



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

February 24, 2015

Sacramento Diocesan Council

www.svdp-sacramento.org (916) 955-6758

Ash Wednesday--and Beyond. At a recent conference meeting in the course of our opening prayer and reflection (which should be a part of every conference meeting), we discussed various attitudes about “fasting”—is it about “giving something up” or “doing something positive” or maybe a combination of the two? Lenten readings about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving make clear that it is not about our approach (what we do), but rather our attitude (how we do it). (See, for example, [Isaiah 58: 5-10](#).) What attitude then must be present within us when we offer charity to others? In our sacrifice of charity, we must offer charity in humility and with the Vincentian attitude of joy. “Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and recover their own dignity, for we are all created in God's image. In the poor, [Vincentians] see the suffering Christ. (Rule, art. 1.8.) We do not travel on this road by ourselves during this Lenten season, but in prayer, fellowship, and solidarity with other Vincentians—locally and throughout the world. (Rule, art. 2.2.) *Happy Lent!*

—**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President



RSVP's Needed for Ozanam Orientation, March 7, St. Joseph, Vacaville. The Diocesan Council's annual training “orientation” for Vincentians will explore: “*Who We Are and What We Do*”; “*Our History and Vincentian Spirituality*”; “*What is The Rule and Why Do We Have It?*”; “*What is Poverty?*”; and “*Home Visits.*” In this fast-paced, informative half-day session, we will have a diverse expert panel of experienced speakers, opportunities for discussion and information sharing, and written materials. The day begins with Mass at 8:15 a.m., followed by 9 a.m. registration and continental breakfast, and the first panel at 9:30 a.m. *Space is limited* and we need your RSVPs for

planning. Please contact **OO 2015** event organizer **Judy Dietlein** at (707) 745-6395 or jdiet@att.net. Our thanks to **Judy**, our wonderful presenters, and Solano District Council President **Joe Alves** and the St. Joseph Conference for hosting this important event.

Council and Conference News. ♦We welcome **Adrian Mata**, newly elected president of Cathedral Conference. **Adrian** has served at the Cathedral Conference as treasurer, helps coordinate a feeding program in North Sacramento, and serves as conference liaison for the Cathedral's housing project. Thank you, **Adrian**, for your servant leadership. ♦On February 20, Yolo/Delta District Council and St. James, Davis Conference hosted Vincentian Stations of the Cross, with good attendance. Thanks to **Dave Burmester** and others for organizing this Diocesan Council event. ♦*Muchas gracias (many thanks!)* to **Manuel Garcia**, Conference President of Our Lady of Guadalupe, National Shrine Conference, who translated our last edition of *The Visitor* into Spanish, making it a resource for outreach to Spanish speaking persons. In Amador County, **Kevin Darr**, Conference President of St. Katherine Drexel, Jackson, is using Spanish language Vincentian materials in his outreach efforts there. These initiatives are welcomed and necessary to meet the National Society's goal of diversity, that is, greater inclusiveness in our invitation to others to join the Society. ♦**Chelsea Becker**, of the St. Martin, Esparto Conference, and

our newest Hope in Action team member, recently attended facilitator training on the Bridges Out of Poverty program. As a trained facilitator, Chelsea will be working to explore ways the Diocesan Council can be a partner in helping people in poverty break the barriers that keep them in poverty. This follows the National Council's initiative to use systemic change methods throughout the Society to end poverty.



Annual Dinner, April 17 – Aloha! Yes, *aloha*, because, as part of our annual charity dinner fundraising, we are selling raffle tickets for a premium prize trip to Hawai'i. Six days, five nights at the Sheraton Maui Resort and Spa (includes air fare for two, rental car, and \$500 gift card!) Tickets—just \$10 each—are being distributed to conference presidents through the district council presidents. And *mahalo!* (thanks!) to **Inez Reyes** and **Jim Floyd** for again taking the leadership on this fundraising

effort, which grows more successful with each year! Also, we are asking all conference presidents to make a personal invitation to their pastors to sponsor a table and honor our "Benefactor of the Year," the **Most Rev. William K. Weigand**, Bishop Emeritus of the Sacramento Diocese. Encourage your local businesses, especially Catholic businesses, to help the Society by sponsoring a table this year. And with Notre Dame's "Rudy"—**Rudy Ruettiger**—as our featured speaker, let your local coaches and sports fans know about this event. Let's fill the house for this inspiring evening! For table sales and other information, contact **Tom Aguer**, (916) 599-0546, tom.aguer@avisonyoung.com – or go to the CALENDAR section on our website www.svdp-sacramento.org

Please support the 25th Annual Catholic Appeal

Diocesan Council Files Annual Report. Earlier this month, the Sacramento Diocesan Council filed its annual Consolidated Conferences Report with the National Council. The report, which is gleaned from the individual conference annual reports, covers the period from October 2013 through September 2014. For that period, the report shows 1,213 active members, with 210,916 persons helped, and over 185,000 total services hours provided. Direct charity included \$1.3 million in cash aid; \$4.7 million in non-cash aid (food, clothing, furniture, medical, other). The Diocesan Council's beginning cash balance for the current year (2014-2015) is \$758,833. President's note: On behalf of the Society and the poor we serve, *thank you!*

Vincentian Stations of the Cross, Our Lady of Grace, West Sacramento, March 20, 7 p.m.

Join with other Vincentians to pray the Stations of the Cross through the eyes of St. Vincent de Paul. Each station holds reflections and prayers that allow us to consider our relationship to the poor in Christ along the road to Calvary.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 7, **Ozanam Orientation**, St. Joseph, Vacaville
- March 9, Diocesan Council Meeting
- March 15, Feast Day of St. Louise de Marillac
- March 20, Vincentian Stations, Our Lady of Grace, West Sacramento, 7 p.m.
- April 17, **Annual Charity Dinner**, Sacramento



Seeking Charity & Justice

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