



# The Voice

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

July 2013

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## President's Message

**Bill Sparks**

Benedict XVI and Francis have encouraged using electronic media in our Catholic Action and works of evangelization. Conversion of our newsletter, The VOICE, to an email format is such a use. Another use is my frequent email exchanges with conference presidents, updating them on programs and actions of the Diocesan Council. As we become more familiar with these media we find new ways to acquire and share information. For instance, if you read this newsletter on your computer in pdf format, you will find that the links are active. This issue of The VOICE emphasizes following such links to add more detail on that particular subject.

In the article on the Detroit Action Commonwealth's visit to the **Voice of the Poor** meeting a link downloads a synopsis of a politically active organization of Detroit's poor driving systemic change. In the article updating us on our September 28 **Friends of the Poor Walk**, there are links through which you can get all of the forms you need for the event. In the article on Joseph Anastasia's exhibit, **Art & Soul**, links allow you to explore this artist's career and work in the [Columbus Dispatch](#). Of course, we have a website for our Diocesan Council which you can visit with a click on:



<http://www.vincentianvoice.org> .

The "From the Conferences" section gives you the opportunity to visit the WebPages of ten diocesan conferences.

Electronic media are only tools! These tools are useful only if they help us to grow spiritually by finding the face of Christ in those we serve and developing our Vincentian spirit of friendship by meeting "face to face" our Vincentian brothers and sisters in hands-on service. Unless they bring us together with each other and those we serve, they can be a terrible distraction. The article on the art of Joe Anastasi and a story from the Clothing Center demonstrate that the Vincentian charisma flourishes in the face-to-face personal relationship with those we serve. Our mission is accomplished in hands-on service, regular conference meetings, home visits and gathering at Vincentian activities.

There are several opportunities for Vincentian gatherings. . Our **Day of Recollection on August 25th** has been moved to the Martin de Porres Center at the mother house of The Dominican Sisters of Peace (next to Ohio Dominican University) since we have outgrown St. Therese Retreat Center. The theme, spirituality of working for systemic change, will focus much on Blessed Frederick and his initial goals for the society. I have been urging presidents to consider attending the National Vincentian convention, September 11-14 in Madison, Wisconsin. Now I am encouraging all of you to consider it, if not this year, in the future. If not the national, consider regional meetings. It is inspiring to meet with Vincentians from the whole country – indeed the whole world. Of course, the September 28 Friends of the Poor Walk is an excellent and fun way to foster Vincentian friendship as well.

## Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!

### Art & Soul, through August 4

Exhibit of paintings of Joseph Anastasi in St. Joseph Cathedral Undercroft, Saturdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. & by appointment

**For information, contact Felecia Krakowka at (614) 447-8867.**

**August 15-17**, the National Council's **Transforming Lives: A Seminar on Systemic Change.** To get more information or to register, contact Bill Sparks [wbsparks@me.com](mailto:wbsparks@me.com)

### August 17, Ozanam Orientation

Coshocton Sacred Heart Church, Call Pat 614-221-3554 for information and to make reservations.

### August 25, Day of Recollection

St. Martin de Porres Center, reception and continental breakfast at 9am with program to start at 10am-- includes lunch and ends after mass at 2PM. Call Pat 614-221-3554 to make reservations, \$20 for all costs.

### September 11-14, National Meeting

Madison, Wisconsin. Click: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1198247> for information. Or contact Bill Sparks [wbsparks@me.com](mailto:wbsparks@me.com)

### September 28 Friends of Poor Walk

Saturday, Sept. 28, 10 AM, at DeSales High School track. Sign up now through your conference president or representative.

### November 9, Ozanam Orientation

Marion, St. Mary Church, Call 6-14-221-3554 for information and to make reservations.

## Showcasing Our Day of Recollection

Our facilitator is Marge McGinley. Marge is our National SVdP's Goal Leader for development of spirituality and leadership formation in promotion of systemic change.



Marge McGinley has some 20 years of parish ministry experience, combined with 10 years of casual (per Diem) relief hospital chaplaincy and 13 years of care for the poor in her community. Marge holds a certificate in ministry to the bereaved from the Archdiocese of New York and a certificate in parish administration from the Diocese of Trenton. Her clinical pastoral education was accomplished at Cooper Medical Center in Camden, N.J. She also has a bachelor of arts in human services from Chestnut Hill College. Marge has been recognized by Burlington County as an Outstanding Woman of the Year in Social Service for her work with the marginalized population of her community. Marge served as president of the Society's Diocesan Council of Trenton for five years. Additionally, she continues to serve locally as a spiritual advisor to a Conference and also serves the Society as a national formator

Marge McGinley sent the following overview of her presentation.

We know that each time we encounter a person struggling in poverty; there we have come face to face with Jesus. So many Vincentians have been serving the same person/people for five and ten years. We have gotten to know those whom we serve and the delightful part of this statement is that we are now truly in relationship with Jesus in them. We, Vincentians, can see and feel how inappropriate it is that Jesus must come to our door over and over again due to hunger or to lack of housing for 5 or 10 years. On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, we will reflect on how we might discern a better way to welcome Jesus in His poverty. This will be an interactive day where local Vincentians really talk about how systemic change might work in their local conferences and councils. Many Vincentians are already seeing the way but just aren't sure how to implement it. Let's discern

together here in Columbus. Vincentian discernment is a process guided by the Holy Spirit and leads us to what is best for all. Come and celebrate the gift of your love of the poor along with other Vincentians.

### Warming up for the Friends of the Poor Walk

The Friends of the Poor Walk will be on Saturday, September 28th at St. Francis de Sales High School. The event is a one-mile walk symbolizing walking a mile in the shoes of someone in need. Music will be provided by Chris Sullivan and Marty Aellig. Walkers walk one mile around the stadium track. This year, we added a three-mile challenge for interested walkers. Walkers arrive at 9:00 am and the Walk starts at 10:00. Light refreshments, a free t-shirt, and gift bag are available for all walkers. Bishop Campbell will be there to cheer on everyone. Remember, walkers are encouraged to collect pledges, all of which stays within their conference to support their works. . Every dollar pledged is used for services; there are no administrative costs. Please add this important event to your calendar and plan on having a great time! For more information, please contact Patti Aellig at (614) 314-4235 or [columbusfriendsofthepoorwalk@live.com](mailto:columbusfriendsofthepoorwalk@live.com)

If you still need registration documents or instructions for registering on line, clicking on the following links enables downloading all of the documents you need. The first link through St. Anthony gives you a long list of downloadable forms. Towards the bottom there are special forms providing guidance for getting commercial sponsors and signing them up.

<http://www.stanthonyparishcolumbus.org/stanthony.aspx?wpid=32&catID=2>

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org/2013walkforms.pdf>

## Art & Soul

The June 16, 2013 *Catholic Times*: reports:

“*Art and Soul* is a collection of paintings and drawings of the homeless in Columbus, created by artist Joseph Anastasi to build awareness and raise funds for the needs of the disadvantaged in the city. Anastasi is a member of the St. Agatha Church St. Vincent de Paul Society. For more than 10 years, he has worked, fed, and raised funds for those in need. In doing this work, he came to know and become friends with many of the people who come to shelters. Anastasi found a dignity and a wonderful spirit in these people and felt this was a story he needed to tell. He felt that if he could capture their spirit in his art, it would transcend from being “just paintings of homeless people” and become meaningful. In the past five years, Anastasi has completed more than 40 portraits of the people he serves. The exhibit will be on display in the undercroft gallery of St. Joseph Cathedral until Aug. 4 (open Saturdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.). *Proceeds to benefit the Community Shelter Board and the St. Vincent de Paul Society* “

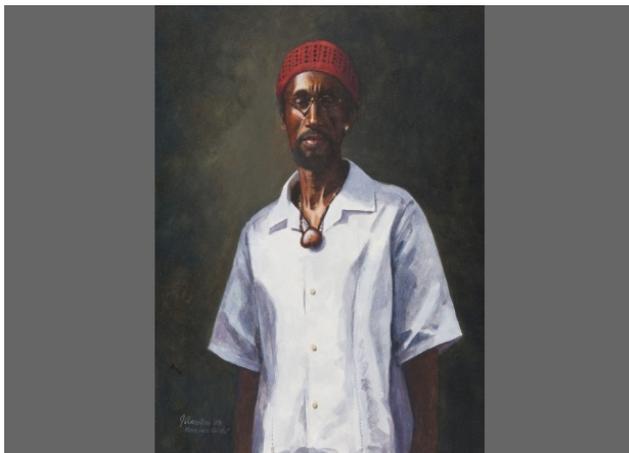
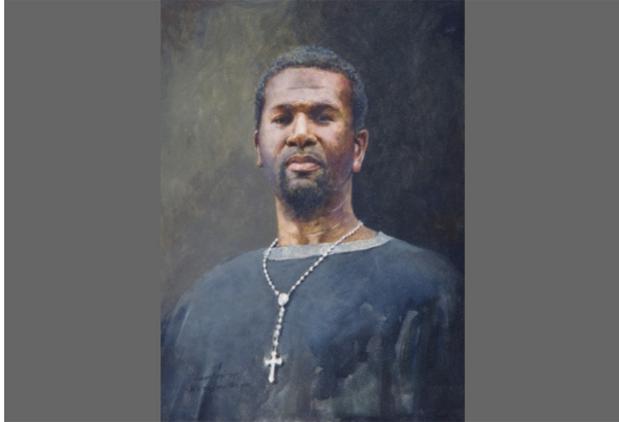
The Friday June 28 opening was a great success. Almost three hundred people attended and eleven paintings were sold. Both Michelle Heritage, head of the shelter board, and Bill Sparks said a few words along with Fr. Gribble who endorsed the showing in the undercroft of the church. Felicia Karkowka, who organized the entire event, also spoke. And, of course, Vincentian Joe Anastasi who volunteers at St. Lawrence Haven each week and is a Vincentian at St. Agatha. shared his thoughts as the artist.



The *Columbus Dispatch* presented an in-depth exploration of Joseph Anastasi's career and work in .

[http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/life\\_and\\_entertainment/2013/06/27/a-story-to-tell.html](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/life_and_entertainment/2013/06/27/a-story-to-tell.html)

The article explains how he develops a personal relationship with his subjects so that his portraits express their humanity. Copies of two are below. The first is titled "She's my mother too" and the second is simply "Man in a Red Cap."



### Mideast Regional Meeting

On Saturday, June 8 Ohio Vincentians in the Mideast Region met in the Martin de Porres Center on the Ohio Dominican campus. Approximately 50 people attended from throughout the state. Jim Tobin of the Catholic Conference brought participants up to date on legislative issues and items including the state budget.

The sharing among councils was very good too with lots of good ideas exchanged. Sr. Caroline Clark, Mideast spiritual advisor, and our own Diocesan Council Vic President, Warren Wright, now chair of Mideast Voice of the Poor, showed a movie of Blessed Frederick and discussed his approach to reaching out to the poor and moving to resolve the core issues that got them into poverty in the first place (systemic change).

### Imwalle Golf Tournament

On June 30: there was a golf tournament to benefit The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Homestead Golf Course in Groveport, put on by **Imwalle Family** whom we honored at the Top Hat Dinner this year



The sign is mock up of a check for \$2,000 which are the proceeds donated to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul from the John J. Imwalle Memorial Golf Tournament.

### Voice of the Poor Meeting

A delegation from the **Detroit Action Commonwealth (DAC)** shared their success story with our Voice of the Poor committee Saturday, June 29, at St. Cecilia. DAC was invited to help the committee evaluate its pilot project of using one-on-one interviews with people we serve to draw them into becoming

active participants in the political process of bringing about systemic changes. A goal of our Voice of the Poor committee is to have the poor be a "Voice of the Poor." DAC is that kind of authentic voice of the poor.



From left: DAC leaders Molly Sweeny, Clark Washington, and Mary Jones, Warren Wright

**DAC** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan community organization of indigent and homeless individuals. The mission of the DAC is to organize indigent and homeless persons and families, provide opportunities and workshops to help them improve their lives, develop leadership capacities, advocate for better and more humane services, and educate and mobilize around issues of social and economic justice. There are three Detroit Action Commonwealth chapters. Two are located at the Capuchin Soup Kitchens in Detroit, Michigan and a third at St. Leo's Catholic Church's soup kitchen. Amongst many successes, DAC has pressured political leaders to make it easier for people to get ID's, clean up shelters from bed bugs, get street lighting, diminish bias against people with felony convictions, open shelters and increase voter registration. The leadership and membership is entirely from those who use soup kitchens and homeless shelters. They are now about 3,500 strong. Read more about DAC by clicking on <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~gmarkus/DAC-WhoWeAre.pdf>

Perhaps a similar dynamic voice of the poor can be fostered amongst those we serve in the Columbus, Diocese.

## Those We Serve Becoming Servers

Dianne Keller-Smith, the Diocesan Council's publicity chair person, would like to do an article on one of the people that we serve who has, in turn, begun to help others in some way. If you know of such a person, please let Bill Sparks, [wbsparks@me.com](mailto:wbsparks@me.com), know to discuss how to approach them to see if they would be available for an interview. We wouldn't contact them directly first, but would work through you or whomever they know and are comfortable with.

## St. Lawrence Haven

The Catholic Foundation, which is a great supporter of St. Vincent de Paul, wrote an article on St. Lawrence Haven, our daily sack lunch line in downtown Columbus. It was their front page article and here is a link to the article. Read of the Haven's manager's, Heather Swiger, heroic efforts to provide some hot food for the Haven. <https://catholic-foundation.org/sites/default/files/CF.Blessings.Spring2013-website.pdf>

How can Vincentians help Heather? If your parish or any other organization has left over food following any function, please save it for St. Lawrence Haven. We can box up individual portions and pass it out to those that we serve. We currently serve an average of 400 people each day with a sack lunch but recently lost our main source of food when Sanese Services sold their vending machine food company to another company who is considering whether to continue providing leftover food to the Haven. You can coordinate with Heather Swiger (614- 241-2569) any morning at our Clothing Center.

## Progress on Youth Conferences

The Columbus Council is one of the leaders in the country with Youth Vincentians and would like to continue to open additional youth conferences There are nine youth

conferences in the diocese--- 5 high schools, 2 middle schools, and 2 parishes. All conference presidents have been sent material on promoting and establishing youth conferences.

### From the Conferences

In this issue emphasizing use of internet links, readers are invited to visit ten of our conferences. If you would like a webpage for your conference or have it listed on the Diocesan website, please contact: [kielkopf.1@osu.edu](mailto:kielkopf.1@osu.edu).

Immaculate Conception, Columbus,

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org/conferences/ic.html>

St. Anthony

<http://www.stanthonyparishcolumbus.org/stanthony.aspx?wpid=27&catID=7>

St. Cecilia:

<http://www.saintceciliachurch.org/groups/stvdp.htm>

St. James the Less

<http://www.stjames-cpps.org/SVDP.htm>

St. Joseph Cathedral Conference

<http://www.saintjosephcathedral.org/sitemap/organizations/stvincentdepaul/stvincentdepaul.htm>

St. Joan of Arc

<http://www.stjoanofarcpowell.org/socialconcerns/vincentdepaul.html>

St. Francis de Sales, Newark

<http://www.svdpnewark.wordpress.com>

St. Paul's, Westerville

<http://svdpstpaulswestervilleoh.webs.com>

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Buckeye Lake

[http://www.olmcbuckeyelake.org/programs\\_and\\_activities/st\\_vincent\\_de\\_paul.html](http://www.olmcbuckeyelake.org/programs_and_activities/st_vincent_de_paul.html)

St. John Neumann, Sunbury

<http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org/stvincentdepaul>

### New Presidents

**St. Francis of Assisi** – Lorri Kuczynski replacing Dennis Smith.

### Remember in your prayers

Carol Krecsmar, St. Ladislav. Secretary and past president of the conference

## Brother Meets Sister at the Clothing Distribution Center

John Willig, who demonstrates the authentic Vincentian charisma operating in the one-on-one, face-to-face encounters, tells this story. In January of 2013, Jimmy Glanton was visiting the St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Center lobby when he overheard Christine Loveless's name called out by a Clothing Center volunteer. Knowing Loveless was an unusual name, he asked her what her Father's name was. She replied John Loveless. Then Jimmy asked, "Did people used to call him "We We"?" It turned out that Christine is Jimmy's half sister. "I was aware that my Father had a daughter by another woman but I never met her. My Father died in 2003 and his wife Gloria also passed a couple years ago. What a blessing after 43 years to finally meet your sister."

Jimmy told me his amazing story and several months later came back to the Clothing Center excited to tell me that he and Christine were the closest of friends.

I asked both Christine Loveless and Jimmy Glanton if I could share their story and possibly have it published in our news letter. They most gladly agreed and asked that we mail them a copy.



I asked them to return the following week so I could take their picture which I share with you.

## 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, Maureen Meck
- Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Charles Klinger

**District Council Presidents:**

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

Website address:

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org>

**Committee Chairs:**

- Ozanam 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.

## Prayer for Vincentians about to Engage in Systemic Change

*May God be with us as we serve those in need. May we find creative ways to assist them in becoming independent. May we pray for unity amongst Vincentians throughout the world. May we explore new ways to teach and learn from those we serve. May we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us on the Vincentian Pathway to ending poverty as we now know it. May we find courage and stamina to improve the structural systems that keep our friends in need in their place at the bottom of the ladder. May we stand with them and for them in struggles for justice in the care provided for and to them. May God bless all of us knowing we are all doing our part to improve the system of care for those in need.*

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy spirit. Amen**