



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

November 16, 2015

Sacramento Diocesan Council

Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese

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Thank You, Benefactors! At every conference meeting, we pray for our *benefactors*, for those individuals and companies who support our charity through their generous donations and gifts in kind. By their participation in the Society through sustained or significant contributions, our *benefactors* are deemed to hold a level of membership in the Society. (Rule, Article 3.1; Statute 3.) One of the challenges attributed to Bl. Frederic Ozanam, the Society’s principal founder, is that [we seek through our charity to “do a little good.”](#) The word “benefactor” comes from Latin, and literally means just that, “one who does good.” Synonyms include: donor, sponsor, and, even “angel.” Another definition is “friendly help.” Each year, the Sacramento Council recognizes a “Benefactor of the Year” at our Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner and a perpetual award is displayed at the entrance of the Council Thrift Store. Last year, for example, we recognized the **Most Rev. William Weigand**, Bishop Emeritus of the Sacramento Diocese,



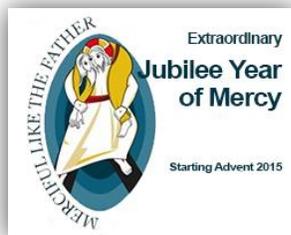
for his support of the Society. In connection with the [Annual Catholic Appeal](#), donations through Catholic Charities, and other contributions, we gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the Sacramento Diocese and **Bishop Jaime Soto**. Locally, for “5th Sunday” collections and other gifts, we thank our supportive pastors and parishioners throughout the Diocese. We also thank [our “Friends of the Poor Walk™” contributors](#) (see, sponsor banner, photo above), our event sponsors, those who donate to our Thrift Store, those who give alms during Advent and Lent, and those who remember loved ones with [memorial giving to the Society](#). With every gift, great or small, you, our *benefactors*, [allow us to “do a little good.”](#) At this time of Thanksgiving, then, we want to remember in our prayers, and with deep gratitude and thanks, all of our *benefactors*—announced and anonymous—who have been our “angels” throughout the years. *Thank you!* —**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President



Relief Efforts Continue for Butte and Valley Fire Sites. In a recent telephone conference, **Jim Kehoe**, Disaster Relief Coordinator for the Society’s Western Region, with deep concern in his voice, described the devastation of this fall’s Northern California fires and the resulting need as “unprecedented” in the history of Western Region relief efforts. To render aid, the Society has mobilized even at the National level. Locally, **Phil Niederberger**, who leads the Sacramento Council’s Disaster Relief team, has worked non-stop on coordinating relief efforts since late September. **Phil**

reports on recent activities: "For the Butte Wildfire in Calaveras County, we have seen more than 50 individuals and families, generated 25 "House in a Box" applications and distributed approximately \$1,300 in fuel and food gift cards." **Kevin Darr**, Conference President, St. Katherine Drexel Conference in Amador County, gives a first-hand account of the initial response and enduring local effects of the fire in that region, which has been posted [on our web page](#) under the NEWS tab. (Editor's note: From late September to date, the Sacramento Council has been coordinating with districts and conferences, as well as the Diocese of Sacramento and SVDPUA Disaster Relief, concerning immediate and long-term relief efforts for those impacted by the fires. *Continued thanks to the conferences, members, and benefactors who have donated toward ongoing disaster relief efforts.*)

Getting Ahead Update: In September, the Sacramento Council provided St. Martin Conference \$2,500 in start-up funds for the Getting Ahead program in Esparto, California. Now in the fourth week of the 20-week course, **Chelsea Becker** reports, "Participants are engaged and enthusiastic about the program." **Chelsea** adds, "In January, we will hold mentor training for community volunteers to learn more about the Getting Ahead program and becoming a mentor to participants in the class. For interested conferences, the mentor training may be a good way to learn more about the program."



Jubilee Year of Mercy Calendar: Save the Date! September 25, 2016 - The Sacramento Council Friends of the Poor™ Walk in 2016 is featured as an event on the Sacramento Diocese Year of Mercy Calendar. [Find the Year of Mercy calendar here](#). For more information, www.scddec.org/yearofmercy

Council and Conference News. ♦Sacramento Diocese Social Ministry Director **John Watkins** has confirmed that the Diocese will provide \$5,000 for the Council's conference grant program to assist conferences in need.

♦**Fr. Michael Kiernan** has accepted the position of Council Spiritual Advisor. A former director of Catholic Charities and longtime mentor to the Society, **Fr. Michael** will coordinate the Council's spiritual activities and promote the training and development of spiritual advisors in all conferences. ♦**Mildred Wong**, of St. Joseph Conference, Elk Grove, joins the Council executive leadership team this month, serving as interim Council Secretary. Among other assignments, **Mildred** will assist with updating our Council membership records. ♦Online now: Read and share "Our Story" in the [Catholic Herald](#).

SVdP CALENDAR

- ▶ November 27-28, Feasts of [St. Catherine Laboure](#) & [the Miraculous Medal](#)
- ▶ November 30, on line annual reports due
- ▶ December 6, [Top Hat Dinner](#)
- ▶ December 8, Feast of the [Immaculate Conception](#) (Patroness of the Society)
- ▶ December 8, [Holy Year of Mercy begins](#)
- ▶ December 12, [Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)

Notice of Conference Closure

St. Joseph, Clarksburg Conference has disbanded and no longer operates as a conference within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Subject to available resources, calls for assistance from the Clarksburg area may be handled by neighboring conferences.

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Seeking Charity & Justice

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