



# The Voice

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

Winter 2016

Volume 36, Issue No1

## President's Message Warren Wright

Greetings to everyone as we approach the season of Lent! My prayers are with you as you continue to share yourselves with those we serve on a daily basis. We have much to celebrate and look forward to in 2016.



The Vincentian Ohio Action Network (VOAN) has applied to become its own 501(c) 3 organization. Our application should be acted on by the IRS within the next couple of months. The two chapters of VOAN, the Newark Think Tank on Poverty (NTTP) and Restored Citizens and Communities for Change (RCC4C), continue to work on issues important to its returning citizen leaders. HB56, the Ban the Box initiative, was signed into law just before Christmas 2015. Public employment applications can no longer ask an applicant if they have been convicted of a crime. NTTP and RCC4C leaders continue to work with other public and private decision makers on jobs and food security issues. They have been instrumental in the introduction of truancy legislation in the statehouse that will no longer make truancy a crime and search for more restorative measures in dealing with issues of truancy for our youth. Wendy Tarr continues to be a great asset as the community organizer for VOAN.

Planning for the 2016 SVDP Annual Meeting is now heavily underway. Thanks to Bob Zabloudil for putting together the planning

team. The meeting will take place from Aug 30 to Sept 3, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency. The theme of the meeting will be "Hear the Cry of the Poor". We hope that many Columbus Vincentians will be able to volunteer and/or attend the meeting to help make it a huge success. More information from Bob is forthcoming.

As our SVDP Diocese strives to grow in diversity, Maria Elena Gonzalez, a Vincentian from Indianapolis, will conduct Ozanam Orientation in Spanish on March 19, 2016 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at St. Stephen the Martyr Church, 4131 Clime Road in Columbus. If your parish has Latino/Hispanic members, please encourage them to attend this training so they can become part of your conference. Our Latino/Hispanic brothers and sisters make up the most rapidly growing segment of the Catholic Church in the US. We need to welcome them to participate in Vincentian ministry.

Finally, mark your calendars for April 23, 2016 at St. Charles Preparatory School for our Top Hat Mass and Award Celebration. Mass will be at 4:30 pm followed by the Award Celebration at 5:45 pm in the Cavello Center. Consider nominating deserving Vincentians and Vincentian group for our 2016 awards. Nomination forms have been sent to your conference presidents. If they have not been forwarded, contact them. Nominations are due to be submitted by March 4 to Pat Summers at [psummers@colsdio.org](mailto:psummers@colsdio.org).

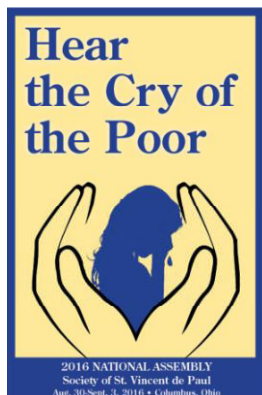
As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

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! Save these dates!**



The National SVdP Assembly meets in Columbus, Ohio, **August 30 to September 3, 2016** Hyatt Regency with a September 2 reception at the Columbus conservatory.

Call 221-3554 for registration information. **Saturday, February 13,**

Newark Think Tank on Poverty, NTTP, 6PM, Newark Public Library, 101 W. Main St. Newark, OH 43055

**Monday, February 15,** Restored Citizens and Communities for Change, RCC4C, monthly Monday dinner 5-7 PM, St. Francis of Assisi, 386 Buttles Ave, Columbus, OH

**Sunday February 21,** Youth Conference Commissioning & Mass, 2PM St. Paul's Westerville

**Monday, March 4,** Deadline for Top Hat nominations, email [psummers@colsdio.org](mailto:psummers@colsdio.org) or mail 197 E. Gay St. Columbus, OH 43215

**Saturday March 12,** Ozanam Orientation at St. Peter's, Chillicothe, The day will begin with mass at 8:30 am and end at 3:00 pm. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Cost including lunch is \$20 per person. To register, contact Pat Summers at [psummers@colsdio.org](mailto:psummers@colsdio.org) or call or 614-221-3554

**Saturday, March 19** Ozanam Orientation in Spanish from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at St. Stephen the Martyr Church, 4131 Clime Road in Columbus. Facilitated by Maria Elena Gonzalez. To register, contact Pat Summers at [psummers@colsdio.org](mailto:psummers@colsdio.org) or call or 614-221-3554

**Saturday, April 23,** Top Hat Celebration, Mass will be at 4:30 pm followed by the Award Celebration at 5:45 pm in the Cavello Center.

**Sunday, August 21,** Day of recollection, Martin dePorres Center, Begins at 10AM after 9AM continental breakfast and concludes with 2PM Mass.

**Variable: District Council meetings,** District presidents will be calling meetings of presidents in their districts to discuss, amongst other things, participation in the National Assembly. Presidents can find out what District they are in by going to the Conferences page of the website [vincentianvoice.org](http://vincentianvoice.org) and clicking on the name of their conference.

**Present at the National Assembly!**

There are opportunities for the many talented Vincentian speakers in the Columbus Diocese.

The National Society of St. Vincent de Paul office is looking for presenters for the National Assembly in Columbus, under the following topic inspired by our Culture Beliefs & Key Results:

- Increasing number of Active and Associate Membership,
- Increasing number of Councils and Isolated Conferences utilizing Systemic Change,
- Increase number of people served each year,
- Increase income of councils and isolated conferences.

If you or someone you know would like to present one of these topics at our upcoming National Assembly please contact Michele Schurk at (314) 576-3993x223 or [mschurk@svdpusa.org](mailto:mschurk@svdpusa.org)

**Report on 2015 Bishop's Appreciation Mass for Vincentian Volunteers**

The celebration of the Bishop's Annual Appreciation Mass for Vincentian Volunteers was on Monday, November 30 at 6:30 PM in St. Joseph's Cathedral. Bishop Frederick Campbell was the celebrant and homilist. Well over 100 Vincentians from all over the diocese gathered for the mass, Vincentian friendship and the annual buffet dinner in the Cathedral undercroft

supplied by the St. Joseph SVdP conference. Vincentians going through the serving line have an opportunity to make a free will offering for the dinner.

November 30 is the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. So Bishop Campbell celebrated the Feast Day Mass for St. Andrew. In his homily Bishop Campbell applied the readings on apostleship to Vincentian activities. Through our works of mercy we preach the gospel by showing what it is like to be followers of Christ.

During dinner, Warren Wright, Diocesan Council President, expressed great appreciation for the volunteers who make possible the Diocesan Council's special ministries: St. Lawrence Haven, Clothing Distribution Center and the Saturday Food Program.

As is his custom, during the dinner, Bishop Campbell circulated through the dining area personally expressing appreciation to Vincentians for their significant services to the poor and needy.

## Voice of the Poor Committee

The Voice of the Poor committee started with encouraging words when it met on Saturday, January 23 at St. Mary Magdalene. Jim Emely of Immaculate Conception Columbus along with Deb Zabloudil of St. Elizabeth and Lesha Farias of St. Francis, DeSales, Newark have started a Low Income Low Interest (LILI) loan program in Licking County. They will be working through TrueCore Credit Union. They are negotiating with credit unions in Franklin County to set up a program in Franklin County. A dimension of this program is being financial mentors for those taking out the loan. Details of the program can be downloaded from the website [vincentianvoice.org](http://vincentianvoice.org).

The meeting ended with discouraging words. St. Ann's Hospital at 1555 Bryden Rd. in Columbus had been converted many years ago into a multi-unit apartment building called Bryden House. In 1994 the original owner of the converted hospital specified that it would be used exclusively for low income residents for thirty

years. But in 2014 The Ohio Housing Finance Agency agreed to set aside that provision for new owners. Now sick, disabled and very poor residents are being evicted as the building is upgraded. Vincentians have been heavily involved serving residents of Bryden House.

Below we publish testimony of a Vincentian who has served in Bryden House. The consensus of the Voice of the Poor Committee was that attention should be called to how this injustice was inflicted on the residents of Bryden House. This unfortunate situation may help us learn how Vincentians in our traditional works of mercy can discern **and report** conditions which need to be addressed with political and legal action. The Voice of the Poor Committee is the Vincentian vehicle for political and legal action. Perhaps if Vincentians see signs of such a transformation of a refuge for the poor being taken away, we can turn to our Voice of the Poor Committee to take steps to stop it.

## Fall of the House of Bryden

My involvement with the Bryden House started in 1997. I was in charge of a clinic on site at the Bryden House and I observed many hungry elderly people. It was difficult to make morning appointments since the residents slept as late as they could so their physical hunger would be easier to endure. St. Elizabeth St. Vincent de Paul was the first church to provide meals there.

Imagine the surprise the first time that conference arrived on a Saturday morning and had 30 people waiting for breakfast. Gradually this evolved to a ministry which included meals on all Saturdays, most Sundays, most holidays including Christmas, New Years Day, Memorial Day, and Thanksgiving. We had cookouts, Bingo, furniture distribution, rides to church, prayers, wheelchair repairs, rent assistance, bus passes distribution, Christmas gifts bags of detergent, toilet paper, twice a week food donations from Target, twice a week Costco food deliveries, financial support for a Monday through Friday meal program, tax preparation

assistance, fire prevention education programs, addiction programs, TV converter box distribution, a wedding, cooking lessons, apartment cleaning lessons, distribution of donated Subway sandwiches monthly, dental care assistance, medication purchase assistance, advocacy in rental issues, gloves/socks/winter hat distributions and one church event bussed the residents for a sit down 5 course meal .

I am certain the churches provided more programs which I have not mentioned .The estimation is that there were 15 churches actively involved in this ministry. What was wonderful about this ministry is that 100 per cent of what was donated went to the residents—no overhead and what was needed was provided

The St. Vincent de Paul was represented by St. Paul the Apostle, St. Elizabeth, St. Joseph Cathedral, and St. Anthony Church. Other churches involved were Church of The Resurrection , Central College Presbyterian Church, and several other Protestant churches.

The population of the Bryden House was a marginalized population. Most had been homeless at one time. Many were mentally ill. Few knew the physical, spiritual, emotional and mental comfort we know. They constantly battled the demon of addictions of alcohol, drugs. Most lived well below the poverty level and many had no income at all. I remember once teaching a resident not to set fires in his trash can. I had to teach him to use the thermostat to adjust the heat in his apartment instead!

I think most of all the tenants LOVED having the church members come to Bryden. I met one lady on a Saturday morning and served her a meal, said hello and told her to have a nice day. She ate the meal and then approached me and told me that I was the nicest white person she had ever known.

When the Bryden House was sold, it became harder to provide services there. The tolerance for late rent, unpaid rent, mental health “flare ups” etc resulted in evictions. The support system is case managers for the mentally ill and the elderly and there just wasn’t any way to address all the issues.

In June, 2015 the current owners discontinued the daily meal program and basically the weekend meal program. The reason was that was not the image they wanted for the apartment building and the decision was made to make the chapel a computer center (very few people owned a computer) and the dining room would become a gym/workout center).

I think several events lead to the “downfall”

- 1) New ownership
- 2) Loss of key volunteers including the cook on Monday through Friday, the person in charge of donations
- 3) Loss of Ms. Flewellen as the manager. She was a minister at the Mt. Vernon AME church and had a Christian perspective on apartment management. She worked diligently with the new owners for over a year attempting to keep all programs in place.

What we can still give is our prayers.

Paula D'Auteuil, St. Elizabeth

## Donation Opportunities.

Below is repeated from the fall 2015 VOICE instructions on how to donate to the Catholic Foundation to build up the Diocesan Council Rent and Utility Emergency Fund. Vincentians should tell family, friends and fellow parishioners that the front page of our website [vincentianvoice.org](http://vincentianvoice.org) provides a simple and direct way to make a donation for this fund directly to the Diocesan Council office. Go the Vincentian Bulletin Board on the front page of our website and click on the donations button.

***Donate directly to the Catholic Foundation***  
St. Vincent de Paul’s outreach extends into virtually every community in the Columbus Diocese. When the poor and vulnerable have no other place to turn, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is there for them and together, with your support, we always will be.

We have often helped individuals and families who, due to unfortunate life circumstances, face eviction, utility shut-offs, lack of food, or the inability to purchase needed medication. We previously had a fund to cover



the emergency needs of individuals and families in our diocese. The money in that fund has been used up due to high demand.

St. Vincent de Paul has established a new fund to help cover the emergency needs of individuals and families in our diocese. The fund helps those who have experienced an unforeseen setback that requires them to receive assistance with paying rent, utilities, and basic household necessities.

We have set up the fund with The Catholic Foundation. We work with The Catholic Foundation as our trusted partner because they assure peace of mind that our fund is invested in alignment with our Catholic teachings and values.

We need to build up the fund in order to continue to have an impact on those individuals and families in sudden need. You can help us grow the fund by contributing to it at any time and in any amount.

You may donate by a check sent to:  
James A. Anzelmo, Esq.  
Vice President of Development  
The Catholic Foundation  
257 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Please make the check payable to The Catholic Foundation, and note on the memo line "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council of Columbus Donor Advised Fund."

To donate by stock, or to name the fund in your estate plans, contact James A. Anzelmo at 614-443-8893 or [janzelmo@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:janzelmo@catholic-foundation.org).

Join us in continuing the mission of St. Vincent de Paul by helping individuals and families with an emergency need.

## NTTP

The Newark Think Thank on Poverty has a great website: <http://www.newarkthinktank.org> It is well worth visiting to find out how our community organizer is helping those we serve serve themselves as agents of change..

## August Wilson Festival

The Bridges Out of Poverty videos and discussions gave many Vincentians sympathetic insight into the attitudes and beliefs of those in generational poverty whom we serve. Overall those attitudes and beliefs form a system which holds them in poverty. Nonetheless, there are elements of those systems which are to be cherished and preserved as we go forward.

An excellent vehicle for gaining a sympathetic appreciation of the attitudes, beliefs and practices which hold down poor urban African American men are the Pittsburgh Cycle of plays by the Pulitzer Prize winning African-American play write August Wilson (1945-2005). These tragic-comedies clearly show elements that are to be preserved as we go forward.

Vincentians in Central Ohio are fortunate to have a yearlong celebration of the works of August Wilson. Starting in January of 2016 Short North Stage is coordinating a year-long collaborative celebration of the works of the late August Wilson and the influences that shaped him. Supported by a grant from PNC Arts Alive, the celebration will present most if not all ten of the Pittsburgh Cycle plays either in full productions or staged readings. Visit: <http://www.shortnorthstage.org/the-pnc-arts-alive-grant-august-wilson> for details. There will be music events as well as an art exhibit at The Columbus Museum of Art.

## New Presidents

**St. Brendan's:** Mike DePaola replacing Jason Thomas

**Seton Parish** – Joe and Valerie Kruger replacing Betty Crock

**St. Andrew** – Dan Fleck replacing Cindy Coykendale

**St. John, Logan** – Jennifer Brown and Gretchen Tomson replacing Tina Lindsay

**St. John Neumann**, Sunbury – Jack Bryant replacing John Powers

**St. Mary, Delaware** – Brian Wilson replacing Rich Rossi

**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>

**Committee Chairs:**

- Ozanam Orientation: Maureen Meck, Kevin Murphy
- Voice of the Poor: Danielle Gray
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2015 Friends of the Poor Walk: John Willig
- Publicity: Dianne Keller-Smith
- Music: Joann Wright
- Photographer: Angela Ray

**Secretary**, Pat Summers

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

**Office:**

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@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.**

It is now 1841. Frederic Ozanam is engaged to Mademoiselle Amelie Soulacroix. She has to remain in Lyon while Frederic starts his academic career in Paris. They write to each other frequently. Our founder has changed from the twenty year old who dismissed women as frivolous creatures. He urges her to write even more. We find in one letter:

“During the first days of my new exile, impatient to find again some trace of you, I have reread the collection of your first letters from one end to the other where your still hesitant pen made the first attempt to the gentle lines whose duty was to distract the monotony of my trip. I seemed to see the dear image, uncertain and shy at first, draw near little by little, delineating itself in ever clearer strokes, half-lifting its veil to allow a smiling and reassuring glimpse, becoming more familiar and accessible until it brought me, all trembling with joy and love, face to face with the reality. Why must this moment have passed so soon, why must truth be so evanescent, leaving me for my only consolation shadows of remembrance? Ah! When I pressed your hand in mine, it seemed that nothing could again rob me of it; yet behold my lips only too happy to brush the page your fingers folded. But another day will come when I shall be allowed to see you again, and on that day it will be your heart that I shall press to mine and then we shall see whether there is any power in the world strong enough to tear you away.”

p. 242 Frederic Ozanam: A Life in Letters, Trans & Ed by Joseph I Dirvin C.M. St. Louis, MO 1986