



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

March 10, 2015

Sacramento Diocesan Council

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

Second Quarter. We often forget that our Vincentian Year starts in October, and here we are ending our second quarter of the Society's year! In this very short time, we have elected officers and conducted meetings in our new district councils. Our December Top Hat Dinner was an enjoyable evening of fellowship and promoted greater recognition of the work of the conferences and our new district council structure. Just last week end, we concluded our annual Ozanam Orientation (story below). We have instituted ongoing Vincentian formation through Rendu University, having conducted well-attended, informative sessions at Our Lady of Grace, West Sacramento, St. James, Davis, and St. Mel, Carmichael. Looking ahead, our Annual Charity Dinner on April 17 will be an event not to miss! In other Diocesan Council initiatives, we have expanded our Change Advocacy team (advocacy through Voice of the Poor, systemic change), have created Spanish language outreach materials, and have broadened our spiritual development this Lenten season through the use of Vincentian Stations of the Cross. Among connections made in our Catholic faith community locally in recent months, we have made contacts with Catholic Charities, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, Catholic Forum, and Immaculate Heart Radio. In all of this, we journey together to seek charity and justice (Rule, art. 7.1). At this mid-way point, to the many Vincentian servant leaders throughout our Diocese, I say, *thank you!*

—Paul Starkey, Sacramento Diocesan Council President

Annual Dinner, April 17 – Updates & Thank You's. *Conference table sales are moving.* Thanks to all who have made table sales already happen at these parishes: St. Joseph, Lincoln; St. Joseph, Elk Grove; Our Lady of the Assumption; Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Holy Spirit; St. John the Baptist, Folsom; St. Mel, Fair Oaks. Thanks to **Craig Shaw** for securing a second table for St. Mel parishioners and **Danny Camarena** for securing a table for parishioners at St. Anthony, Sacramento. Special thanks to **Fr. Michael Kiernan** for his support of three tables, two of which are sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento. For table sales and other information, contact **Tom Aguer**, (916) 599-0546, tom.aguer@avisonyoung.com or visit the CALENDAR section on our website www.svdp-sacramento.org



Report Out from March 7 Ozanam Orientation at St. Joseph, Vacaville:

With over 50 participants from 14 conferences in attendance, the Diocesan Council's annual training "orientation" for Vincentians explored: "Who We Are and What We Do" (presenter **Danny Camarena**); "Our History and Vincentian Spirituality" (presenters **Mary Ann Wilson**, **Deacon Lu del Guadio**); "What is The Rule and Why Do We Have It?" (presenter, **Ron Morin**); "What is Poverty?" (Panel: **Paul Starkey**, **Ron**

Blubaugh, Chelsea Becker); and "Home Visits" (pictured in photo, from left, Judy Dietlein, Jim Toner, Mildred Wong, and Bill Cambra,) Beginning with Mass, followed by food and fellowship time, the morning session offered helpful instruction, resources, and opportunities for sharing and learning. Many thanks to OO 2015 event organizer **Judy Dietlein** and our knowledgeable presenters, and special thanks to Solano District Council President **Joe Alves** and the St. Joseph Conference for hosting this event.

Council and Conference News. ♦On February 20, Yolo/Delta District Council and St. James, Davis Conference hosted Vincentian Stations of the Cross, with good attendance. Thanks to District Council President **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, for translating 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 Change Advocacy 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.

Q: Can a retired pastor be an officer of the Conference or sign checks?

A: The Society is a Catholic lay organization. As such, "ordained" (priests, deacons) cannot be officers or signors on the Conference accounts. Retired priests or deacons are "ordained." Of course, priests and deacons are encouraged to serve as conference or council Spiritual Advisors and may participate in the activities of the conference, including home visits.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 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

RESOURCE CORNER

www.svdpusa.org

For conference and council presidents, instant access to the Rule, Manual, sample bylaws for a conference, and more. See "[Governance in a Box](#)"

Need materials for [conference secretaries and treasurers](#)?

[Vincentian Reflections](#) for use at conference meetings are linked to Sunday readings; [Vincentian Stations of the Cross](#) can be adapted from sources available on line.

**Please support the 25th Annual
Catholic Appeal**



Seeking Charity & Justice

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