



# The Voice

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

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**The Diocesan Council elected Warren Wright from St. Cecilia's parish to serve a three year term as president of the Columbus Diocesan SVdP Council, effective October 1, 2014.**



A Vincentian since 2004 and president of St. Cecilia's conference from 2005-2008, William Warren Wright is well prepared in Vincentian leadership. Warren has been vice-president of the Diocesan Council since 2007, chair of the Voice of the Poor committee since 2009 and Mideast Region representative to the National Voice of the Poor committee since 2010. He participated in the National Office's leadership retreat "Invitation to Renewal." He has established relationships with Vincentian leaders throughout the country by attendance at regional and national meetings.

Warren earned a BS in Chemical Engineering from Notre Dame and a MS in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech. He is secretary and a past president of the Notre Dame Club of Columbus.

Warren is married to Joann Wright. Joann is music coordinator for Diocesan Council

events. They have two children: Margaret 16 and Joey 14. Besides being a lector, Warren teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade in St. Cecilia's PSR.

Warren is an innovative and effective leader toward the two types of Systemic Change that the Society of St. Vincent dePaul is now promoting. The first is advocacy for changes in public policies which adversely affect those we serve. The second type of Systemic Change is mentoring some of those we serve on how they can overcome the systems which hold them in poverty. The Columbus Voice of the Poor committee works closely with the Diocese's Office of Social Concerns to advocate public policies in harmony with Catholic Social Teachings. In the regional Voice of the Poor newsletter "Mideast Voices", Warren has published articles explaining Papal documents on Catholic Social Teachings. (Issues of "Mideast Voices" can be downloaded from the "Voice of the Poor" page on our website: <http://www.vincentianvoice.org>.)

Members of the Voice of the Poor committee regularly advocate for social justice using CapWiz online advocacy system and in the offices of legislators in both Ohio and Washington DC.

In August 2013, Warren, along with, Diocesan Council members Jody Stahr and Lesha Farias traveled to St. Louis for an intense three day workshop on the theory and practice of the **Bridges Out of Poverty's** program for mentoring families and individuals towards overcoming systems which hold them down. With Warren, conferences have leadership on learning from the "Bridges Out of Poverty" DVDs. (A program for discussing these DVDs is outline in this issue.)

Warren wrote the successful CCHD grant proposal for \$65,000 to develop leadership from among those we serve to become advocates for changes in systems which adversely affect them.

## Remarks: Diocesan Council President Bill Sparks.



### Congratulations Warren!

To celebrate Warren's new leadership, we will have an **installation mass, ceremony and a reception on October 2nd at 7PM** at St. Paul's Church in Westerville. Be sure to mark this date on your calendars and come to give Warren a great BIG welcome as our new Diocesan President – and encourage your Vincentian friends to attend as well.

Look for Issue 4 of the 2014 VOICE in late September rather than mid-October. It will be a retrospective issue. I want to use that opportunity to thank those that have made the past 6 years so successful and look at some of things that we have ALL done together towards providing effective, constructive and compassionate service to those that we serve.

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

**Sunday, August 24, Day of Recollection:** 9:30 registration and camaraderie 9 – 10 AM; Gene Smith, former SVdP National President, will be the facilitator of the Day of Recollection at Ohio Dominican DePorres Center

**Saturday, September 20, Friends of the Poor Walk,** Sign in 9 AM, Walk starts 10 AM, De Sales High School,

**Wednesday September 2 through Saturday, September 27, Annual Convention for the**

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is being held this year in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Thursday, October 2, Presidential installation Mass and dinner,** 7 PM, St. Paul's, Westerville,

**Friday, October 3. Catholic Social Services Annual Breakfast with the Bishop** (7:45-9:00 am) Jodi Pfarr, a certified trainer in *Bridges out of Poverty* is the speaker.

### Report: 2014 Top Hat Award

The 2014 Top Hat, Mass, Dinner and Award Ceremony, began with Mass, Saturday, April 26 in the St. Charles High School Chapel. One hundred forty four persons attended, representing twenty three conferences. The celebrant was Fr. Charlie Klinger, spiritual advisor for the Diocesan council. Being Divine Mercy Sunday Fr. Klinger's homily brought out how Vincentians could fight temptations to being judgmental about those they serve by realizing their own need for divine mercy. The Mass was followed by a dinner and recognition ceremony in St. Charles' Cavello Hall. Pat Summers, secretary of the Diocesan Council, and Heather Swiger, manager of the Clothing Center and St. Lawrence Haven, were given special recognition after presentation of the Top Hat Award.

The 2014 Top Hat recipient was Marge Hendy, from the St. Edward, Granville, Conference. Kevin Murphy, a founder and vice-President of St. Vincent Haven, Newark introduced and characterized the exemplary Vincentian service of Marge Hendy. One of Marge's contributions, noted in her nomination brought out: "In an extraordinary effort, Marge helped set up a county-wide "St. Vincent de Paul Help Line" so that anyone in need could call one central phone number and be referred to the proper parish conference in Licking County."

All Top Hat Nominations can be read on our website.

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org/events.html#2014nominations>

## Update: Voice of the Poor Committee

The Columbus Voice of the Poor Committee has continued to meet every other month. The hot issues for advocacy at this time are immigration reform, unaccompanied youth from Central America, and federal legislation dealing with ex-offenders (the Second Chance Act and Smarter Sentencing Act). Committee members are arranging district office visits with Congressional reps and/or their staff during the upcoming August recess.

The VOP Committee is also focusing on development of a low interest loan program to assist persons we serve who are trapped beneath the debt of payday loans OR require small loans for one-time expenses as an alternative to payday loans. Jim Emley of Immaculate Conception is leading this effort.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has awarded the Columbus SVDP Diocesan Council a \$65,000 grant for 2014-15 to develop a new 501-C-3 organization in the Columbus Diocese that will be led by persons we serve to act on issues of concern to them. It is anticipated that the new organization will have chapters in all areas of the Columbus Diocese, with activities during the first grant year focusing on developing chapters in Newark, Columbus, and Lancaster. Funds will be used to hire a community organizer; provide leadership, organizing and organizational training; conduct one-to-ones and house meetings for surfacing and evaluating issues; and, take action on issues to effect desired systemic change. Subject to success in meeting this year's goals, the new organization will be eligible to apply for continued grant funding in 5 subsequent years.

## Update: Day of Recollection

Our **Annual Day of Recollection** will be held on **Sunday, August 24th**. Sign in, breakfast rolls, and camaraderie begin at 9 am with formal start at **10 am**. The location will be the **Martin De Porres Center** at the Dominican Sisters of Peace property next to Ohio Dominican

University. Lunch is included and the Day of Recollection ends with a mass at 2PM. The cost is \$15, but that is easily waived, confidentially, if need be. Call Pat Summers (614-221-3554) with your reservations.

For this annual gathering, the focus will be on **Vincentian Spirituality**: What is Vincentian Spirituality? Who was Jesus to St Vincent de Paul? Why do Vincentians do what we do? What are Vincentian Virtues? The title is **Journey Together Toward Holiness**

Deacon Gene Smith, past National President, will guide us on a journey aimed at increasing the holiness of the members of the Society. Gene is currently the spiritual Advisor of the SVdP Western Region Council of the USA. He is also serving as Deacon at his parish in San Rafael, Ca. He has been an active member of the Society for 44 years.

## Update: Friends of Poor Walk

Get ready to enjoy our annual **"Friends of the Poor walk."** Enjoy it as a picnic with music and camaraderie. This year's walk will be on **Saturday, September 20th**, again at St. Francis de Sales High School. John Willig and his team are well into the planning process for this big event. They are lining up sponsors and getting the registration process all organized. Nancy Thatcher from St. Anthony's, the committee's registration coordinator, is sending out sign-up forms to presidents and conference Walk representatives. Complete registration kits can be downloaded from the front page of our website:  
<http://www.vincentianvoice.org>

## Update: Bridges Out of Poverty

What is it to work for systemic change in the lives of those we serve? Especially: how are Vincentians supposed to mentor people to rise above systems which keep them down? To answer, Vincentians need to understand these systems and how they oppress people. The National SVdP office has chosen to follow a

program developed by the authors of *Bridges out of Poverty*: Ruby Payne, Philip DeVol, and Terie Dreussi Smith. Central ideas from that book and a subsequent book: *Getting Ahead in a Getting By World* are presented in a series of DVDs. These seven DVDs, which are approximately forty five minutes long, coupled with discussion provide scientifically sound and compassionate insight into the lives and systems we will try to change. Viewing and discussing these DVDs is the first step towards Vincentians discerning whether, and how, to proceed with systemic change.

The Diocesan Council has developed an ambitious program for Vincentians from all conferences to view and discuss these seven DVDs. There will be a series of three meetings, one each month for these sessions. It is hoped that at least three Vincentians from every conference will participate in the sessions. At a minimum, besides the presidents, the other attending members could be the voice of the poor representative and the spiritual advisor.

The schedule for the sessions is as follows.

#### **Session 1**

**Saturday, September 13, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

St. Cecilia's Church (South West Side)

434 Norton Rd., Columbus

or

**Sunday, September 28, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm**  
(following 11 am mass) St. Elizabeth's Church

6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus (North East Side)

#### **Session 2**

**Sunday, October 12, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

(following 11 am mass)

St. Elizabeth's Church (North East Side)

or

**Saturday, October 25, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

St. Cecilia's Church (South West Side)

#### **Session 3**

**Sunday, November 9, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

(following 11 am mass)

St. Elizabeth's Church (North East Side)

or

**Saturday, November 15, 9 am to 12 am**

St. Cecilia's Church (South West Side)

Vincentians may mix and match the dates so that a person can attend a Saturday session at St. Cecilia for Session 1, but can attend session 2 on a Sunday at St. Elizabeth, etc.

Attendance at these sessions should be a major agenda item for conference meetings. As soon as you know which Session 1 you will attend, let Pat Summers in the Diocesan Office (614-221-3554) know. Likewise with **Sessions 2 and 3**.

After attending these three sessions, it is up to the conference president and members to decide how to proceed in your conference with systemic change.

### From the Conferences

#### **St, Mary, Groveport,**

The fifth Thursday of any month the St. Mary St. Vincent de Paul Conference prepares and serves a hot meal for 150 men at the Friends of the Homeless Shelter. Conference members and church volunteers meet in the morning to prepare the meal which consists of a hot main dish. Fresh fruit, vegetables and greens are always added as they are a favorite of all. We also purchase and fill toiletry bags consisting of toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, washcloth, soap, deodorant, combs and razors. For the last meal served our St Vincent de Paul Youth group used their funds to purchase the toiletries that were distributed. This was a nice joint outreach for the youth and the adults together.

Recently we also prepared and served a hot meal to 80 persons that are living at an extended stay motel near Groveport. These are mostly families that have some income but for various reasons are not able get into their own housing. There is minimal cooking that can be done in these rooms so the families really appreciate it when someone distributes a hot, home cooked meal.

## Immaculate Conception, Columbus

From Monday June 16 through Friday June 20 the IC Society of St. Vincent dePaul along with other IC parishioners served lunches in the Broadmeadows complex to about forty five children each day. The summer lunch program is coordinated by the Clintonville-Beechwood Resources Center and sponsored by the US Dept. of Agriculture

## St. Andrew, Upper Arlington

St. Andrew's program for studying the *Bridges Out of Poverty* DVDs has been featured in the National Office's weekly electronic newsletter: *Frederic's E-Gazette* (Efforts are being made to have all Vincentians receive *Frederic's E-Gazette*.) From *Frederic's E-Gazette*:

"St. Andrew parish SVDP members increased their awareness of systemic causes of poverty at their June 6 conference meeting. Deb Zabloudil, member of the SVDP Voice of the Poor committee and St. Elizabeth parishioner, presented a basic introduction and explanation of the "Bridges Out of Poverty" program. This extensive program aims to reduce the barriers to success posed by economic class differences. Deb showed and facilitated a discussion of the first of seven video presentations on the "Bridges Out of Poverty" program. The presentation focused on mental models of poverty, middle class, and wealth, along with how these mental models affect one's attitudes and behavior. Designated St. Andrew conference members plan to continue by attending the series of sessions scheduled for later in the fall."

## St. Leonard's, Heath

The St. Leonard conference applied for, and was awarded, a \$5,000 National SVdP "Friends of the Poor" grant. The funds will be used for direct services for residents of St. Vincent Haven in Newark

## Tips: On Helping Those We Serve

### Friends of the Poor® Grant Application Do You Need Help?



The Friends of the Poor Grant Program is a National Council initiative designed specifically for SVdPUSA Conferences. A Conference may apply for a grant up to \$5,000. Last year, with the help of an anonymous foundation \$130,000 was provided for direct service grants, with an impact of helping 2,500 individuals in need. Grants must be used for a "Special Works" projects, something with a direct benefit to individuals living in poverty, being served by a conference.

Contact Bill Sparks, ([wbsparks@me.com](mailto:wbsparks@me.com)), for information on preparing a "Friends of the Poor" grant application.

**Counseling Services** are available through **Catholic Social Services**. They provide counseling for individuals, couples, families and children or adolescents. If you feel that someone that you are helping out could benefit from counseling, have them contact the Catholic Social Services intake coordinator at 614-857-1218

**Twining Funds are still available** from a bequest that the Diocesan Council received from a generous benefactor. Please let Bill Sparks know if you need help meeting the needs of someone that you are trying to help, even if it is beyond what you would ordinarily do. Just email him about your the help you need-- providing assistance. ([wbsparks@me.com](mailto:wbsparks@me.com))

## Remember in your prayers

Please keep **Fr. Mike Lumpe** in your prayers as he recovers from colon cancer surgery. Fr. Mike was pastor of St. Catharine's for a number of years and is now the Rector (Pastor) of St. Joseph's Cathedral.

Continue to keep **Frank Wickham**, president of St. Mary's German Village, in your prayers. He was hit by a car which broke his leg in 4 places-- while walking to Kroger to pay a utility bill for one of the people served by his conference.

## 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, Kevin Murphy
- Voice of the Poor: Warren Wright
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2014 Friends of the Poor Walk: John Willig
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith
- Music: Joann Wright
- Photographer: Angela Ray

**Secretary, Pat Summers**

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**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.**

*Vincentian Reflection from Harry Merchant, formerly SVdP Billings MT Executive Director*

It struck me that each time you and I receive Christ in the Eucharist at Mass, we become a living Monstrance. We accept the responsibility of being a living display of Christ for our world today. As we leave church, we are sent to make Christ visible to those around us. Each person leaving with us is as special as that Monstrance displaying Christ on the altar. But I wonder. Do we show the same reverence toward one another that we show toward the Monstrance carrying Christ? Do our actions tell our family that we are Christ bearers? Do we sense the sacredness of the gift we carry? Does the stranger who sees us today realize the gift of love that we received, digested, and that has now become a part of who we are?

For those of us who are members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, we sometimes forget that we may be the only Monstrance, the only displayer of Christ that this person in need will ever encounter. Do our actions, and the attitudes we bring to our contacts with those in need attract them to Christ, or drive them away? The food we bring may feed them for a few days, but the love with which we bring it can inspire them for a lifetime. So bring out the polish, work out the dents and shine up your Monstrance. Christ needs you to shine!