



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

November 30, 2015

Sacramento Diocesan Council

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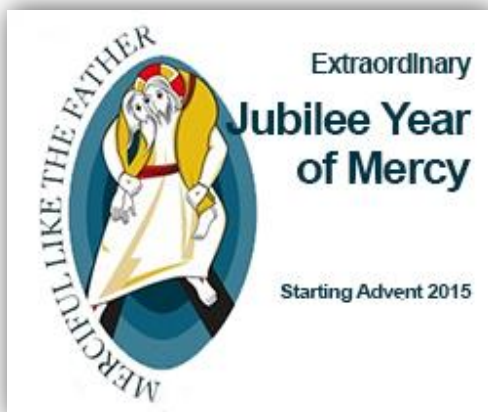
Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese

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Our Top Hat Tradition! On the first Sunday of December each year, we gather for the Top Hat Dinner, so named to honor **Bl. Frederic Ozanam**, the principal founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and known as “the Apostle in a Top Hat.” With this being our 60th year in Sacramento (actually, much longer, but 1955 is our date of incorporation) and the 170th anniversary of the Society in the United States, we are celebrating with the theme, “*Honoring Our Vincentian Traditions.*” Recalling the service of the first Vincentians, we are inspired to reflect upon our past to appreciate and honor all who have served as Vincentians and to recognize in a special way our present day models for charity, fellowship, and service. It is important to recognize those among us who inspire us and others to continue to strive to seek and live the Vincentian Vocation. Thus, each conference president is encouraged to nominate a conference member for the Council’s “Ozanam Award,” named, of course, after **Bl. Frederic**. (See more about the **Top Hat**, page 2.)

Thrift Store “Silent Auction” December 4 “Kick Off” to Be Featured on Good Day Sacramento. It’s new and exciting, promises **Martha Leandro**, Store Manager: The Council Thrift Store at 2275 Watt Avenue in Sacramento is holding a 15-day “silent auction” for special gifts and collector items. Auction opens Friday, December 4, 2015 at 10 am and ends Friday, December 18, 2015 at 11:59 am sharp! Successful bids will be contacted Friday at 1 pm. Note: Item must purchased by 7 pm, Saturday, December 19, 2015 or it will be sold to the next highest bidder. All auction items are sold “as is” and with no guarantees, refunds or exchanges. Each item has a minimum bid. Adds Martha, “You may bid as many times as you like, so please visit our Thrift Store and place your bid!” *Bid early, bid often!* And be sure to watch for us on [Good Day Sacramento](#) on December 4 between 7:30 & 8 am. Catch [all the auction news here.](#)



Vincentian Venues Found Along Year of Mercy Pilgrim Sites.

The Holy Year of Mercy officially begins on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of **Mary**, the Mother of God, a holy day of obligation for Catholics and, for Vincentians, especially, an important Vincentian feast day (designated by **Bl. Frederic** himself!). Of the diocesan sites designated as pilgrimage sites, half are with nearby Vincentian conferences: the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacramento (**Cathedral Conference**); Sacred Heart Parish, Fort Jones (**Sacred Heart Conference**); St. Dominic Parish, Benicia (**St. Dominic Conference**); Holy Rosary Parish, Woodland (**Holy Rosary Conference**); Good Shepherd Parish, Elk Grove (**Good Shepherd Conference**); and St. John Vianney Parish (**St. John Vianney Conference**).

Jubilee Year of Mercy Calendar: Save the [New] Date! September 24, 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.](#) Check out: www.scddec.org/yearofmercy

Council and Conference News. ♦We welcome **Mildred Brewer**, conference president, St. Lawrence Conference, North Highlands, as of December 1. **Mildred** follows **Jim Floyd**, who has ably served as past conference president and has our deep gratitude. ♦With a \$1,000 grant from the Sacramento Diocese Catholic Charities, St. Katharine Drexel Conference in Amador County has partnered with the Junior Grange, Fiddletown to distribute Christmas baskets to area families. Reports Conference President **Kevin Darr**, "This gift will go a long way to involve the Junior Grange members in helping to brighten the hearts of those we serve as well as lifting the hearts of God's humble servants here in this community." Roseville Area Conference President **Karl Thompson** tells how that conference joined with the Latter Day Saints, providing over 400 turkeys for Thanksgiving dinners, with over half being donated by John L. Sullivan, Roseville. ♦St. Isidore, Yuba City Conference President **Fernando Tovar** reports the conference in October reached 388 people (179 families), with over \$2,000 in direct assistance for rent, utilities help, travel, a funeral, and items for the homeless. ♦**Judy Dietlein**, of St. Dominic, Benicia, filed an October conference report showing 71 home visits made, 230 people served, and spending of almost \$3,000 in direct aid for food, housing payments, and utilities help.



Top Hat (cont'd from page 1). Upon recommendation of the district presidents and selected by the Council executive committee, the Council makes three special awards. In the *Sister Rosalie Rendu Award*, the highest for a conference, we recognize **St. Martin Conference, Esparto**, where Conference President **Michael McDonald** and the Vincentians there have served as a model conference, have supported their district and the Council, and have been dynamic leaders in our systemic change efforts. The *Emmanuel Bailey Award*, instituted last year, recognizes a conference or council president for exemplary servant leadership in the manner of Emmanuel Bailey, the Society's first conference president. This year, we honor **Dr. Tom Stanko, M.D.**, immediate past president of the Roseville Area Conference, for his servant leadership and development of that conference. The *Top Hat Award* recognizes in Vincentian fellowship an individual from among us, who, in the example of **Frederic Ozanam**, has lived exemplary Vincentian virtues in service to the poor. We so honor **Phil Neiderberger** for his longtime servant leadership in the Society and for his many contributions to the Sacramento Council. *To all, our deepest appreciation!* –**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President

SVdP CALENDAR

- ▶ November 30, on line annual reports due
- ▶ December 6, [Top Hat Dinner](#)
- ▶ December 8, Feast of the [Immaculate Conception](#) (Vincentian Feast Day)
- ▶ December 8, Start of the [Holy Year of Mercy](#)
- ▶ December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

#GivingTuesday
December 1st
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Seeking Charity & Justice

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