



# The VOICE

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

Spring 2016

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## President's Message Warren Wright

Let me share with you Vice-president Bob Zabloudil's update on the National Assembly.



The SVdP National Assembly is coming to Columbus and we could not be more excited! A local team of 17 Vincentians, along with our National SVdP office, have been working tirelessly over the past year to make the 2016 Assembly a success. Since this is a Mideast Regional hosted assembly, we have communicated ideas for workshops and all events with our fellow Vincentians in Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Their input and financial support has been instrumental in making this year's event the most exciting ever.

**All the information below will be expanded in an email that will go out soon to all Conference Presidents in the Columbus Diocese and all Council Presidents in the Mideast Region.**

We want to highlight the special activities planned for youth this year:

1. An "assembly within the national assembly" just for youth. This allows us to focus on programs geared just for our young adults.
2. The youth program will start on Thursday (September 1, 2016) at 5:30

PM with a concert by Audrey Assad followed by dinner provided by SVdP. If you are unable to attend the concert, please join us Friday morning.

3. Friday, our activities include a service project at WARM (Westerville Area Resource Ministry), an exciting key note speaker and we end the day by going to the Franklin Park Conservatory for dinner and entertainment from 6-9 PM with all the National Assembly participants. We then wrap up the day with an international Skype session with St. Vincent de Paul youth from around the world.
4. On Saturday, youth attendees visit the "world's number #1 rated" Columbus Zoo (transportation provided-buses leave the Hyatt promptly at 8:00 AM). After our return from the zoo, we have workshops scheduled to help the youth better understand their role as Vincentians followed by a Mass with Most Reverend Bishop Frederick F. Campbell. We then join all assembly attendants with a closing dinner. More details will be sent to conference presidents in our diocese and council presidents in our region.
5. We are working to secure sponsorships so the fee to participate for the youth will be set as low as possible. This will include food, transportation to different locations (from the Hyatt Regency hotel), workshops, admission to the concert and the zoo. Lodging costs have not been determined yet. With enough donors, we hope to reduce these costs, also. More details to follow.
6. William & Jennifer Matson are Co-Chairs of the 2016 Youth Committee

Some highlights of the 2016 National Assembly are:

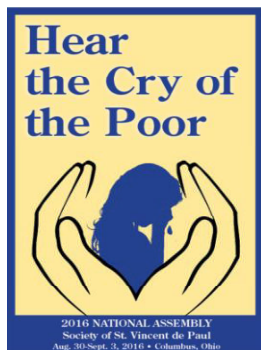
1. It's here in Columbus at the Hyatt Regency downtown! It's close to home and we hope you'll join us - as a volunteer (Tuesday, August 30 - Sunday, September 4) and as a conference participant (Thursday, September 1 - Saturday, September 3)
2. Thought-provoking keynote addresses
3. An excellent line-up of workshops - check out the online registration site that will be sent out by the National office
4. An opportunity to meet other Vincentians to learn and share our ministry with one another
5. Daily mass and opportunities for rosary, morning prayer, Eucharistic adoration, and confession to help us grow spiritually
6. Our host city event at Franklin Park Conservatory the evening of Sept 2.

How can you volunteer? We will be sending out an email with a link to "Volunteer Spot." On this website, you'll learn about all the opportunities to volunteer (before, during and after the actual conference) and have a chance to sign up to help make the National Assembly in Columbus a success.

God never spares His servants from trial because He does not wish to spare them the merit and glory", Frederic Ozanam

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

The National SVdP Assembly meets in



Columbus, Ohio, **August 30 to September 3, 2016** Hyatt Regency with a September 2 reception at the Columbus conservatory.

Call 221-3554 for registration information.

**Sunday, August 21, Day of Recollection, Martin dePorres Center, Begins**

at 10AM after 9AM continental breakfast and concludes with 2PM Mass. Jack Murphy, National Goal 4 Leader, will lead us through a presentation "Fight Poverty – Vote" looking at Section 7 of the Rule, the updated USCCB Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship document, and several Voice of the Poor position papers on poverty issues.

**Variable: District Council meetings,** District presidents will be calling meetings of presidents in their districts to discuss, amongst other things, participation in the National Assembly. Presidents can find out what District they are in by going to the Conferences page of the website [vincentianvoice.org](http://vincentianvoice.org) and clicking on the name of their conference.

### Spanish Ozanam Orientation

On March 19, three leaders from Indianapolis gave an Ozanam Orientation in Spanish at St. Stephen the Martyr. Nineteen people attended, including our Spanish priest and three nuns from our convent. I gave a presentation on the history of our SVPD at our parish. Participants were able to ask questions. The training went very well; everyone was excited to start our chapter in Spanish. In the end, everyone received a certificate and we made plans to have our first meeting, which was held in April.

Sylvia Siemer

### Report on 2016 Top Hat Award Ceremony and dinner

Fr. Charlie Klinger, Diocesan Council spiritual advisor, began the 2016 Top Hat Ceremony with 4:30 pm Mass in the St. Charles High School chapel. Fr. Klinger's homily was on Jesus' command to love one another as He has loved them from the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Fr. Klinger pointed out that Jesus loved us by self-sacrifice for our good. He provided several examples of how people had in fact followed Jesus' commandment by sacrificing themselves for the good of other human beings.

Dinner followed in St. Charles' Cavello Hall. One hundred nine Vincentians from twenty-four conferences attended. Frank Schmidt, from Our Lady of Perpetual Help, was awarded the 2016 Top Hat. Patti Aellig, from St. Cecilia, was a Top Hat Honoree. The inspiring nominations for these two Top Hat Honorees are available on our website. In his acceptance remarks Frank pointed out that during his many years as a Vincentian he has learned that a necessary condition for mentoring an individual or a family out of a system of generational poverty is to encounter them as individuals in the way in which we encounter our close friends and family members as individuals

### Voice of the Poor Committee

The Voice of the Poor Committee (VOP) is working on developing a plan of what our focus is going to be for the future – and how we can best be effective and reach systemic change. A big part of this is going to be inviting SVdP presidents and VOP representatives to a Voice of the Poor formation. Right now, we are hoping to have this formation on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We are confirming that date with the St. Martin of Porres Center. Look for information from your conference presidents and the Summer VOICE

### Counting Service Hours

At a conference meeting, a practice of reporting and recording service hours can be embarrassing for some and tedious for all. Why embarrassing? A few members might have a long list of activities in the past two weeks. Others, who because of lack of opportunities, are embarrassed by having little or nothing to report. The **Immaculate Conception** conference stopped this practice of counting hours, people served etc. at our meetings. That can be done in a one-on-one discussion in September between the president and individual members in time for the annual report.

What, then, do we talk about under the agenda item of reporting services? We devote a

few minutes to reflecting upon the works of mercy we, as a whole conference, do. We use the principle: What a member of the conference does for the poor and needy with the spirit of why that person is a member of the conference is some act of mercy which the whole conference does.

How might this work? Suppose one member of the conference has visited several patients in nursing homes. We do not listen to a list of how many homes and how many patients. Instead we reflect on the fact that we are visiting patients and the importance of this work that we do and how we might extend our ministry in this area.

Charles Kielkopf, Immaculate Conception (Columbus)

### VOAN

VOAN stands for: The Vincentian Ohio Action Network. VOAN is now an independent 501(C)3 organization of Action Collaboratives.

Our community organizer, Wendy Tarr, facilitates the formation and development of groups- Action Collaboratives- from the people we serve to identify issues which are of importance to them and then involve themselves in political advocacy to address those issues. There are well established groups in Newark and Columbus: The Newark Think Thank on Poverty NTTP and the Restored Citizens and Communities for Change RCC4C meeting at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi. A group for the network is being formed in Marion/Delaware and another may be formed in Lancaster. VOAN and the Office of Social Concerns have a committee working on reentry that also includes hosting an educational forum on incarceration and reentry from our faith, an opportunity for mentorship with people in jail or prison and or helping people transition back to society, and connecting with our efforts in organizing business community leaders. Jerry Freewalt ([jfreewalt@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:jfreewalt@columbuscatholic.org) and Wendy Tarr, [wtarr@colsdio.org](mailto:wtarr@colsdio.org) are contacts for this.

Wendy has submitted updates on the work of the Action Collaboratives

### Marion Delaware Action Collaborative

We are working with a group of churches and agencies in Delaware to launch a jail ministry, mentorship program, and community organizing group focused on needs with the population. This group is studying a Bridges out of Poverty model currently working in Marion called *Marion Matters*, which also works on empowering those experiencing poverty to work on systemic issues. We plan to help start this collaborative work in the Summer and in the Fall. We are also looking at how best to engage business owners through the parishes in the region to help support employment for people, especially those struggling to find meaningful jobs due to past convictions.

### NTTP

The Newark Think Tank meetings are open to the community and are on the 2nd Saturday of the month 11:30 -2pm. The location varies. Meetings are posted online at [www.newarkthinktank.org](http://www.newarkthinktank.org) and on our facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/NewarkThinkTank>

They are also posted in the Newark Advocate newspaper. The group is building our "seat at the table" program where we have members on various boards and committees in the community pertaining to jobs, reentry, mental health, food security etc. We are currently working to identify next steps for a campaign to unite the group altogether at the local level. Our documentary "Up River" was selected and recently shown in the International Columbus Film Festival.

### RCC4C

Restored Citizens and Communities for Change meetings are open to all, and are held the 3rd Monday night of each month from 5-7pm at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 386 Buttles Ave. Columbus. We have a coordinating committee that meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each

month at 6pm for those whose lives or families have been directly impacted by these issues. We have been advocating on juvenile justice legislation at the statehouse on HB410 and SB272. We helped St. John Neumann organize a Poverty Summit at Christ the King focused on reaching employers and people of faith on reentry issues. We are currently working on researching the progress towards sentencing and other statewide reform upcoming to the Ohio Criminal Justice System through the process of the Ohio Recodification Committee. We plan to take action on this in the Fall in into the new General Assembly (see:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Editorials/2016/04/18/Capping-sentences.html>)

### Catholic Foundation Roundtable

It is a fact. Frequently, when Vincentians gather our discussion becomes a complaining session in which we share anecdotes about troubled individuals and families who are genuinely difficult to serve, let alone see Christ in them. We also must admit that these conversations are worthless, if not detrimental, to our mission. The May 19 Catholic Foundation roundtable discussion directed by Tiffiney Hatem, a development officer of the Catholic Foundation, was intentionally different. The event begin with participants praying the liturgical morning prayer for that day – *Matins*. Tiffiney then directed the participants to focus on positive recent accomplishments of their conferences and share them with the group.

Conferences represented were: Newman Center, St. Christopher, St. Michaels, Our Lady of Peace, St. Aloysius, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Anthony, Immaculate Conception, St. Mary's Delaware, St. Joseph's Circleville, St. Augustine,/St. Gabriel, Sacred Heart, Newark.

Going around the table participants reported on what their conferences have accomplished and are planning: what Ms. Hatem called the "wins." There was no detailed recording of the "wins." The purpose was to get a positive overview of what the Society of St. Vincent dePaul accomplishes in the Columbus

Diocese. These positive accomplishments and plans for extensions of services are what Ms. Hatem puts together for reports and presentations to prospective donors to funds managed by the Catholic Foundation. Our stories of people who need help, continually ask for help but just won't let themselves be helped are not stories which inspire people to make large donations. Of course, we have to continue to help such people and search for the face of Christ in them but just not talk about it so much.

Prospective donors like to hear such things as: how Delaware County conferences are significantly increasing their outreach, St. Joseph's, Circleville, is revitalizing itself to serve all of Pickaway County, how much Catholic Foundation Grants have helped St. Anthony's and how several conferences extended their services via twinning. The growth of VOAN is certain to impress.

If there is another such roundtable next year, it would be even better if more conferences throughout the diocese were represented. It is important to have a big and complete picture of all the good which we do.

## Donation Opportunities.

### *Donate directly to the Catholic Foundation*

St. Vincent de Paul's outreach extends into virtually every community in the Columbus Diocese. When the poor and vulnerable have no other place to turn, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is there for them and together, with your support, we always will be.

We have often helped individuals and families who, due to unfortunate life circumstances, face eviction, utility shut-offs, lack of food, or the inability to purchase needed medication. We previously had a fund to cover the emergency needs of individuals and families in our diocese. The money in that fund has been used up due to high demand.

St. Vincent de Paul has established a new fund to help cover the emergency needs of individuals and families in our diocese. The fund helps those who have experienced an unforeseen setback that requires them to receive assistance

with paying rent, utilities, and basic household necessities.

We have set up the fund with The Catholic Foundation. We work with The Catholic Foundation as our trusted partner because they assure peace of mind that our fund is invested in alignment with our Catholic teachings and values.

We need to build up the fund in order to continue to have an impact on those individuals and families in sudden need. You can help us grow the fund by contributing to it at any time and in any amount.

You may donate by a check sent to:  
James A. Anzelmo, Esq.  
Vice President of Development  
The Catholic Foundation  
257 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Please make the check payable to The Catholic Foundation, and note on the memo line "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council of Columbus Donor Advised Fund."

To donate by stock, or to name the fund in your estate plans, contact James A. Anzelmo at 614-443-8893 or [janzelmo@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:janzelmo@catholic-foundation.org).

Join us in continuing the mission of St. Vincent de Paul by helping individuals and families with an emergency need.

## New Presidents

**Church of the Ascension, Johnstown** – David Townsend replacing Don Vocca

**St. John Neumann, Sunbury** – John Kutys replacing Jack Bryant

## Remember in your prayers

William McLoughlin, Christ the King  
Dick (Charles) Bennett, **Immaculate Conception**,

Thomas "Doc" MacKinnon, long time volunteer at St. Lawrence Haven

Gene Gabalski – former Diocesan Council Treasurer, and member of **St. Michael conference**

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL****Officers:**

- Diocesan Council President: Warren Wright
- Diocesan Council Vice President: Bob Zabloudil
- Past President: Bill Sparks
- Treasurer: Janet Jobko
- Secretary: Marie Placide
- At Large: Jody Stahr, Maureen Meck, Sylvia Siemer, Will and Jennifer Matson
- Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Charles Klinger

**District Council Presidents:**

- East: Carl Smith
- East Rural: Richard Shannon
- N-NW: Charles Kielkopf
- N-Central: Maureen Preston
- N-NE: Rich Rossi
- E-SE: Barb Spangler
- South Rural: David Lanning
- Inner-City: Gina Langen
- S-SW: Joffre Moine

Website address:

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org>

**Committee Chairs:**

- Ozanam Orientation: Maureen Meck, Kevin Murphy
- Voice of the Poor: Danielle Gray
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2016 Friends of the Poor Walk: John Willig
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith
- Music: Joann Wright
- Photographer: Angela Ray

**Secretary**, Pat Summers

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

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4:00 p.m.

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**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.**

It is now 1841. Frederic Ozanam is engaged to Mademoiselle Amelie Soulacroix. She has to remain in Lyon while Frederic starts his academic career in Paris. They write to each other frequently. Our founder writes to her of his anxiety about being an adequate husband since his father is long dead and he has never lived with sisters to learn about the ways of women. We find in one letter:

“I have not as so many others do a father’s admonitions to instruct me in my duties; I have no paternal mouth from which to learn the conditions of my happiness: nor was it my lot to live with sisters nor with relations whose conversations would have apprised me of the discretion, considerations, and exigencies which a more balance organization and livelier sensibility demand. I know nothing about the imposing functions of the head of a family, nothing of what it must cost honor to protect a youg wife. I shall offer you a loyal arm but which is nether supple nor very strong; a heart accessible to the sweetest sentiments but also to the most exaggerated disquitetudes; an imagination whose heat must be maintained since it gives life to my speech and my pen, and yet whose disgestion I must constantly war against; solid principle, but a will often weak; work habits nonetheless bare of order and activity: in short, a fortune obscure and shaky at present and uncertain of the future.”

p. 255 Frederic Ozanam: A Life in Letters, Trans & Ed by Joseph I Dirvin C.M. St. Louis, MO 1986