



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

February 7, 2015

Sacramento Diocesan Council

<http://www.svdp-sacramento.org/> (916) 955-6758

Being Present to the Poor. In 2015, the National Council marks the 170th anniversary of Vincentian tradition being established here in the United States. At the same time, here in the Sacramento Diocese, the Sacramento Council marks 60 years of being present to the poor in our local communities. Being present to the poor, encountering the poor, walking with the poor—however you think of it—our *personal* contact with the poor is essential to our Vincentian vocation. (Rule, art.1.2.) As we celebrate our Vincentian past and its rich Catholic traditions, we look forward to our future and the challenges for us to “be present” to the poor in new and meaningful ways that reflect our Vincentian values. As always, we will continue “to journey together toward holiness.” (Rule, art. 2.2.)

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



Ozanam Orientation, March 7, St. Joseph, Vacaville. Each year, the Diocesan Council sponsors a training “orientation” for new Vincentians to help them understand how the Society is organized and the work of the conferences, but, more importantly, to introduce new members to our Vincentian spirituality, our fellowship, and our traditions. With our recent re-organization and many new initiatives for 2015, however, it is very important to have participation from as many conferences as possible and all—regardless of experience—are invited to attend and participate in this orientation. This year’s OO event, which is being organized under the leadership of **Judy Dietlein**, has programs covering topics, among others: “*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*”. Please mark your calendar to attend this very special event. Our thanks to Solano District Council President **Joe Alves** and the St. Joseph Conference for hosting this important event.

Council and Conference News. ♦The Payless Shoes holiday program, which allows us to provide new shoes to those in need, is in operation, and “gift cards” are being distributed to the conferences through the district council presidents. Many thanks to **Ron Morin** for his work to bring that resource to us through his grant writing. ♦**Ron** also recently obtained a grant of \$1,000 from the 2014 Sutter Sponsorship Award (Sutter Sierra Region), which funds are being used for general conference support. ♦In January, the Diocesan Council provided disaster relief monies to Holy Family Conference, Weed, to support their post-fire relief efforts under the leadership of Conference President **Brendan Butler**, who also serves as North State District Council President. ♦Congratulations to Our Divine Savior Conference, under the leadership of Conference President **Barbara O’Brien**, for adopting conference bylaws. The formation of the recently established conference is well underway. ♦In January, District Council President **Ron Morin** also obtained bylaws for the Placer District Council. ♦District Council President **Marion Bishop** reports that the district council for the area of Carmichael/Fair Oaks, etc. is now known officially as *Sacramento East*. ♦Volunteers of St. Peter Conference, Dixon are prominently featured in the 25th Annual Catholic Appeal brochure.

SVDP Assists Refugee Family. In late January, and on very short notice, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, through the efforts of the Thrift Store team and Store Manager **Martha Leandro**, partnered with the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS), to help provide a household set up for a refugee family of four (parents, two infants) from Afghanistan. In addition to kitchen items, the store provided bedding and other items. Thanks to **John Hallissy** for his coordination of this effort. Other assistance has been provided by St. Anthony Conference, led by Conference President **Fred Nichols**. The SFBFS is working with refugee families for resettlement under a contract with the U.S. Catholic Bishops (USCCB).



Annual Dinner, April 17 – February’s “Big Push.” The groundhog has come and gone, and it’s time now for all of us to show up and make the big push this month for our annual charity dinner. 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” as our featured speaker, let your local coaches and sports fans know about this event. We’d love to see a full house for this inspiring event. For table sales and other information, contact Tom Aguer, (916) 599-0546, tom.aguer@avisonyoung.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- February 7, Feast Day of **Bl. Rosalie Rendu**
- February 20, **Vincentian Stations of the Cross**, St. James, Davis
- February 21, **Rendu U.**
- March 7, **Ozanam Orientation**, St. Joseph, Vacaville
- April 17, **Annual Charity Dinner**, Sacramento

SVDP on Catholic Radio AM 1620. Our thanks to Bishop’s Hour host, **Bob Dunning**, for his wide-ranging interview with Diocesan Council President **Paul Starkey** on February 2, 2015. [You can hear the audio archive at Immaculate Heart Radio.](#) Among other things, **Paul** spoke about the importance of our 60th anniversary in the Sacramento Diocese.

Vincentian Stations of the Cross, St. James, Davis, February 20, 7 p.m. With Lent right around the corner (Ash Wednesday, February 18), consider joining 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. If you haven’t prayed the Stations in a while, this might be a good way to begin your Lenten journey this year. The Yolo/Delta District Council and St. James, Davis, host this event. A simple meal of soup in fellowship will follow the recitation of the Stations.

25th Annual Catholic Appeal. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a partner with Catholic Charities of Sacramento. Please support the 25th Annual Appeal.



Seeking Charity & Justice

Help Us Help Others SVDP Thrift Store, 2275 Watt Avenue, Sacramento (916) 972-1212