



The Voice

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter

Columbus Diocese

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President's Message

Bill Sparks

Our harsh 2013 winter continuing into a long dreary March never diminished our Vincentian work or spirit. On February 24 we celebrated a colorful and joyful Youth Commissioning Ceremony at St. Anthony's. The Diocesan Council is proud to have helped provide the Youth Conference banners you will see in this issue's pictures.

Reading the sixteen Top Hat nominations lifted the spirits of the Diocesan Council. The high level of Vincentian service and spirituality shown by so many over so many years is very inspiring. They will lift your spirits too when you read the synopses in this issue or read the full nominations on line.

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org/events.html>

Our annual Top Hat Mass, Dinner and Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th, at 4:30 PM. at a new location. This year's Top Hat celebration will be held in CAVELLO HALL at ST. CHARLES PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL in Columbus, Ohio. It is located at 2010 E. Broad St.



Fr. Charlie Klinger, our new Spiritual Advisor, will be commissioned at the mass. As usual, the Top Hat will be awarded to an exceptional Vincentian that evening and we will recognize the Imwalle Family who have held a

golf tournament for a number of years to benefit St. Vincent de Paul. Also, Fr. Rod Damico, a wonderful speaker and a married priest, having been an United Methodist Minister in the past, will share his thoughts with us.

Consider a special opportunity to become more deeply involved in our Society. We will host a meeting of Vincentians from throughout the State of Ohio on Saturday, June 8th, at 10:00 am at the Dominican Sister's of Peace' Martin de Porres Center next to Ohio Dominican University. It will end at 4PM with Mass and includes lunch. What a wonderful way to get up to speed on what is happening within the Society outside of the Columbus Diocese. Dick Reimbold, our Region Vice President, will conduct the meeting. Call Pat Summers with your reservation (614-221-3554) Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays.

The **Catholic Foundation** awarded us both a Focus Grant and an Edmond J. Goold Grant to help meet the needs of those we serve.

As a result of these generous grants we will be able to provide drinks with our sack lunch meal at St. Lawrence Haven as well as meat, dairy, and fresh fruits and vegetables to those to whom we deliver food on Saturday mornings. In addition, these grants will allow us to offer new socks, towels and underwear to those visiting our Clothing Distribution Center, providing a sense of normalcy and dignity. Join me in saying: "Thank you, thank you, thank you" to the **Catholic Foundation**.

Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!

Top Hat Award Mass & Dinner
Saturday, April 20, 4:30 PM
St. Charles High School, Mass in Chapel and dinner in Cavello Hall

J.O.I.N. BiblioBenefit IX

Friday, April 26 , 7PM
St. Andrews, Upper Arlington

BREAD, Nehemiah Action Meeting

Monday, May 6, 7PM , Registration 6:15PM,
Celeste Center, Ohio State Fairgrounds,

SVdP Ohio Region Meeting

Saturday, June 8, 10 AM
Martin de Porres Center
Ohio Dominican University

J.O.I.N. Annual Mass of Thanksgiving

Wednesday, June 26, 5:30 PM
St. Joseph's Cathedral

Voice of the Poor

The Voice of the Poor Committee is working with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and BREAD (Building Respect, Equality And Dignity) in a pilot project. We are exploring the prospect of working with some of those we serve as our colleagues in advocating systemic change which genuinely meets their needs. Our Columbus Diocesan SVdP Council has received a pilot grant from The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) for training in one-to-one interviews. We have asked the BREAD organization to provide this training for interested Vincentians in interview techniques for recruiting and developing advocates from among the people most needing systemic change among those that we serve. You can download handouts from these training sessions at <http://www.vincentianvoice.org/onetoonejustice.pdf>.

In recruiting the poor for social advocacy works, we will plan how we can adapt it to our Voice of the Poor style of advocacy and apply for grants to develop programs where we collaborate with those we serve for systemic change

Youth Commissioning Ceremony

On Sunday, February 24 at a 2PM Mass in St. Anthony's church we celebrated and commissioned the young Vincentians from seven of the nine diocesan Youth Conferences. Fr. Thomas Petry was the celebrant and the spiritual advisor for the Diocesan Council; Fr. Charles Klinger concelebrated. In his homily Fr. Petry noted that the readings for the Mass sounded a common theme of being called. He reminded the young Vincentians that their being called to serve the poor and needy might require actions that the world at large think bizarre.

At the prayer of the faithful the young Vincentians made a declaration of commitment. At the end of the Mass Diocesan Council President Bill Sparks awarded the young Vincentians the official Vincentian pins.

Representatives from the Youth Conferences were photographed with their banners. The home page of our website: <http://www.vincentianvoice.org> links to a full set of photos of the commissioning.

From the Conferences

This issue features our Youth Conferences and the conference works brought out in the Top Hat nominations

Profiles of our Youth Conferences

The **Bishop Ready** Conference is very active. Their many works of service range from significant participation in the Friends of the Poor Walk to service at a homeless shelter for teens: Star House. There are thirty eight members. Mrs. Jane Kaiser is the moderator The President is Ashley Parisi and Daniel Perry is treasurer



St. Francis DeSales is a vibrant St. Vincent DePaul group that has been in existence for 15 years. Moderators are Donna Kuhn, Donna Kade and Gerri Hatch. Megan Gerrity is President and Isabel Holgado is Vice-president. Gabby Black is Secretary/Treasurer. Lauren Asman, Maura McCabe, Sarah Schockling, Aubrey Smock



comprise the public relations committee. Sophie Hamilton, Katie Julian are in charge of hospitality: Besides making sandwiches

every month, they do two special projects every year: with the residents at Rescare, a facility for adults who are disabled. They hope to continue with their current projects and look forward to new ones as they arise in our community.

Bishop Watterson's Key Club re-organized as a Vincentian Youth Conference in 2011. Barb Sauter is the moderator. Bryn Dougherty is President and Katherine Pardi is vice-president. Other officers are Brad D'sa, Talia Panagalanga, and Anna Karis. The approximately fifty members are very active in service projects in Clintonville and the whole city.

One of many projects was preparing 18 Easter baskets for the children of the women enrolled in the Pathways to Hope program sponsored by Catholic Social Services. Pathways works with women and children who are fleeing domestic violence by rapidly moving them into permanent housing and providing intensive care management.



St. Charles joined the Vincentian Family this year after four years as the St. Charles Cardinals for Life, Dignity & Justice. Moderator Mike Warren lead the twenty five active members to extend their work to the charitable works of the



Society of St. Vincent de Paul. They do not yet have officers. But select members to head up projects. One of these projects is participating in Habitat for Humanity's "Shack City" a fundraiser and awareness raiser for building homes in

Central Ohio.

St. Mary Groveport's Youth Conference does not serve a school but the parish. It meets together with the adult group and then splits off to carry out its separate agenda. There are five members. Christine Boucher is the moderator. Chole Sikora is President, Kudzovi Nuakey is Vice-president. Nellie Cromer is Treasurer and Amelia Dillman is Secretary.



St. Anthony Middle School under moderator Sandy Strati is the first conference for students at the Junior High school level. Amongst many activities they have helped host the Youth Conference Commissioning. They are a valuable part of the vigorous St. Anthony Vincentian community.



St. Paul the Apostle's Youth Conference started in 2013.. They have already held a food drive March 4 through March 8 and has cooperated with W.A.R.M. (Westerville Area Resources Ministry) to fill easter baskets for families in need. The moderator is Deke Hocker. The President is Michael Brown , Vice president: Morgan Mitevski, Secretary: Jen Durbin and Treasurer: Andrew Kingzett.



In addition to the Youth Conferences featured above there are conferences at Bishop Hartley High School moderated by Dominic Dinovo and St. Francis DeSales Junior High in Newark moderated by Katherine Kraft.

Top Hat Nominee Synopses

The following synopses only hint at the inspiring Vincentian service provided by the nominators. Read the full nominations by going to: <http://www.vincentianvoice.org/events.html>

Juanita Walker, St. Joseph Cathedral Conference, nominated by Kevin Donleavy

“Juanita, who recently turned 90, has been a Vincentian for over 30 years! She continues to provide passion and energy in serving those in need. “ She is still very active in her many ministries including service at Bryden House and J.O.I.N..

Vernon Myers, St.Ladislas Conference, nominated by Tony Jones

“Vern Myers distinguishes himself as Top Hat Vincentian on a daily basis. I believe our conference would be much less effective without the leadership Vern provides. He is a true servant leader and a role model for others. Vern has coordinated our pantry for at least the past

twenty-five years. The St. Ladislas SVDP food pantry has always been a beacon of hope on the south side of Columbus. “

Mary Miles, St. Mary Groveport Conference, nominated by Christine Boucher

“Mary Miles, President of St Mary Groveport St Vincent de Paul, is a fine example of what it means to be a Vincentian. Mary is the first point of contact for anyone who calls upon the SVdP at St Mary Groveport for assistance with their housing, utilities, clothing, food or furniture. Mary responds to a request immediately and with compassion.” The nominator gives an example of Mary making extraordinary efforts to help a family find suitable children’s’ beds.

David Gahn, St. Cecilia Conference, nominated by Sue Campbell

“For six years David Gahn has been a Vincentian I have had the honor of working with him for four of those years.” ”

“He is my model of a true Vincentian – spirit filled humble servant. For years he would also pay for the sandwiches that were sent to St. Lawrence Haven.”

Martin Schmelzer, Lancaster Community Conference, nominated by JerryWelker

“Martin is known throughout the conference and community for his unending smile, physical determination and compassion. Martin can be found working hard for the poor in our community.”

“At 81 years of age, Martin has passed his devotion and passion to his family, who can be found working side-by-side with him loading or delivering food.”

Sandy Bonneville, St. Mary Magdalene Conference, nominated by Rick Schirtzinger

“Sandy is a very active member of our conference, always available and actively participating in projects to serve the needs of our community. In the Fall, she collects coats, hats,

and gloves to deliver to JOIN. She travels to St. Francis Center in McArthur to deliver clothing and other items collected from the parish.”

Margaret Kennedy, St. Elizabeth Conference, nominated by Douglas Schrage

“Margaret has been a Vincentian since 2002, served as secretary from 2004-2006 and as President from 2006 to 2009. She is now in her second term as Spiritual Advisor for our Conference.”

“For many years Margaret has worked at St. Lawrence Haven every Friday. For the past 5-6 years, she has served as Crew Leader serving approximately 350 meals per day to the homeless in Franklin County.”

The nominator notes that as a spiritual advisor she is using effectively the “Serving in Hope” program

Ron Wehner, president of Our Lady of Peace Conference, nominated by Fran Davis, Jerry Valachovic, Barbara Gentile, Henry Rutland, Marie T. Pinto and Judy Leahy.

Ron’s nominators unanimously applaud his leadership and acknowledge being inspired by his energetic and compassionate personal involvement. During his long leadership, Ron has lead the conference to support collaborate with many conferences and agencies such as St. Ladislav, St. Lawrence Haven and the Bishop Griffin Center. He is always personally involved. Barbara Gentile wrote: “During the week he delivers food, clothing & many other items to St. Ladislav, St. John’s, Holy Family, Faith Mission, Open Shelter, Bishop Griffin Center, Clintonville Resources Center, JOIN and In Review . . . Many homeless people that were once visited by Ron have joined our parish.”

For 2013, groups or teams as well as individuals were eligible for the Top Hat Award.

Newark Dispatchers, by : Deborah Cook-Gorsuch,

“This nomination for the Top Hat Award is for the outstanding team of Dispatchers who serve the St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) St. Francis de

Sales conference. This team of 5 women is on the front lines of our conference work as the first ones to take the calls from our parish voicemail box, where local citizens leave their phone messages asking for emergency assistance. “ All of our dispatchers have been active members of our SVdP conference for many years. The five dispatcher include: Lind Baldeschwiler, Kae Stock, Sally Thompson, Sandy Wendel Gest and Joyce Zimmerman.”

Sts. Augustine & Gabriel food pantry crew, nominated by Tanya Holliman and Kym Haskins.

The nominators call attention to the inspiring attitude and important service the crew provides Columbus’ Linden neighborhood. “We have volunteers that provide their time and talents each and every Saturday morning to ensure that the pantry is up and ready for weekly clients. They provide food assistance for the 43211 zip code in Columbus. What started as a small food pantry that provided food assistance whenever rent or utilities were needed now is a major undertaking of procuring food items from the Mid-Ohio food bank, transportation and stocking of food every Monday in our storage area. “

“They continually work in a ‘WIN/WIN’ mindset. The Food Pantry workers WIN for being able to provide time and assistance and the clients WIN from getting the best the area food pantry has to offer.”

New Presidents & Positions

Jason Thomas replaces Mike Lynch as President at St. Brendan’s, Hilliard, .

Maureen Meck, Chair of Ozanam Orientation, joins the Diocesan Council as an at large member.

Bob Zabloudil, President of St. Elizabeth Conference, joins the Diocesan Council as President of North-Northeast District.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Officers:

- Diocesan Council President: Bill Sparks
- Diocesan Council Vice President: Warren Wright
- Treasurer: Janet Jobko
- Secretary: Kym Haskins
- At Large: Jody Stahr, Darrell Bragg, Maureen Meck
- Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Charles Klinger

District Council Presidents:

- East: Tim Hickey
- East Rural: Richard Shannon
- N-NW: Charles Kielkopf
- N-Central: Maureen Preston
- N-NE: Bob Zabloudil
- E-SE: Lesha Farias
- South Rural: David Lanning
- Inner-City: Gina Langen
- S-SW: Joffre Moine

WebSite address:

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org>

Committee Chairs:

- Ozanam 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

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

Young Helpers for St. Lawrence Haven



Stacy Vega directs a charitable works club for students at Pickerington Elementary School in Pickerington. She asked for the opportunity to have the 40 or so members of the club make sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven during their thirty minute March meeting. The children made about 100 sandwiches for delivery March 13 to St. Lawrence Haven.

The spirit of service is alive and well in our children.