Diocesan Council's strategic plan are to enrich Vincentian Spirituality and facilitate cooperation



between conferences and the Council.

We have made progress towards enriching Vincentian spirituality. I am extremely pleased to announce that Bishop Campbell has appointed Fr. Charles Klinger, pastor of St. Paul's parish in Westerville, as the Spiritual Advisor of the St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council. We welcome Fr. Klinger to our Board and look forward to his spiritual leadership of our entire diocesan Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

On Saturday, November 10, Sr. Caroline Clark DC Spiritual Advisor for the Mideastern Council, conducted a spiritual advisors' Workshop in St. Paul's, Westerville. Also on Saturday, November 10 at St. Paul's, Westerville, I had the privilege of closing the workshop with a commissioning ceremony in which I presented twenty Spiritual Advisor pins to spiritual advisors of twenty conferences.

Cooperation between the Council and our conferences will be enhanced in 2013 as we will be able to partner in a significant way with our conferences in providing assistance to those we serve. This will be a new level of involvement for the Council and is the result of a generous bequest to the Diocesan Council that will enable us to supplement the aid that our conferences

will be able to provide themselves. Council support will require that a home visit has been made and that efforts to twin with other

**a new level of involvement for the Diocesan Council**

conferences have been made.

Speaking of Funding. Take a look at the report below on this

year's Friends of the Poor Walk. You will agree. Wow!! a 48% increase from 2011. That is huge-- and a real Kudo to Patti Aellig and her whole team.

We are learning more about vision of Systemic Change proposed by our new National President:Sheilia Gilbert. (Note the Fall 2012 issue of **Ozanam News.**) We do this not only through the political advocacy of our Voice of the Poor committee, spearheaded so ably by Council Vice President Warren Wright, but also in the way we will begin to interact with those we serve. As we gain experience, we will be emphasizing mentoring in addition to meeting immediate needs. This new emphasis will be introduced into Ozanan training.

## Our Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Charles F.Klinger was the force behind starting a conference at St. Paul's and has been an avid supporter of their reaching out to help those in need in the Westerville area as well as giving a helping hand to other conferences



throughout the diocese. He has attended our annual Friends of the Poor Walk each year. He writes: "Fellow Vincentians. Here are a few of my thoughts

about the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

As a boy, I was inspired by the St. Vincent de Paul Society members of my home parish of Immaculate Conception in Clintonville. I think that the most Christ-like practice of the society is visiting those in need and showing them compassion and understanding face to face. This fulfills the gospel teaching to see Christ in our neighbor. Only after such a visit do we Vincentians attempt to meet the needs of the poor. Such a visit is itself enormously helpful and healing to the needy and a source of many graces for the visitors.

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It is a great honor for me to serve as diocesan chaplain. “

**Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!**

**Invitation to Renewal**

Date: February 20 - 24, 2013  
 Location: Indianapolis, Ind. (Seton Cove)

**Youth Conference Mass & Commissioning**

Date: Sunday, February 24, 2PM  
 Location: St. Anthony Church, Columbus

**Top Hat nominations,**

Due Date: March 15  
 Diocesan Council Office

**Ozanam Orientation**

Date: March 23, 10AM-3PM  
 Location: St. Paul’s, Westerville

**Midyear National Meeting**

Date: April 11-13  
 Location: St. Louis, Mo. (Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark)

**Top Hat Award Mass & Dinner**

Date: April 20, 4:30 PM  
 Location: DeSales High School

**JOIN BiblioBenefit IX**

Date: Friday, April 26  
 Location: To be announced

**JOIN Annual Mass of Thanksgiving**

Date: Wednesday, June 2  
 Location: St. Joseph’s Cathedral

**Spiritual Advisor Workshop**

In her Saturday, November 10, workshop for Spiritual Advisors, Sr. Caroline Clark offered the following guidelines for Spiritual Advisors.

- plan agendas with the president so that there is ample time – up to fifteen minutes- to begin with spiritual reflection and discussion.
- be present to promote harmony during all discussions.
- ensure that the spirituality be Catholic and Vincentian.
- use a variety of sources for spiritual reflection: *The national offices daily reflections, The Serving in Hope Modules and material the spiritual advisor finds in other sources.*
- coach some members before the meeting to discuss reflection questions.

To emphasize that our spirituality is that of the whole Vincentian family each participant was given a miraculous medal whose printing in 1830 was initiated by visionary Catherine Laboure who was a Daughter of Charity.

**Friends of the Poor Walk, Report**

**Final Report** 2012 Friends of the Poor Walk – 2011 figures in brackets [ ]  
 Walkers – 455 [371]

Sponsor Income:	\$7881.00	[\$4200]
Conferences:	\$29,605.00	[\$20,626.00]
Online pledges:	\$5881.00	[\$4900]
Gross Income:	\$43,761.00	[\$29,726.00]

Expenses: **\$2021.00**     **[\$2021.00]**

A 48% gain in income!

## Bishop's Recognition Mass

The celebration of the Bishop's Annual Appreciation Mass for Vincentian Volunteers was on Monday, December 3 at 6:30 PM in St. Joseph's Cathedral. Good weather facilitated over 300 Vincentians from all over the diocese to gather for the mass, Vincentian friendship and the annual buffet dinner in the Cathedral crypt supplied by the St. Joseph SVdP conference.



December 3 was the Memorial of the great Jesuit missionary: St. Francis Xavier. In his homily Bishop Frederick Campbell reminded the assembled Vincentians that it is suitable to honor the work of Vincentians on a day in which we honor a great missionary to foreign lands. To be sure in Vincentian work, Vincentians work with their close neighbors. However, the greatest missionary of our faith – Our Lord Himself –

**Columbus Diocese even had more volunteers than the Diocese of Chicago!**

spread the gospel in his immediate neighborhood by healing their physical and spiritual needs. After Mass, Bill Sparks, Diocesan Council President, expressed

great appreciation for the volunteers who make possible the Diocesan Council's special ministries: St. Lawrence Haven, Clothing Distribution Center and the Saturday Food Program. Then Bishop Campbell noted how impressed he has been with the many Vincentian volunteers throughout the whole diocese which enable the church to show the face of Christ to the poor and needy. In conclusion, Bishop Campbell noted that the recent annual report of

the National SVdP shows that the Columbus diocese is one of the highest in number of volunteers. The Columbus Diocese even had more volunteers than the Diocese of Chicago!

## Vincentian Vocation

**John Willig, who recently attended an Invitation to Renewal writes what is most significant about his Vincentian vocation.**

*"My first home visit 8 years ago was to a humble old man who had no furniture, only a thin blanket on the floor to sleep on. I felt that I was seeing the face of God. Hardly a week goes by that I don't experience either Jesus working in me or through me."*

## From the Conferences

Welcome: New regular and youth conferences:

**St. Vincent de Paul, Mt. Vernon, President:**  
Terry Cohen

Deacon Tim Birie spearheaded the effort. Greg Hintersheid and the St. Edward's Granville conference worked with Rev. Mr. Birie to bring St. Vincent de Paul of Mt. Vernon into the Vincentian Family.

Youth and high school conferences are a growing segment of the Vincentian Family. We welcome and recognize them at the February 24, Youth Mass and Commissioning, at 2PM in St. Anthony's, Columbus.

**St. Mary Groveport, Parish Youth**  
Moderator: Christine Boucher

**St. Charles Preparatory High School**  
Moderator : Mike Warren

**Bishop Hartley High School,**  
Moderator: Tim Major

**St. Paul's, Westerville, Middle School**  
Moderator: Deke Hocker

## Welcome to a new president

**St. Mary, Chillicothe** – David Lanning replacing Kathy Senff.

## Conference Activities

Conferences report in their own words 2012 special activities and plans for 2013 with special attention to the role of their Spiritual Advisors.

### From : St. Mary's, Delaware

1. We had our first ever Grateful Heart Dinner for the poor at St. Mary's church commons on December 29th, 2012.
2. We have kicked off a Habitat support project that will support Time Talent & Treasure for a parishioner family at St. Mary's for 2013.
3. We will develop new Spiritual Advisor in 2013
4. We will develop a plan for next generation of young SVdP people to carry on the spirit of what the gospel of Mathew in chapter 25 verse 40 tells us to abide by.

### From: Immaculate Conception, Columbus,

The IC conference got a head start on Winter clothing collections. Right after Thanksgiving we held a three week clothing and bedding collection in our parish's Marian Hall. On December 15 we delivered seven car loads of adult men and women's clothing and bedding to our Clothing Distribution Center.

### From: St. Mary's, Bremen

For the holiday season, we had our monthly donation benefit for the local Bremen Food Pantry and purchased gloves and hats for all the Christmas Baskets.

Our group has found that starting our meetings with a Spiritual Reflection allows us to grow individually while unifying us with Christ as a group, as well.

For special activities in 2013, early in 2013 we have an Annual Commissioning and Re-commitment Ceremony during a special mass followed by refreshments to celebrate and recruit members. We plan to partner with St. Mary's Lancaster for an Annual Strawberry Social, and have various drives as needed for the community.

### From: Our Lady of Peace, Columbus

The following are our standard items.

- 3rd and 4th Sundays - 350 sandwiches made for St. Lawrence Haven (each month)
- Clothing Drive for St. Francis Mission, McArthur OH (October)
- Other clothing to Bishop Griffin Center at Christ the King
- Diaper Collection once a year for Birth Right
- Sponsor a walk for the poor (September)
- 10 Thanksgiving turkeys to CRC (November)
- New testaments purchased for church book racks
- Bus passes purchased for rectory distribution
- Bedding purchased and delivered to Faith Mission (once a quarter)
- Quarterly donations to: St. Francis Mission, St. Ladislav, St. Lawrence Haven, Community Resource Center, HR/SJ Community Kitchen, Open Shelter, Bishop Griffin Center, Holy Family Soup Kitchen

We do others as things come up.

### From: St. Anthony's, Columbus

Under leadership of conference president Walt Ohm, the St. Anthony conference has compiled ten pages listing a variety of social services and agencies in Central Ohio. When this list is read on-line there are links to the websites of these agencies. To access this valuable resource go to the Diocesan website: <http://www.vincentianvoice.org>. In the right column click on 'Central Ohio Agencies.'

**Send comments on Newsletter format and content to: [kielkopf.1@osu.edu](mailto:kielkopf.1@osu.edu)**

## DIOCESAN COUNCIL

**Officers:**

- Diocesan Council President: Bill Sparks
- Diocesan Council Vice President: Warren Wright
- Treasurer: Janet Jobko
- Secretary:
- At Large: Jody Stahr, Darrell Bragg
- Spiritual Advisor:

**District Council Presidents:**

- East: Tim Hickey
- East Rural: Richard Shannon
- N-NW: Charles Kielkopf
- N-Central: Maureen Preston
- N-NE:
- E-SE: Lesha Farias
- South Rural: David Lanning
- Inner-City: Gina Langen
- S-SW: Joffre Moine

WebSite address:

[vincentianvoice.org](http://vincentianvoice.org)

**Committee Chairs:**

- Ozanan Orientation: Maureen Meck, Rose Ann Stevenson,
- Voice of the Poor: Warren Wright
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2013 Friends of the Poor Walk: Patti Aellig
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith
- Music: Joann Wright
- Photographer: Mark Marshall

**Secretary, Pat Summers**

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

**Office:**

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@colsdio.org](mailto:hswiger@colsdio.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.

December 18, 2012

### I Met Christ at SVDP Today

I met Christ nowadays  
He appeared in many ways

There was the man I gave a coat  
To shelter him from the storm  
There was a mom I gave a blanket  
To keep her baby warm

Everywhere I turned  
He was standing there forlorn  
And hurt  
I gave him a pair of shoes and a shirt

Soon I grew weary  
I was tired  
My feet were sore  
I felt I could give no more

But after a moment  
A glance at the crucifix on the wall  
I found that once again  
I was ready to give my all

By Ken Kerscher, from the Clothing Distribution Center's Tuesday team

