



The VOICE

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Columbus Diocese

Winter 2017

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President's Message Warren Wright

Happy winter to everyone! There are some exciting happenings in our Council.

The Microloan program in Licking County is now underway, with 3 loans having been made. Many thanks to Deb Zabloudil of St. Elizabeth and the Licking County Vincentians coordinating this important work. In Franklin County, the Diocesan Council has signed a Microloan agreement with Columbus Metro Federal Credit Union. We received an anonymous \$6,000 grant earmarked for opening the Microloan Acct. More details follow in Deb's article in this issue of *The Voice*.



Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World Facilitators Training will be held on Sat, Feb 18, 2017 at the Seigle Center of Mt Carmel East from 8 am to 4:30 pm. A joint letter from Mount Carmel and SVdP describing our collaboration and the training is attached. The training is for persons interested in being a facilitator of the aHa Process' 16-week Getting Ahead course that we anticipate offering in conjunction with the Mount Carmel Health System to those we serve later in 2017 and then continuously over the coming years. In addition to the work of the Vincentian Ohio Action Network being led by Wendy Tarr, *Getting Ahead* sessions will become an important element of Systemic Change work in the Council. Trained facilitators are crucial to the success of the Getting Ahead course. The training will be conducted by Phil DeVol, one of the developers

of the Getting Ahead course. Because of the generosity of Mount Carmel, there will be no cost to attend this training.

The Columbus Diocesan Council has been the beneficiary of tremendous generosity from Vincentians, the Bishop's Annual Appeal, the Catholic Foundation and others in the Columbus Diocese community. Most of the donations have benefitted our charity work at St. Lawrence Haven, the Saturday Food Program, and the Clothing Center.

Having entered into Systemic Change (or Justice) activities, including the SVdP Microloan Programs, the Vincentian Ohio Action Network (Newark Think Tank on Poverty and Restored Citizens and Communities for Change), Voice of the Poor, *Bridges Out of Poverty* and *Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World*, we now need a source of funding for these activities.

To that end, conference presidents will be receiving an email/letter in the next month requesting that their conference consider a donation toward our systemic change work of \$1,000 or whatever can be afforded. I understand that some conferences can afford more than others. The donation does not need to be contributed all at once – a partial amount (e.g. \$200) could come from each of your 5th weekend collections during the year. Please discuss this at your next conference meeting. As the US Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us, Catholic disciples are called to put Two Feet of Love in Action. The Two Feet (Charity and Justice) cannot walk effectively without each other. Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

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!

March 6, Deadline for Top Hat nominations
March 19, Sunday 2PM, Youth Commissioning St. Paul the Apostle,
April 22, Saturday, Top Hat Award and Celebration, Mass 4:30PM in St. Charles Chapel followed by dinner and entertainment in St. Charles Cavallo Hall.
May 6, Ozanan Orientation, Saturday 9AM – 3PM, St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville

Heads Up on the 2017 Friends of the Poor Walk

John Willig will again serve as Chair for organizing the 2017 Friends of the Poor Walk. The walk will take place on Saturday, September 22, 2017. Stay tuned for more information.

New National President



Ralph Middlecamp has been elected to succeed Sheila Gilbert as our next National president. His term begins October 1, 2017.

Ralph gave our 2011 Day of Recollection on the founders of our society. He also brought out how Frederic Ozanan was a pioneer in the development of Catholic Social Teaching.

Mission of Voice of the Poor

Under the leadership Danielle Grey, the Voice of the Poor Committee formulated a mission statement to characterize its work in the Columbus Diocese. It differs from the National SVdP Voice of the Poor mission because in the Columbus Diocese the focus is on more than legislative advocacy. The Voice of the Poor Committee is important because it is the center where the several programs for systemic change report results and explore new directions.

Diocesan Council president Warren Wright wrote that Vincentians walk the Walk of Love with the two feet of justice and charity. The Voice of the Poor committee coordinates the movements of the justice foot. The mission statement reads as follows.

As the advocacy arm of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and guided by Catholic Social Teaching; it is the mission of the Voice of the Poor committee to work with Vincentians and those in poverty to create systemic change by identifying structures, societal and legislative, that cause and perpetuate poverty and strive to end poverty by promoting strategies that lead to the empowerment of people in poverty.

Progress on the Microloan Project

Our microloan project is moving forward. Below is an excerpt from a letter by its chair, Deb Zabloudil, to presidents of conferences in Franklin and Licking counties.



I am on the Diocesan planning committee for a new venture being undertaken by our Council, the St. Vincent de Paul Microloan Program.

The mission of this project is "to provide the individuals we serve with an effective alternative to high interest predatory loans and to create a community where individuals are provided with financial mentorship and consumer protection information by members of St. Vincent de Paul and others who have lived experience struggling with access to financial services."

That's a mouthful - but I wanted to share our official mission with you as a way of encapsulating this project in one sentence! The other purpose of this email is to ask your help. A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes for almost three years to make this project a reality. We now have a financial partner in Franklin County, Metro Federal Credit Union in

Whitehall. We already have a partner in Licking County, TrueCore Credit Union, and have initiated our first three loans as part of our pilot of the Microloan program!

It is important to us that we make this happen for two reasons. First, we are finding that we are serving people who are already caught in the predatory lending trap, with little hope of breaking out and that has exacerbated their experience of poverty. The second reason, we have a lot of people we are serving who are really in a position of being able to take out a small, low-interest loan to pay for emergency expenses (like car repairs). And because they are working, they would be in a position to be able to pay this back. This would help maintain their dignity and it would allow us to ease up some of the pressure on our conference funds for those emergency situations for those who would be unable to pay back the funds.”

As we move forward all Vincentians can with this program. The program expands county by county. There needs to a credit union to handle the banking and credit unions work only within counties. A board for a county needs to be formed, a credit union found, donations to back the loans must be deposited and then financial mentors need to be trained.

Our web site:

http://www.svdpcolumbus.org/microloan_mission illustrates the program in greater detail.

From VOAN

VOAN stands for “Vincentian Ohio Action Network.” One of the action groups is Restored Citizens and Communities for Change (RCC4C). Our community organizer, Wendy Tarr organized this group in which citizens returning from incarceration learn to be advocates for changes which improve life for people in their special situation. Wendy’s call for the February meeting shows their focus. “We will have our monthly meeting on **Monday, Feb. 20th from 5-7pm** at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 386 Buttles Ave. Dinner will be provided.

We will be giving an update on what we know about legislative items dealing with criminal justice reform in Ohio -- including expanding expungement, sentencing reform, parole reforms, and addressing workplace barriers in CQEs. Lots to share! We will also be working on plans for engaging our elected officials (and others) around these issues. Come and help us in this important work”.

[follow RCC4C on Facebook.](#)

District Structure

During the fall 2016 workshop for new presidents, it came out that many presidents in the diocese were unaware of the division of conferences into nine district councils. These councils provide a framework for regional cooperation between councils. This division is listed below.

EAST DISTRICT

District Council President: Vacant,

Christ the King, Columbus,

President: Carl Smith,

Holy Spirit Columbus,

President: Judy Bracken,

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal,

President: George Medary,

Seton Parish, Pickerington,

President: Joe & Valerie Kruger,

St. Catharine, Columbus,

President: Denny Devine,

St. Mary, Groveport,

President: Mark Miller,

St. Philip, Columbus

President: Sue Wein,

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg,

President: Michael Krolikowski,

St. Thomas the Apostle, Columbus,

President: Thomas Hores

EAST RURAL DISTRICT

District Council President: Richard Shannon,

Holy Trinity, Bolivar,

President: Margaret Gursky,
**Perry County Consortium - St. Rose, New
 Lexington,**

President: Linda Klingler,
Sacred Heart, Coshocton,
 President: Richard Shannon,
St. John, Logan,

Co- Presidents: Jennifer Brown, Gretchen
 Tomson

St. Nicholas, Zanesville,
 President: Thomas Pitcock,

St. Thomas Aquinas, Zanesville,
 President: Mike Whiteman,

EAST SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

District Council President: Barb Spangler,

Church of The Ascension, Johnstown

President: Daniel Townsend,

Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Newark,
 President: Amy Ghiloni,

Lancaster Catholic Community, Lancaster,
 President: Jerry Welker,

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Buckeye Lake,
 President: Harold Crabtree,

St. Edward the Confessor, Granville,
 President: Kathi Jackson,

St. Francis DeSales, Newark,
 President: Deb Cook-Gorsuch,

St. Leonard, Heath,
 President: Gloria Gill,

St. Mary, Bremen,
 President: Angi Skinner,

St. Vincent dePaul, Mt. Vernon
 Presidents: Patricia Kent, Tony Spiegel

COLUMBUS INNER-CITY DISTRICT

District Council President: Gina Langen,

St. Augustine/St. Gabriel, Columbus,
 President: Marie Placide,

St. Francis of Assisi, Columbus,
 President: Lori Kuczynski,

St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus,

President: Renee Shousie,

St. Mary, Columbus,
 President: Frank Wickham,

St. James the Less, Columbus,

President: Mary Alice Shields,

St. Thomas More Newman Center-OSU,
 President: Linda Cannon ,

St. Ladislav, Columbus,
 President: Tony Jones,

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

District Council President: Maureen Preston

St. Michael, Worthington,

President: Maureen Preston,

St. Andrew, Columbus,

President: Dan Fleck

St. Agatha, Columbus,

President: Patricia Caldwell,

St. Peter, Columbus,

President: Bill Dotzauer,

St. Joan of Arc, Powell,

President: Dave Boudreau,

St. Paul, Westerville,

President: Jane Nieman,

NORTH NORTHEAST DISTRICT

District Council President: Rich Rossi ,

St. Anthony, Columbus,

President: Nancy Thatcher ,

Immaculate Conception, Kenton,

President: Danita Podach

St. Elizabeth, Columbus,

President: Toni Ventresca ,

St. John Neumann, Sunbury,

President: John Kutys,

St. Mary, Delaware,

President: Brian Wilson ,

St. Mary, Marion,

President: Michael Bowe,

NORTH NORTHWEST DISTRICT

District Council President: Charles Kielkopf,

Immaculate Conception, Columbus,

President: Charles F. Kielkopf
Our Lady of Peace, Columbus, President:
 Henry Rutland
Our Lady of Victory, Columbus, President:
 Randy Harlor,
St. Brendan, Hilliard,
 President: Mike DePaola
St. Christopher, Columbus,
 President: Pat Summers (interim),
St. Timothy, Columbus,
 President: Mary Fabro, Acting

SOUTH RURAL DISTRICT

District Council President: David Lanning,

Portsmouth Area Holy Redeemer/St. Mary's

Currently inactive ,

St. Colman, Washington Court House,

President: Mary Joe Wall,

St. Joseph, Circleville,

President: Judy Schneider,

St. Mary, Chillicothe,

President: David Lanning,

St. Peter, Chillicothe,

President: Mary Elsas,

St. Joseph, Scioto Community Conference

New Boston,

Currently inactive,

SOUTH SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

District Council President: Joffre Moine,

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City,

President: Kimberly Kremer

St. Cecilia, Columbus,

President: David Gahn,

St. Aloysius, Columbus,

President: Cliff Eckle,

St. Margaret of Cortona, Columbus,

President: Laurie Davis,

St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, President:

Joffre Moine,

St. Patrick, London,

President: Richard Hirst,

St. Stephen the Martyr, Columbus,

President: Sylvia Siemer,

Attached Letter

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World – Facilitator Training

Getting Ahead is a curriculum that supports people in poverty as they develop their own plan for stability. It embeds the concepts of Bridges Out of Poverty into a co-created format with trained facilitators.

Bring this powerful 15-week curriculum into your company, organization, or community by learning how to facilitate Getting Ahead. This in-person training provides the opportunity to hear from seasoned Getting Ahead facilitators and graduates, and gain insights and strategies into how to run a high quality program. You will learn to:

- Facilitate a Getting Ahead group
- Build toward having a Getting Ahead graduate be able to facilitate future groups
- Understand the long-term impact that poverty has on individuals and communities

The facilitator training helps facilitators understand the importance of not providing answers but instead how to provide the opportunity for participants to learn for themselves.

When people in the environment of poverty take Getting Ahead™ the class shows participants how to use the hidden rules of class to build up financial, emotional, social, and other resources. Understanding the hidden rules of the middle class and wealth, and choosing to use them, can open doors to new relationships, new jobs, and higher resources. They develop a series of mental models to examine their own lives and create new future stories. In 15-20 sessions, participants explore the impact that poverty has had on them, investigate economic realities, complete a self-assessment of their own resources and make plans to build them, and develop a mental model of community prosperity.

The Getting Ahead process does not provide answers to the participants on how to establish economic stability, nor does it make the argument for change. Instead, motivation, insight, and plans come from the participants.

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>

Facebook page

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

Excerpts from the January 31, 2017 circular letter by Renato LIMA DE OLIVEIRA the 16th General International President of all Societies of St. Vincent dePaul

Holiness is the goal of the Society of Saint Vincent dePaul, and we can never lose sight of it. Our activity cannot be reduced to mere material assistance, nor to activism that lacks criteria and goals. From this conviction arises the need and urgency to find, in our Vincentian spirituality, the foundation and the impulse of everything that we should do for the People in need (Psalm 112).

...

I'll take this opportunity to announce that 2017 is the "Year Dedicated to Bailly." We intend to encourage study of the biography and work of this memorable man, who created the appropriate conditions for those young French people to organize and create the "Charity Conferences" in 1833.

...

There is still, therefore, a vast and unexplored field, encouraging us to promote the growth of the Vincentian charisma in the various countries on all five continents, even in Muslim-majority nations.

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
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