



# The VOICE

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

Winter 2018

Volume 38 Issue No 1

## President's Message Warren Wright



Lenten blessings to everyone as we enter this holy season in preparation for the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior.

This issue of The VOICE highlights the many

outstanding works of charity being conducted in our Columbus Diocese. Thanks to all Vincentians who make these works possible and to the contributors to the articles which follow here. If a work of your conference is not here, we look forward to highlighting it in a future issue.

I am pleased to report that our first *Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World* course at the Marion Franklin Opportunity Center is now completed. The graduation ceremony for the 12 investigators will take place at 11 am on Tuesday, Feb 27, 2018 in the auditorium of the Marion-Franklin Opportunity Center on Lockbourne Road in South Columbus. All are welcome to attend. The second 16-week *Getting Ahead* Session will begin on Thursday, Feb 22 at Columbus Central High on W State Street. Ten new investigators will take part in this session.

Congratulations to the Ross County Microloan Program, which recently made its first microloan. The Licking County Program continues to lead the way in making loans, while the Franklin,

Delaware, and Fairfield County Programs should be making their first loans shortly.

Home visitor training will be conducted on Sat. March 17, 2018 from 9 to 11:30 am at St. Margaret of Cortona Church on Hague Ave in west Columbus. The training facilitator will be Sunnie Lain, Director of Member Services for the Dayton District Council. This training will be more detailed than what is provided in Ozanam Orientation. There is NO COST for attendance. Each conference is encouraged to have at least 1 Vincentian at the training. Register with Pat Summers by March 13, 2017.

Thanks to Jim Williams for agreeing to serve as Chair of the 2018 Friends of the Poor Walk. Jim has served on the planning committee over the last few years. He is looking for volunteers to assist with the 2018 FOP Walk. If interested, please contact Jim at [jwillia8@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jwillia8@columbus.rr.com).

Peace, 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

**Sunday, March 11, 3 pm.** Youth Commissioning at St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville, OH. Mass followed by reception. All are welcome to celebrate with our Young Vincentians.

**Saturday, March 17, 9 am to 11:30 AM,** Home Visitor Training at St. Margaret of Cortona Church on Hague Ave in West Columbus. NO COST. Each conference is encouraged to have at least 1 Vincentian at the training. Register with Pat Summers by March 13, 2017.

**Saturday, May 5, Mass at 4:30 pm followed by dinner.** The 2018 Top Hat Mass and Celebration at St. Charles Prep Chapel and Cavello Center.

**Sunday, August 19, 2018 Day of Recollection, 9 am to 3 pm, Martin de Porres Center,**  
Facilitator: Andrea Pannell; Theme:  
*Participating in a Greater Love*

**Saturday September 29 2018 Friends of the Poor Walk** at the St. Frances de Sales HS and track.

**Saturday, October 20, 9 AM – 4PM, Ozanam Orientation, St. Andrews, Upper Arlington**

### Catholic Foundation Grants

The Catholic Foundation awarded two new grants.

1. Healthy Future Grant for food at St. Lawrence Haven
2. Hand Up Grant for clothing at the Clothing Distribution Center

Thanks to Heather Swiger for pursuing these grants and to all who made these grants possible.

### Report on 2017 Bishop's Appreciation Mass for Vincentian Volunteers

On the seasonably pleasant December 4 evening, over one hundred Vincentians enjoyed once again the hospitality of the St. Joseph Cathedral conference. A full moon illuminated the parking lot. After 6:30 pm Mass, the conference provided their traditional full meal buffet in the cathedral undercroft. As usual, there was an array of deserts. The only disappointment of the evening was Bishop Campbell's absence. A sudden illness kept him in bed. Fortunately, Fr. Adam Steitenberger, who substituted for Bishop Campbell drew insights into Frederic Ozanam's spirituality from that day's gospel passage. This was the passage about the centurion who told Jesus that he was not worthy that Jesus should enter under his roof. Vincentians, with home

visits, show the poor that they are worthy for us to enter under their roof. We show them that we all are of equal worth. We see the face of Christ in them and we show the face of Christ to them.

It was a joy to have about a hundred guests. All those attending received a special Christmas ornament Warren Wright brought back from the 2017 National Assembly. Each ornament is mouth-blown glass and individually designed and inscribed by Mary Margaret Cannon. For more about these ornaments, see Glorious Gifts: <http://www.4gloriousgifts.com>

### Toy Store @The Clothing Distribution

Congratulations to Heather Swiger for creating and operating The Vincentian Affordable Toy Store!

From Dec. 18 through Dec. 20, the St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Center was converted into an Affordable Toy Store. People, especially Immaculate Conception students, donated new toys costing less than \$50. Families with children who had been seeking assistance throughout the year were asked to register to shop in the Vincentian Affordable Toy Store. They were invited to shop in the store at specific times. The toys were priced way below cost. Clients unable to pay even the modest prices were able earn the price with volunteer hours.

Results:

78 families registered totaling 250 children. The store served 50 families totaling 150 children. 5 of the families were served free. 1000 gifts were sold at an average gift price of \$.75. Twenty volunteers assisted.

### Funeral Fund Needs Donations

The St. Vincent de Paul Funeral Fund was started in 2004 when it was determined that there was a need to help families bury their loved ones. Fifteen families were helped during the first year and this number has increased annually. JOIN coordinates the contributions from the SVdP fund in Central Ohio. Conferences outside Central Ohio should call Kathy Jones directly. She will

be happy to help their clients. Her home phone number is 614-457-9262

Since the last request for donations in August 2016, the fund assisted eighty-seven families for a total of \$8900. Now more funding is necessary. It is hoped that each Conference will participate and send as much as they are able. Thanks so much to the Conferences who have given in the past and will continue to contribute to this important work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent de Paul Funeral Fund and send to the address below.

Kathy Jones, Treasurer  
St. Vincent de Paul Funeral Fund  
1297 Slade Avenue  
Columbus OH 43235

### Progress on The Microloan Program

Zeb Dabloudil announced with great excitement that we that we are ready to start making loans as part of the Franklin County Microloan Program. We have mentors trained in our county, we have funds available in our credit union account at Metro Federal Credit Union, and we have procedures in place that we'd like to share with you. Contact: [zebdaboludil@gmail.com](mailto:zebdaboludil@gmail.com) or one of the Franklin County board members; Arun Alex ([alexarun@yahoo.com](mailto:alexarun@yahoo.com)) Erin Hennessey ([eghennessey@aol.com](mailto:eghennessey@aol.com)) George Rooney ([ggrooney@yahoo.com](mailto:ggrooney@yahoo.com))

### Editor's Note

A focus of this issue is on our Society's' works of charity; especially some performed by several conferences of a county working together or those with a "business" operation. The reports show that adding to our vision efforts towards systemic change and social justice in no way compromise our traditional personal direct aid to people in need. Indeed the reports show that focusing on **just four counties outside the I-270 Beltway** the range of Vincentian services offered in the Columbus Diocese equals that of any

diocese in the United States. And more is being planned; in Delaware County for instance.

What Vincentians do, we do. So we all are doing a great deal to help the poor even if in our conference we seem to do little more than make sandwiches occasionally and deliver a few groceries.

The editor regrets being unable to published all of the reports on the impressive charitable works of conferences cooperating with one another. But a newsletter should not be too long. Some reports have been set aside for the spring 2018 issue.

### Fairfield County

*The Lancaster Community Conference* serves Fairfield County. St. Mary of the Assumption, St. Mark, St. Bernadette and St. Joseph, Sugar Grove comprise the Lancaster Community Conference. This combined conference offers a variety of charitable assistance. Assistance is started by dialing 211.

The Conference operates a thrift store which makes gently used clothing available for purchase at a minimal price. It is located at 424 Locust Street, Lancaster OH, 43130. All money obtained from the sale of the clothing goes towards covering the expenses of the store, purchasing food for the pantry, and for all other charitable work of the Conference. For those who cannot afford to pay for the clothing, the store provides the clothing free of charge.

A partial list of the conference's works of charity shows us.

- The conference monthly provides food boxes to individuals and families in need. For those who are not able to pick up food boxes at the pantry, arrangements can be made for home delivery.
- Conference members and volunteers take fruit, treats, and hugs to residents of several area nursing homes each month
- Crutches, walkers, wheelchairs and other health related items are available, at no cost, at our store.

- Twice per month the evening meal is provided to a local shelter.
- If requested, pallbearers and burial clothing for those in need are provided.
- In an emergency, and on a case by case basis, SVdP offers limited financial assistance for utilities, car repair and prescription drugs.
- We also offer emergency lodging for the Pearl House and can provide 1/2 of the deposit for the Pearl House\* and Rutherford House. \*\*
- Our school voucher program fills the gap by providing parents with a \$100 voucher per child to purchase school clothes for their children enrolled in preschool or kindergarten within Fairfield County
- Twinning with Adams County, Perry County, Helping St Francis Center in Mc Arthur  
All conferences that ask for help

The Lancaster Community Conference does the above and more with 4,000 member volunteer hours, 2,400 non-member volunteer hours and 13,073 miles traveled in doing so.

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 \***The Pearl House** is a development designed for chemically dependent parents in recovery with children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness,

\*\***The Rutherford House** is a 16 unit apartment complex for families who previously experienced homelessness and all families include at least one person with a disability.

**Licking County**

Six parish conferences manage the operation of The St. Vincent de Paul Center located at 115-135 Wilson St., Newark, Ohio 43055. The units of the Center are the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, and the St. Vincent Haven. The six parishes are St. Francis de Sales Church, Church of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Edward the Confessor, St. Leonard, Church of the Ascension and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Profits from the

Thrift Store support the work of St. Vincent Haven and the food pantry.

The food pantry is a part of the Licking County Food Pantry Network and the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. It is manned by Vincentians from the area churches, and food donations also come from the local St. Vincent de Paul Conferences. The hours of operation are Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. and on Saturday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. The food pantry is the original choice pantry in Licking County. Now all 19 pantries in Licking County are choice pantries.

When the family/individual signs-in for a pantry service they initial on the computer that they meet the financial needs developed by the food pantry network. We do not verify the income - it is a faith/trust based need.

Last year we served 2876 families representing 7811 people. This was an average of 240 families a month representing 651 people. We are the second busiest pantry in Licking County. St. Vincent Haven is a 26-bed emergency and transitional shelter for men 18 and older who are homeless in Licking County. All services rendered by St. Vincent Haven are free of charge.

A call to the St. Vincent de Paul help line, 740-349-0989 begins the process of obtaining financial assistance for rent, utilities, or other kinds of assistance

During 2018, the SVdP Conferences will cooperate in an ecumenical outreach to provide a family homeless shelter to be called Trinity Hope. This project is made possible through the generous sharing of the facilities of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 592 West Main Street, in Newark.

Visit The Center's informative website with numerous links to other services. Visit <http://www.stvincentdepaulcenter.org/>

**Perry County**

Kathy Horn from the Perry County Consortium reported the following summary of the Consortium's 2017 services. The Perry County Consortium is composed of St. Rose, in

New Lexington; St. Bernard, in Corning; St. Patrick of Junction City and Church of the Atonement of Crooksville.

In 2017, we assisted 248 families with financial support for such things as utilities, prescription medications, fuel for heat, overnight boarding and rent. Included in the 248 family count is 80 families helped by our annual Thanksgiving dinner and turkey project. SVdP donated 80 turkeys and the parishioners from the consortium donated the groceries for a traditional thanksgiving dinner. We worked with the county Children Services and the Southern Local School to obtain a list of those in need then distributed the turkey and groceries the Monday before Thanksgiving.

Our Center operates out of the old convent at St. Bernard's Church in Corning, Ohio. Our Center/Store is open on Tuesdays from 10-1. Clients can get canned food, bread, fresh produce, milk, cleaning supplies, paper products and clothing for a \$1 donation. The Center/store is run by volunteers - on Monday, volunteers stock shelves, sort, and steam and hang clothing in preparation for the store. We have a volunteer who drives his truck and trailer to pick up Dollar General donations. These donations are unloaded at the center by the volunteers and a local youth group with their custodian. We also have a volunteer that drives her SUV to pick up food and sometimes fresh produce from the South-Eastern Ohio food bank. The total number of households helped through the store in 2017 was 112. The total number of people was 325. The total number of volunteer hours was 1840 and the total miles traveled was 11,643. We supplied 18 food baskets to clients on a request basis. There is a great newspaper article with images in the Perry County Tribune, May 31, 2017 issue.

[https://www.perrytribune.com/community/article\\_6faae5ee-41f5-5aba-ac24-4b076bb9c0b1.html](https://www.perrytribune.com/community/article_6faae5ee-41f5-5aba-ac24-4b076bb9c0b1.html)

Our goals for 2018 are to grow our numbers, increase center hours and reach more clients throughout the County. We have financial support from the Lancaster SVdP, 5th Sunday, collections, and private donations.

## Marion County

St. Mary in Marion, founded in 1864, is the only Catholic Church in Marion County. Still the conference operates a store

Marion Society of St Vincent was started in 1928. Current facility at 342 N Main St was purchased in July 2008. 170 volunteers organize and operate the Food Pantry and Thrift Center, helping our society function and carry on the work of St Vincent de Paul. Main objective is to help the needy and less fortunate in our community by, amongst other services, offering a food pantry and thrift center.

The food pantry is a choice pantry. The Food Pantry is open Tuesday thru Saturday 10AM to noon. It serves 20 plus families a day. Clients receive food for 3 meals a day for each family member, to last 3-5 days. The pantry served 3380 families (households), 9252 people in 2016. It ordered over 47 tons of food from Mid-Ohio Food Bank – costing \$38,000.00. As a special feature it delivered annual Christmas baskets to 120 families, containing 2 boxes of food plus ham, potatoes, bread and milk for a Christmas meal and other staples

## Change of Officers

**Seton Parish SVdP Conference.** Pat Wallace takes over as an interim president to replace Joe Kruger,

## Remember in Your Prayers

**Tony Aquista** – St. Pius X, treasurer for many years

**Andy Andracki**, St. Timothy, Past President  
**Joe Flanagan**, Former National President, New Jersey

**Joyce O'Neil**, Treasurer, St. Paul, and Delaware County Microloan Board Member

<b>DIOCESAN COUNCIL</b>
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**Officers:**

- Diocesan Council President: Warren Wright
- 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: John Harsh
- N-NW: Charles Kielkopf
- N-Central: Maureen Preston
- N-NE: Rich Rossi
- E-SE: Kathi Jackson
- South Rural: David Lanning
- Inner-City: Marie Placide
- 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: Danielle Gray
- 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**

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

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@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:hswiger@columbuscatholic.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.**

As we move forward walking with our two feet of charity and justice, we need to realize that our rule requires us to walk toward systemic change.

### Rule 7.6 of Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Where injustice, inequality, poverty or exclusion are due to unjust economic, political, or social structures or to inadequate or unjust legislation, the Society should speak out clearly against the situation, always with charity, with the aim of contributing to and demanding improvements.