



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese

January 31, 2016

Sacramento Diocesan Council

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Making the “Invitation to Serve.” Do you remember how you came to be a Vincentian? For many of us, it was an “invitation” from someone who was already involved in the work of the Society. Perhaps someone invited you to a conference meeting, or to help out on a home visit, or maybe you saw an item in the church bulletin. However it happened, you accepted the invitation and began a faith journey like no other. As we continue to celebrate our tradition of service in the Sacramento Diocese, this [Holy Year of Mercy](#) “invites” us to renewal, not only in our personal faith journey, but in our “journey together towards holiness” as members of the Society. (Rule 2.2) Our re-organization into districts is part of our renewal process, as we learn to serve together in new, more effective ways. Our increased focus in living our Catholic faith through our practice of Vincentian spirituality, including Marian devotion, is another sign of renewal. Our renewal as a Society depends upon our being in active solidarity with other conferences locally and throughout the world: *“The entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian friends.”* (Rule 3.3) Our renewal also depends on being open to having others join with us, building our Society’s ranks in diversity and equality (Rule 3.2), especially as to young members, who are our future. (Rule 3.7) Here is my “invitation”: Ash Wednesday is right around the corner, February 10. As we reflect on the ministry of Our Lord during this Lenten season, we recall His open invitation to the apostles: *“Come and you will see.”* (Jn 1:35-39). Let us be willing, as Vincentians, to make this same open invitation to others. —**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President

Vincentian Feast Day: February 7 – Bl. Sr. Rosalie Rendu, Daughter of Charity.

“Her zeal for the poor drove her to establish the means to educate poor children, to care for infants, to support the elderly unable to care for themselves, and to supervise young working girls. One of her disciples in her mission of service was **Frederic Ozanam**, principal founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.” (from the SVdP national website; *click on the image to learn more.*)



Tenth Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner – April 22, 2016: *Seeing Christ in the Face of the Poor.* The theme of our 10th Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner is “*Seeing Christ in the Face of the Poor*” (with poignant artwork [illustrations shown] being donated by local artist **Michael Miller**). The dinner keynote speaker is **Fr. Joseph Fessio, SJ**, founder and editor of St. Ignatius Press. Our dedicated Dinner Committee, led by **Roelof van Ark**, is in full operation and table sales for this important annual charity fundraising event are well under way. To celebrate our 60 years of Vincentian service in the Sacramento Diocese, we have set a goal of 60 tables being sponsored this year. *You can help!* Do you know of a business or other sponsor that



would like to Help Us Help Others? For more information about the event and how to sponsor a table, please [visit our website](#) or call Board Member **Tom Aguer** at (916) 599-0546.

Council and Conference News. ♦The [Annual Catholic Appeal](#) (ACA) 2016 is underway, and the Council again is an active partner with the Diocese. In past years, ACA funds have returned to the Society by direct distribution to the Council from the Diocese and through local support of conferences by pastors.

Council President **Paul Starkey** and Placer District President **Ron Morin** attended the Sacramento “kick off” event on January 15. **Manuel Garcia**, conference president of Our Lady of Guadalupe, represented the Council at the January 16 event held at the National Shrine. Coordinating the January 28 ACA event at St. Mary, Vacaville was **Joe Alves**, Solano district President, with **Jacquelyn Pelton** and **Tom Murphy**.

♦Our thanks to **Bishop Jaime Soto** and **John Watkins**, Director, Sacramento Diocese Catholic Charities, for “food bowl” hunger-related assistance grants this month to Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Joseph-North Sacramento, and Cathedral Conference, as well as monetary support for Council grants and for our fire relief efforts in recent months.

♦On January 16, **Manuel Garcia**, **Hermelinda Venegas**, and **Lidia del Carmen**, from Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference, represented the Council and the Society at the Diocese’s Hispanic Encounter (“Encuentro”) held at Winters, California. **Manuel** has translated [the Vincentian meeting prayer in Spanish](#), which is available on our website.

♦On January 23, Conference President **Adrian Mata** and others with the Cathedral Conference joined with **Fr. Nicholas Ho** and the Chinese community at the Cathedral to serve meals to the hungry. Also on site was **Fr. Michael O’Reilly**, Cathedral rector and spiritual advisor to the Cathedral Conference. **David Gonzalez**, Council Board Member and Voice of the Poor representative, also served at the event with his young son, **David**. ♦That same day, in San Francisco, a number of Conferences had representation at the 2016 Annual Walk for Life – West Coast, including Our Lady of Grace, West Sacramento [pictured above, OLG home visit team, **Beti** and **Mark Ross**], Cathedral Conference, and St. Mel Conference. ♦**Save the Date: September 24, 2016** – the 2016 Friends of the Poor “Council Walk” will be held in conjunction with Diocese “Ministry Days” and will be a [Year of Mercy](#) event.



SVdP CALENDAR

- January 30, [Conference Officer Training](#)
- February 7, Feast of **Bl. Rosalie Rendu**
- February 10, **Ash Wednesday**
- March 5, Ozanam Orientation
- March 15, Feast of **St. Louise de Marillac**

**Please Support
the Annual Catholic Appeal**

***SVdP interview on the Bishop’s Hour
[January 15 podcast begins at minute 38:30](#)***

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Seeking Charity & Justice

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