



The Voice

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Columbus Diocese

October 2012

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President's Message

Bill Sparks

God blessed us with a glorious day for our September 29th **Friends of the Poor Walk**. I hope that you had as much fun as I did. Patti Aellig and her committee once again organized a great event for the second year in a row. Thanks to the committee and to all of our sponsors.



Fr. Vinny McKiernan lead an overflow crowd of Vincentians for our **Day of Recollection** at St. Theresa's Retreat Center in late August. I am sure that the spiritual uplifting that we all felt that day will be repeated again at the **Bishop's Mass** on December 3rd at 6:30 at the Cathedral. Each year at this time Bishop Campbell recognizes all of our Vincentians and volunteers with mass followed by a dinner in

the undercroft sponsored by our Cathedral SVDP Conference.

In October Vincentians take stock of what has been accomplished over the past year. Take a look at your conference's annual report to appreciate all that you and your fellow Vincentians were able to do. To be sure the reports give the results with numbers, but these are crucial for reflecting SVDP as one of the most efficient charities across the country. This doesn't diminish, in any way, the quality of what

we have all accomplished in addition to what we hope to accomplish in the future.

Speaking of the future, in February the Diocesan Board developed a strategic plan for the next three years which focused, first of all, on insuring that Spirituality remains our number one goal consistent with our mission: to increase the spirituality of our members. We also developed goals to insure increased collaboration between the Board and all of our Conferences as well as goals to focus on projects which, with Voice of the Poor, will aim towards meeting National President Sheila Gilbert's goal of creating systemic change to root out the causes of poverty.

Focusing on the spiritual side of SVDP, Sr. Caroline Clark, our Region Spiritual Advisor, will be coming to Columbus on the morning of November 10th to put on an orientation for our conference spiritual advisors. Please know that ALL Vincentians are welcome: there is no cost, but please call Pat in our office (221-3554) to make a reservation so we can plan appropriately. The Orientation will be held from 9 am until noon at St. Paul's in Westerville in the meeting room underneath the church.

Welcome to St. Charles High School Cardinals for Life and St. Mary's of Groveport Middle School as our latest St. Vincent de Paul Youth Conferences. They join St. Francis de Sales High School, St. Francis de Sales Middle School, Bishop Watterson High School, Bishop Ready High School, and St. Anthony Middle School as our other Youth Conferences. Last year we had a very successful youth commissioning ceremony, mass and social for all of our Vincentian youth and hope to do the same this year.

'Love is inventive to infinity' St. Vincent de Paul

Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!

November 10th, Spiritual Advisor Training,
9AM

December 3rd, Bishops Annual Volunteer
Recognition Mass, 6:30 PM

Serving in Hope

The first module of the "Serving in Hope" program focuses on the Vincentian vocation. Richard Shannon of the Sacred Heart, Coshocton, conference responds to St. Vincent DePaul's counsel "Love is inventive to infinity" by considering how can we apply it to our vocation as Vincentians?

Love is answering God's call to help the poor and less fortunate individuals in our communities. This call may be a loud and resounding spiritual voice we hear clearly or a quiet feeling that directs us. The important thing is that we listen and follow the guidance we are given. There are general guidelines to follow in how we administer aid to those in need. However, do not be afraid to explore ways of modifying aid to fit the unique circumstances that may present themselves. As an example, if a client is not working but has a job offer out of the area, perhaps assisting with a bus ticket so he or she can get the job and become self-sufficient may be a more permanent solution than a one-time meal or nights lodging. Be inventive with your resources, listen to that inner voice.

Friends of the Poor

The Diocesan Voice of the Poor committee continued its advocacy activities throughout the summer. Two groups of our members visited Congressman Pat Tiberi's local office and another group visited Congressman Steve Stiver's local office. We encouraged each of our representatives to put the poor and vulnerable first in tough budget decisions. In particular, we asked them to provide a "Circle of Protection" around programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) and Temporary

Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). We reiterated our support of the DREAM Act for children of illegal immigrants and Comprehensive Immigration Reform in accordance with the SVDP position paper on immigration and the principles that have been put forth by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The VOP committee now has active representation from 15 of the 62 conferences. We encourage all conferences to establish a VOP contact person. If you are interested in being the rep for your conference, please contact Warren Wright at joannwarrenwright@yahoo.com.

St. Lawrence Haven & Clothing Center

On Sunday, August 19, Heather Swiger, manager the Clothing Distribution Center and St. Lawrence Haven, hosted an appreciation picnic for volunteers at the Shadblow Pavilion in Blendon Woods Metro Park. The volunteers are crucial for these two ministries of the Diocesan Council. For the Vincentian service year of October 2011 through September 2012 St. Lawrence Haven was open 250 days serving lunches to 80,000 people. The Clothing Distribution Center was open 142 days on which clothing was distributed, free of charge, to 5,000 families and 8,000 individuals. Volunteers are always needed; especially for the Clothing Distribution Center, so that it can be open for a fourth day each week. Contact Heather Swiger, (614) 241-2569, hswiger@colsdio.org for volunteer opportunities.

Day of Recollection

On Sunday, August 26, 2012 over 120 Vincentians gathered at St. Therese's Retreat Center for their annual Day of Recollection. Diocesan Council president Bill Sparks welcomed the participants by reminding them of the centrality of Days of Recollection for our Vincentian mission to grow spiritually by service to the poor and needy. Fr. Vincent McKiernan C.S.P., well known and loved, as Fr. Vinny, for his spiritual guidance and leadership, facilitated the reflections. In the morning he lead us to look

inward to uncover stories of events awakening in us the vocation to serve the poor and needy. Participants shared the stories of these event. In the afternoon session, Fr. McKiernan directed us to look outward on how we can be a light to the world and appreciate the light others shed. In one exercise, participants held lighted candles and thanked God for some person or group who had shed light in the world by saying something such as: "For the light shed by John Paul II, let us thank the Lord."

Fr. Vinny closed the Day of Recollection by celebrating Mass at 2PM in the chapel at St. Therese's.



Friends of the Poor Walk

On Saturday, September 29, over 40 conferences and outreach groups celebrated our 4th annual Friends of the Poor walk at DeSales High School. It was a wonderful success. More than 450 people walked in solidarity with those who live in poverty raising funds for individual conferences to help in the work that they do serving those in need. Over \$40,000 was raised for local Vincentian works.

The walk chair, Patti Aellig, along with her committee organized a truly gala event with food, music and much fellowship. During registration, Marty Aellig played trumpet and Chris Sullivan guitar. Chris sang a ballad he had written especially for this event: "His Face is Mine"



Honorary Chairperson Coleen Marshall of NBC Channel 4 in Columbus, offered inspirational remarks about her family's involvement with service to the poor and needy.

Fr. Thomas Petry, pastor of St. Anthony's, lead the beginning prayer and then used his walker to make the four laps of the DeSales track.

New Presidents

- Mary Ann Rahal replacing Charles Kielkopf at Immaculate Conception
- Tony Jones replacing Mary Krecsmar at St. Ladislav
- Eric Hess replacing Bob Brown at St. John Neumann
- Bob Zabloudil replacing Doug Schrage at St. Elizabeth

Pray for the souls of:

- Nick Sherwood, St. Augustine.
- St. Gabriel Leroy Garvin, Past President, St. Elizabeth
- Dee Allen, St. Michael

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DIOCESAN COUNCIL

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- E-SE: Lesha Farias
- South Rural: David Lanning
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- S-SW: Joffre Moine

WebSite address:

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

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