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- Voice of the Poor: Warren Wright
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2012 Friends of the Poor Walk: Patti Aellig
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith

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St. Colman's, Washington Court House - Jana Deeks replacing Jean Ann Davis.
Lancaster Conference - Jerry Welker replacing Frank Coz.
St. Thomas More Newman Center - Anne Mischo replacing Gina Langen and John Okuley

Buckeye Lake

From Pat Mayes, OLMC conference

Our National SVdP organization awarded Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference (OLMC) a \$1,500 Friends of the Poor grant. The funds are dedicated to bus transportation between the villages of Buckeye Lake and Hebron to the county seat in Newark about twelve miles away.

The grant application pointed out that beginning in the 70's, both villages fell into a long term decline in growth as other areas in the state prospered. This resulted in a somewhat isolated area with sub-par housing, few services, scattered retail shops and nearly no transportation opportunities. Both villages suffer from a higher than normal population of the poor. Nearly 70% of the residents have moderate to low income levels. Demands for local social services, located in Newark, are high. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference (OLMC) has witnessed great suffering among families who are struggling with making ends meet. The fact that almost 50% have no reliable means of transportation to social service agencies exacerbates their suffering.

This grant purchases 250 bus vouchers which are then available to residents of Buckeye Lake and Hebron on an as needed basis. Home visits verify the need. Clients may be eligible for multiple trips during the grant period.

Perry County Consortium

From Judy Paxton

Four parishes St. Rose in New Lexington, St. Patrick in Junction City, St. Bernard in Corning and Church of the Atonement in Crooksville form the Perry County Consortium. The St. Vincent De Paul Society has been active through these Perry County parishes since 2006.

Our operational funds come from 5th Sunday collections in our Consortium parishes. Unfortunately, due to local poverty our 5th Sunday collections dropped 40% from May to July. Fortunately, there are other area organization donations, and generous SVdP contributions from conferences who have twinned with us in the past.

Because Perry County has little industry, high unemployment and high numbers on welfare, many people are in need of assistance for the basic necessities of daily living. We are housed in the old convent of St. Bernard Parish with maintenance and upkeep of the building as our financial responsibility. We have made many necessary improvements to the old building.

The Center, which houses a clothing and food pantry for those in need, is open on Tuesdays for families to obtain clothing, household goods, and food, on an as needed basis. We receive donated household goods and food items from Dollar General Warehouse about once a month and bread and baked goods from a warehouse near Thornville, each week. Some grocery items are donated through food drives in our area.

The majority of the families who visit the Center are from the southern part of Perry County, however, no part of the county is spared from being needy. Because many of the residents in our area are of low income, they seek financial assistance with utility bills. We work closely with the government agencies in Perry County to assist those who are truly in need. We limit our assistance to \$150 per family once a year helping with electric, gas, telephone, water bills, kerosene for heat, gas for a doctor visit or prescription needs.

For the past 5 years, we have sponsored a Back to School Give-away, providing the area children with backpacks and other school supplies. Last year we assisted nearly 200 children.

Remember in your prayers

Lou VonVille, Immaculate Conception, Columbus

Members of all conferences are encouraged to register with CapWiz. To do so, follow the Voice of the Poor link at www.svdpusa.org. CapWiz will allow you to send emails to your representative and Senators in Congress as issues important to SVDP arise. Let your voice be heard!

2011 Day of Recollection

On Sunday, August 28, eighty three Vincentians from twenty seven conferences gathered at St. Therese's Retreat Center for Columbus Diocesan Council's annual Day of Recollection. Ralph Mellencamp, Executive Director of the District Council of Madison, Wisconsin facilitated the sessions. Ralph also serves on the presentation team for the National SVdP Invitation for Renewal retreats.

The morning session focused on the faith of the founders of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. With a polished power point presentation, background hymns and judicious quotations, participants learned to appreciate how all of the founders still characterizes our Vincentian vocation today . Ralph's rich knowledge of the



history of the society and the period of its foundation showed how the Society is genuinely a work of Frederic Ozanam but also of mentors Sr. Rosalie Rendu DC and Emmanuel Bailly

along with Ozanam's fellow law students : Lamache, Le Taillander, Devaux, Clave

The afternoon session exhibited Frederic Ozanam as a model for Modern Catholic Laity. With quotations from Frederic, passages from John Paul II's 1988 Post-Synodal exhortation *Christifideles Laici* or "On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World" Ralph pointed out how Frederic anticipated and practiced the pope's vision of the role of the laity in the church over a hundred years earlier.

The Day of Recollection concluded at 2PM with celebration of Mass by Fr. Paul Noble in the St. Therese's chapel.

Friends of the Poor Walk

The Diocesan Council's 2011 Friends of the Poor Walk was held Saturday, September 24 on the track of St. Francis DeSales High School, in Columbus. The mile, four lap, walk began at 10:00 AM. Patty Aelig was Chair of the Walk events. Bishop Frederick Campbell served as Honorary Chairman. Before the walk Bishop Campbell remarked on the importance of Vincentian work and lead the walkers in prayer.



There were almost 400 participants including a large delegation of De Sales students. St. Anthony conference brought the most walkers lead by 92 year old Mary Rose. Pledges brought in \$40,000 for Vincentian works across the Diocese.

From the Conferences

New Presidents

Perry County - Linda Klingler, replacing Mae Sabatino

St. Agatha - Pat Caldwell, replacing Laura Brenna.

St. Christopher - Pat Summers-Interim, replacing Clare Spellmire

St. Peter, Chillicothe - Timothy Scheeler replacing Anthony Lisi



The Voice

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Columbus Diocese

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President's Message

Bill Sparks

I recently came back from our National Meeting and was amazed at the focus-- and success-- the organization is having with Youth Conferences around the country. That said, we are one of the leading diocese in the country now with our 5 youth conferences. Welcome to Newark's St. Francis de Sales new Youth Conference. That gives two parish youth conferences (St. Anthony's, and Newark St. Francis de Sales) and three High School Conferences (Bishop Watterson, St. Francis DeSales, and Bishop Ready). I'm working on both St. Charles and Hartley as well.



We are planning a commissioning ceremony for all of our youth Vincentians just after the first of the year in January or February. It will most likely be on a Sunday afternoon at the Cathedral and include Mass, the commissioning, and food and fellowship afterwards.

At the National Meeting a resolution was passed that all Vincentians participate in an Ozanam orientation. So our excellent Ozanam Orientation team, led by Maureen Beck and Rose Ann Stevenson, will be even busier so that all Vincentians have an opportunity to take, or retake, an Ozanam Orientation in the next two years.

At the local level two of our annual events were held with great successes. On August 28 Ralph Mellencamp presented a spiritually enriching historical look at our founders. On September 24, Patti Aellig and her Friends of the

Poor Walk team lead a delightful Saturday morning exercise, social and fund-raising event. Read more about them in this issue.

I would like to welcome Tim Hickey, President of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Conference, to the Board of Directors, representing the East District. I would also like to thank Denny Devine, President of St. Catherine's, for her contributions to the Board over the past three years.

In this issue we take a closer look at the work of some of our Eastern rural Vincentians: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at Buckeye Lake and the Perry County Consortium. Congratulations to the Buckeye Lake conference for winning a \$1,500 Friends of the Poor grant. Read how they will use the proceeds.



Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!

November 12, 10AM – noon, Voice of the Poor committee, All are welcome. St. Cecilia
434 Norton Rd. Columbus, OH 43228

December 5, 6:30 PM Bishop Campbell's Volunteer Appreciation Mass, St. Joseph Cathedral

Voice of the Poor

From Warren Wright

The Voice of the Poor Committee met in September at St. Mary's Bremen. The focus of the meeting was a discussion of the main themes of Benedict XVI encyclical *Caritas In Veritate* (Charity in Truth). The encyclical encourages the faithful to focus on integral human development in works of charity and justice.