



The Voice

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Columbus Diocese

July 2012

Volume 32, Issue 3

President's Message

Bill Sparks

Our Diocesan Council Board Members, many of who serve as district presidents as well, are in the process of meeting with each of our 62 conferences to share with you the strategic plan that we developed during this past spring. Our objective is to collaborate with the conferences to help them enrich the things that we do for those we serve as well as to promote spiritual growth in keeping with our mission to increase the spirituality of our members. Your feedback during these meetings is an important part of the process.



A first step in enhancing opportunities for spiritual growth is to appoint a spiritual advisor if a conference does not have one. A second step is to explore how you can use our national organization's excellent "Serving in Hope" training modules. Anyone who completes the six lessons in each of the six modules will be solidly grounded in the Vincentian way of spiritual growth. One plan has conferences covering a lesson per meeting for their spiritual reflection. In

any event, it is important for conferences to educate their Vincentians on "Serving in Hope".

Another goal is to advance the vision of systemic change voiced by Shelia Gilbert, our new National SVDP president. See www.svdpusa.org and click on picture to hear Sheila's message on systemic change. One way that our strategic plan proposes to advance this vision is by having each conference appoint a member to collaborate with the Diocesan Council's "Voice of the Poor" committee.

Our Day of Recollection, to be held on Sunday, August 26th, at St. Theresa's Retreat Center here in Columbus, is really "in service" training in Vincentian spirituality. Paulist Father Vinny McKiernan, CSP, a popular and well known speaker throughout the Columbus Diocese, will be our facilitator for the day which begins at 10 am and ends with mass at 2 pm.

Even our September 29th Friends of the Poor Walk focuses directly on Vincentian spirituality with spiritual song and prayer so be sure to put this on your calendar and see the article below for more details.

Ozanam training is truly spiritual as well, grounding members in everything Vincentian. It is essentially our "basic training" with the next session October 13th at St. Andrews Church in Upper Arlington.

We are proposing to have all issues of the VOICE delivered by email through conference presidents to each of their members. Where a member does not have email, the VOICE can either be emailed to a close friend who could give a copy to the Vincentian or the conference president could print off hard copies for those without email. This will save our diocesan office from paying to have the VOICE printed and then mailed to our "non-email" members.

Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!

August 3-4, Mid-East Regional Meeting
Louisville, Kentucky. Call Pat Summers 614-221-3554 for information.

August 26, *Day of Recollection*, St. Therese's
Retreat Center, Make reservations: 614-221-3554

August 29-September 2, SVdP Annual meeting,
Seattle, Washington. Contact Bill Sparks at 614-439-0038 for information about attending.

September 29, *Friends of the Poor Walk* 10AM
Saturday morning at St. Francis DeSales High
School track.

October 13, Ozanam Orientation, St. Andrews,
Upper Arlington, make reservations 614-221-3554

Friends of the Poor Walk

Entry forms and pledge forms for the Saturday, September 29 "Friends of the Poor Walk" can be obtained from the National SVdP website www.svdpusa.org, our local SVdP website www.vincentianvoice.org or from conference walk representatives. On-line registration is possible on the National site.

In addition to soliciting pledges for their walking, a suggestion has been made that walkers use the pledge form to list names or pseudonyms of people for whom they want to pray. List an amount to be donated by the walker for each name. While walking all or some of the four laps, the walker can think prayerfully of those on the list. All of the donation returns to the walker's conference!

Patti Aellig and her committee have a well organized and entertaining morning for fun exercise, fellowship and even prayer.

Report on Top Hat Award, Mass and Dinner

Maureen Preston, President of the St. Michaels, Worthington, conference was honored with The 2012 Top Hat award. Fr. Daniel Dury, Associate Pastor, St. Paul's Westerville, began the event by celebrating the 4:30pm Mass in the DeSales High School chapel. At the conclusion of the Mass, Fr. Dury led the

Vincentians in their annual commitment ceremony.



The award was given to Maureen at the end of a buffet dinner prepared by Sanese Service, our major benefactor at St. Lawrence Haven. All of the nominees were congratulated on their extraordinary Vincentian service. Upon receipt of the award, Maureen expressed deep appreciation to her Vincentian colleagues for the award. She expressed even deeper appreciation for her spiritual growth fostered by those she served with home visits, which service is a special charisma of Maureen.

Following the awards there was a musical performance and a guest speaker. Chris Sullivan sang his ballad "Somewhere in the City," which he composed specifically for us, and played guitar to accompany Chris and all present in singing "Into the Arms of St. Vincent."

Jim Foley, president of the Christo Rey High School, which is opening in Columbus in 2014, gave an informative and inspiring presentation on the mission and vision of The Christo Rey network of high schools to raise horizons for economically and socially underprivileged children.

Serving in Hope : Vincentian Vocation

The discussion question for the first module of *Serving in Hope*'s first lesson asks: Have you felt that being a Vincentian is a

“vocation” – that you have been “called” by God to serve the poor? Maureen Preston, this year’s Top Hat honoree shared an exemplary answer to this question. Maureen replied:
 “I joined SVdP many years ago because the work interested me and my father had been a Vincentian. As I learned more about the society, I realized that God was calling me to this work. It took me awhile to get over my insecurities, but by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I am able to do whatever is needed. This is not just another volunteer opportunity that has come my way, it truly feels like a vocation to serve those in need—something I must do. This work deepens my relationship with Christ every day!”

From the conferences

Portrait of SVdP conference at IC Kenton

Kenton, Ohio, the Hardin county seat, lies about 60 miles northwest of Columbus. The town, surrounded by a large Amish community, has a population of about 8,000. A few years back Kenton lost its manufacturing jobs, and has never recovered economically. The need for interfaith service to the poor and needy is great. The interfaith efforts are coordinated by LOVE INC (Love In the Name of Christ). The SVdP of Kenton’s Immaculate Conception Parish, is a crucial member of the network. On referrals from LOVE INC they provide the familiar Vincentian services of helping with utility bills, gas, rent and setting people up in a homeless shelter: New Hope Ministry Park. This conference is responsible for the daily substantial midday meal which serve 50-70 each day, meals on the last full week of every month. It is interesting to note that parishioners have purchased livestock at the county fair for use during the Conferences’ lunch week. The meat is stored in a freezer for these weeks.

Joann Stahler, a 2012 Top Hat nominee, coordinates a major ministry of the conference. This ministry is providing clothing and hygiene items for the community that takes advantage of the monthly soup kitchen since food stamps cannot be used for hygiene items. Joann has secured a \$1,000 grant for personal hygiene

items, which she will stretch by buying in bulk, using coupons, and re-distributing liquids into smaller containers.

There is much more done by this conference with president Danita Podach and spiritual advisor Fr. Dinovo.

St. Peter, Columbus

Penny Harvest is a program at Liberty Elementary School, Worthington, Ohio. It is a part of the national program: "See Kids Dream." The program is intended to make the children aware of the needs of the poor and ways to help them. In Winter 2012 five local charities had been invited to make a presentation to representatives from each home room.

In early March Bill Dotzauer and Bob Schafer of the St. Peter SVDP Conference told the homeroom representatives about the SVdP Society. The children were impressed with the great variety of ways in which St. Peter SVdP helped the poor. After listening to and considering what had been learned the eight to twelve year old students decided to give St. Peter SVDP \$509 to support continuing activities of the St. Peter group.

An award program was held at Liberty Elementary School in mid-May. Bob Schafer attended and accepted the children’s donation.

Funeral Fund

The St. Vincent de Paul Funeral Fund is now too low to support expected funerals through September 30, 2012. Please make checks out to St. Vincent de Paul Funeral Fund.

Send to: Jane Sotak /St. Andrews
 1899 McCoy Road
 Columbus, OH 43220

Thank you.

Remember in your prayers

Jim Siemer, President of St. Stephen the Martyr, Columbus

Joan Merz, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City,

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

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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
- Music: Joann Wright
- Photographer: Mark Marshall

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

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