



The VOICE

Columbus Diocese

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Summer 2018

Volume 38 Issue No 3

President's Message Warren Wright



San Diego was the host city for this year's recently-concluded SVDP National Meeting. The theme of the meeting was "One Society Serving in Hope". One Society is 1 of the 7 cultural beliefs of SVDP, the other 6

being *Spiritual Growth, Servant Leadership, Today's Society (Embracing New and Diverse People and Ideas), Embrace Accountability, Inclusive Planning, and Advocate for Justice*. We live this cultural belief through the twinning activities that we conduct both domestically and internationally.

Of note, the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan with its 17 goals in five areas was approved by the National Council. The five areas, taken by breaking down the new mission statement - *A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through relationships with and service to people in need*. A copy of the plan and goals are accessible from this issue of the VOICE.

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org/National%20SVDP%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf>

Please take the time to review it. Over the next few months, the Diocesan Council will be reaching out to all conferences for your input as we make the goals specific to the Columbus Diocese.

Bishop Donald Hying of the Diocese of Gary, IN, the new National Spiritual Advisor,

conducted a morning of spiritual reflection focused on how we lay down our life for our friends (i.e. empty ourselves) during our Vincentian ministries. His reflections examined this scripture passage from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:5-11: *Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men.*

And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, yes, the death of the cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave to him the name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Bishop Hying remarks were recorded and will be available for download from the National website (www.svdpusa.org). I encourage all conferences to use this recording during one of your meetings for spiritual reflection and discussion.

One of the questions Bishop Hying asked during his remarks is, "If SVDP ran out of material resources for those we serve, would we cease to exist?" The answer was a resounding NO. The most important gift we bring to those we serve is the gift of presence and a listening heart. Home visits, even without material assistance, are essential to our ministry as Vincentians. This is where we build personal relationships with the friends we serve.

Many Blessings,

Warren

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

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday September 29, 2018 Friends of the Poor Walk at the St. Frances de Sales HS and track. 10 AM, check-in and preliminary events 9 AM

Saturday, October 20, 2018, Ozanam Orientation from 9 am to 3:30 pm at St. Andrew Church in the Upper Arlington area of Columbus. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Cost is \$20/person. Register by contacting Pat Summers at psummers@columbuscatholic.org or 614-221-3554 by the close of business on Monday, October 15, 2018.

2018 Friends of Poor Walk Is Almost Here

Coming soon is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Columbus 2018 FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK. It will be held on September 29, at 10:00 AM at St. Francis de Sales High School, 4212 Karl Road Columbus, OH 43224. Registration starts at 9:00 AM. The Guest Speaker will be Rachel Muha. She heads the Brian Muha Foundation and the Run the Race Club, which makes life better for inner city children.

This unique walk raises needed funds for the poor--all proceeds from the walk go back to each walker's local St. Vincent De Paul Conference to serve the needy in their community.

To register online or to donate, go to <http://www.fopwalk.org> Registration and pledge forms are available from conference Walk contact people. For questions, contact Jim Williams, willia8@columbus.rr.com

Heads up Re: Revised Financial Mentor Training

This summer a committee has been meeting to revise and formalize our mentor training. John Murphy (St. Edwards, Granville), Bill Longenbaker and Sheri Cook (St. Paul's, Westerville), Sue Ruffley (Our Lady of Perpetual

Help, Grove City) and Deb Zabloudil (St. Paul's, Westerville) have been working on the revisions. This promises to improve and expand our offerings, so watch for the next date to offer the training this fall. You'll find the improvements to be impressive!

By: Deb Zabloudil

First 2019 Ozanam Orientation

Every Vincentian should participate in an Ozanam Orientation at least once. It is time to start thinking about the Ozanam Orientation to be offered at Seton Parish in Pickerington, January 19, 2019. Pre-Registration is required, and the deadline will be Tuesday, January 15 at noon. The check-in begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program starts at 9:00 AM and ends by 3:00PM. Call 614-221-3554 to pre-register.

Report on: Predatory Lending Forum, June 14 as prelude to victory over predatory lending

Special circumstances brought drama to the June 14 Community Forum on Predatory Lending at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic church in Westerville. The diocesan SVdP along with the Center for Responsible Lending, Metro Federal Credit Union and CME Federal Credit Union assembled a passionate and articulate panel around Dr. Carl Ruby, Pastor Central Christian of Springfield and leader of Ohioans for Payday Loan Reform.

The special circumstances were that the Ohio House after a long struggle had decided on a speaker of the house. Without a speaker, the house could pass no legislation. There had been difficulties selecting a speaker of the house. The previous speaker, Cliff Rosenberger, resigned under investigation for trips he had taken sponsored by payday lending lobbyists. Then the Ohio House, on this very day June 14, voted 71 to 17 in favor of HB 123 which would lower interest rates and limit payments to 5% of a borrowers gross monthly income. Hopes were

high because there had finally been a legislative victory. Anxiety remained. The bill was on its way to the Ohio Senate where all feared it would face serious challenges. This mixture of hope and fear became a rallying point for encouraging participants to contact their Ohio State senators to support Ohio House Bill 123.

As Summer passed on, the fears seemed to be the realistic outlook as the bill languished in the senate. Suddenly, on July 10, a version of the bill passed the Ohio Senate. We leave explanations to political analysts. It was sent to Governor John Kasich who signed it into law on July 30. It becomes law in ninety days.

Ohio now has the most restrictive laws on so-called payday lending. Until recently, the short-term loan industry had decried the Colorado law on which the original Ohio House Bill 123 was modeled, saying Colorado drove small lenders from the market. Now the industry made it clear it would prefer Colorado's law to what Ohio has placed before it — with even tougher restrictions on interest, fees, and borrower income qualifications.

Passage of HB123 does not diminish the importance of our Micro-loan program. Borrowing from payday to payday is not part of healthy family financing. The Micro-loan program with its low interest, high standards for eligibility along with financial mentoring protects people from frivolous borrowing while guiding them towards rational money management.

Report on: 2018 Day of Recollection, August 19

Our annual Day of Recollection was Sunday, August 19, 2018 from 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Martin de Porres Center on the campus of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. From 9-9:30 coffee, juice, fruit and rolls were available along with opportunities for Vincentian friendship amongst the forty-one Vincentians from eighteen conferences attending. The morning session began at 9:30AM. A club sandwich buffet from

11:30-12:30 separated the morning from afternoon sessions.

Andrea Pannell, the Columbus Diocesan Episcopal Moderator of Development and Planning was the facilitator.

The general format for both sessions was prayer for all the participants before discussion of reflection questions at separate tables. After a period of discussion people from the separate tables had the opportunity to tell the whole group about answers and issues brought out at their tables.

The theme for the day of recollection was "Participating in a Greater Love." Many ideas were put forth by Ms. Pannell to develop this theme. One very intriguing idea is expressed as: "hurt people hurt others." If we participate in a greater love by allowing God's love to heal our "hurts" we serve others with a greater love than that of our own feelings.

An interesting exercise closed the program. Each table was asked to draw a poster representing a significant concept from the days' discussion. Then each table went to the stage to explain their poster. Participants found this enjoyable and informative.

Mass at 2:30PM in Motherhouse chapel concluded the Day of Recollection. Fr. Charlie Klinger, Diocesan Council spiritual advisor was the celebrant. As usual Fr. Klinger's homily was insightful. Fr. Klinger's homily developed a theme in the "Bread of Life" gospel passage (Jn 6:51-58) for 2018's Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary time. The homily theme fit well with the day's theme of participating in a greater love.

The homily theme was to expand the love of eucharistic ministers to the sick. His paradigm of a loving eucharistic minister was the late Fr. Larry (Judge) Reichert who in his last illness said that his greatest regret was being unable to bring the bread of life to sick Catholics who hungered for it. In bringing the eucharist to others, we participate in a palpable way in bringing God's love to others. We can expand this paradigm of bringing God's eucharistic love to others by thinking of all our services as primarily bringing God's love to others. We should be eager to go

out to bring this greater love than ours to those we serve.

Sukiti Williams/ Destiny Davis Scam

On June 28, Pat Summers sent out the following email.

Dear Presidents, please be aware of the following scam:

Client: Destiny Davis – requesting rental assistance

294 N. Roosevelt Ave., Columbus
43209

Landlord: Sukita Williams

Sukita Williams is not the landlord. These two people are cashing SVdP conference checks and keeping the money.

I opened this email after returning from a “home visit” to Destiny Davis at which we wrote a \$475.00 check to Sukiti Williams. I am embarrassed to admit that I allowed the Immaculate Conception conference to be deceived by the Destiny Davis/ /Sukita Williams scam.

My wife received a call on our land line from a Glenna Smith. This Ms. Smith claimed that a Fr. Peter had referred her to me. She expressed certainty that she could secure housing for a homeless single mother of two, Destiny Davis, if they could make a first month’s rent payment of \$475 in the next 24 hours. When I got home, I called this Glenna Smith and heard a similar demand for immediate action. To confirm that a rent request over the phone was legitimate, Jim Emley and I drove way down to a day care center on 1730 S. Lockbourne to meet Destiny Davis. The meeting at the Day Care center was in lieu of a home visit since Destiny was homeless until she could get into the house at 876 S. Ohio. We met Destiny at the Perfect Learning Day Care Center allegedly operated by a Glenda Smith. This young woman who said she was the operator of the day care center was sitting in an office which made her look as if she was in charge of the center. She said that she was in contact with the rental agent Sukita Williams. She said that we had to act quickly because she had to leave for business in a few minutes. A

young lady who said she was Destiny Davis expressed appreciation for helping her out of homelessness. I wrote a check to Sukita Williams for \$475 and then gave it to Glenda Smith for delivery to Sukita Williams. We joined hands, said an “Our Father “ and left.

By: Charles Kielkopf, Immaculate
Conception, Columbus,

Re: Our Spiritual Mission

The winter 2018 Voice focused on works of charity performed by conferences and confederation of conferences. The spring 2018 Voice focused on Vincentian struggles for systemic change and justice. These issues showed Vincentians walking on our two feet of **charity and justice**. Walking towards what? Our Vincentian mission is to grow spiritually by works of charity and pursuit of justice. Spiritual growth doesn’t just happen. Its pursuit must be intentional. The summer 2018 issue highlights how two conferences intentionally pursue spiritual growth.

The St. Elizabeth Conference would like to share what we did for an evening of reflection. We focused on the Vincentian virtue of SIMPLICITY. Each person was asked to pick a source, quote from that source and relate what meaning that source had to them about simplicity. Submissions were limited to 1 typewritten page. The submissions were compiled and copied so that each person would have a copy.

We began our evening with a potluck. Then, each person read their reflection. A faith-sharing discussion followed. Surprisingly, there were no duplications. By the end of the reflection, each of us were amazed at what we learned about simplicity. It was agreed that we would try this again. Since there are 5 virtues special to Vincentians, we have plenty of material to use.

By Margaret Kennedy, Spiritual Advisor, St. Elizabeth Conference.

Some comments from St. Elizabeth members are as follows.

“My faith is a simple faith. I try to be the best person I can be every day. I live a simple Catholic life, it is who I am”. - Terry H.

“I value simplicity as a concept, but living it takes discipline... I try not to buy impulsively and to live below my means, saving and giving alms as well...Putting God first and other people next makes the stuff less important”. - Tim K.

“When spelling out simplicity, the first and last letters sums up the meaning of simplicity and the Society of SVDP. S if for God being the SOURCE of our talents, skills, good will and commitment. Y is for YOU and what you bring to our SVDP group.” -- Joan M.

From Keri Wyatt Kent's book: *Rest: Living in Sabbath Simplicity*

1. Get Real about the Pace of Your life.
 2. Be Honest about Your Motivation.
 3. Value Relationships Over Productivity
 4. Revise Your Life to Make Room for Rest
 5. Take Time to Play
 6. Make Your Spiritual Life a Priority
- Toni V.

We keep it simple at St. Peter's Columbus.
 I make a copy of our weekly SVdP reflections for each member.
 Then, I have them take turns reading the Gospel, Reflection, and Meditation.
 We then have our discussion on how reflections effect your life.
 We close with the reflections closing prayer.
 We do this at the beginning of each meeting after our opening prayers.

By: Bill Dotzauer
St. Peter SVdP

Microloan report, as of Sept. 1

Some statistics

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|---------------------------------------|----|
| Loans made since inception of program | 31 |
| Active loans | 21 |
| Paid off loans | 6 |
| Defaults | 4 |

Loans are made through credit unions in Licking, Knox, Delaware, Fairfield, Ross and Franklin counties. The program will be expanded into other counties.

Some policy issues

The county microloan boards decided to add two new types of loans . They added paying off payday loans and loans for security deposits. ans. These are added to the previously approved list of:

- car repair
- home repair
- medical expenses not covered by insurance or hospital/doctor’s office write-down
- educational expenses

The boards are sharpening the standards for home repair loans along with discussing whether or not to add appliance loans.

Vincentian Wedding Anniversaries

The Diocese of Columbus honored hundreds of couples who have been married for 25 years or longer at the annual Jubilee of Anniversaries on Sunday, June 24. Several Vincentian couples were honored.

65 years – Bob and Mary Lou Scheeser – St. Anthony
 55 years – Gary and Vera White – Sts. Augustine/Gabriel
 50 Years – Anthony and Nancy Grilli – St. Mary, Groveport
 50 Years -Frank and Carole Schmidt, Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
 45 Years – Rich and Cathy Rossi – St. Mary, Delaware
 40 Years – Bill and Kathie Dotzauer – St. Peter, Columbus

New Presidents

St. Mary, Delaware: Michael Bowe, replacing Dick Arndt.
Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Jim Emley replacing Charles Kielkopf

Remember in Your Prayers

Betty Petrarca, St. Michael SVdP conference
Timothy J. “Tim” Kinney, St. Leonard, Heath

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| DIOCESAN COUNCIL |
|-------------------------|

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- Diocesan Council President: Warren Wright
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- S-SW: Tony Jones

Website address:

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org>

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/svdpcolumbus>

Committee Chairs:

- Ozanam Orientation: Maureen Meck, Kevin Murphy
- Voice of the Poor: Vacant
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2018 Friends of the Poor Walk: Jim Williams
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith
- Music: Joann Wright
- Photographer: Angela Ray

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.

Proposed Prayer before a home visit to evaluate an appeal:

Come Holy Spirit open our minds and fill our hearts with your love so that

We have the **knowledge** to ask the right questions

We have the **wisdom** to understand the answers and distinguish doubts from grave doubts

We have the **compassion** to say Yes when there are only doubts

But

We have the **fortitude** to say No when there are grave doubts.

Amen