



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

July 26, 2015

Sacramento Diocesan Council

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

Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese



A Holy Year of Mercy. On December 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis will open the [Holy Year of Mercy](#), concluding November 20, 2016, the Feast of Christ the King. “Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy,” [Pope Francis writes in Misericordiae Vultus](#). During this Holy Year of Mercy, calling us to universal pilgrimage to show the mercy of the Father, Pope Francis writes: “Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!” As Vincentians, our founding tradition has long been to hear “the cry of the

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poor” and respond through our prayer, fellowship and service.

From the Rule, article 1.5, “*Vincentians strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity.*” In collaboration with the Diocese of Sacramento, and at the kind invitation of **Bishop Jaime Soto**, the Society will be exploring ways to participate fully in this upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy. In your conferences and councils, take steps now to prepare for the journey ahead: *As Vincentians, how will we be pilgrims of mercy and justice in the year ahead?* Let’s start that discussion. --**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President

Spend a Morning with Mary, Saturday, August 15. All are invited to join us at Holy Family Church in Citrus Heights as we gather for our annual Day of Spirituality. With the date being the Feast of the Assumption, we will reflect on the themes of “*Mary, the Ideal Disciple, the Model Listener.*” Thanks to **Deacon Dave Lehman** and **Fr. Michael Kiernan** for organizing this half-day retreat, beginning with Mass followed by inspiring reflections and devotions. This is a perfect opportunity to invite your pastor, associate priests and deacons, religious, and members of your parish to learn about and to share in our Vincentian devotion to Mary. RSVP information and [event details](#) can be found on our webpage.

**MASS & BREAKFAST
SEPTEMBER 12**

Celebrate our Vincentian Feast Days: Annual

Fellowship Breakfast, September 12. In fellowship and celebrating our September feast days—St. Vincent de Paul (September 27) and Bl. Frederic Ozanam

(September 8)—on Saturday, [September 12](#), the feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary, the Yolo/Delta District Council hosts our first annual Mass and Fellowship Breakfast at St. James in Davis. Thanks to District President **Dave Burmester** and St. James Conference President **Kevin Roddy** for coordinating this event. [Details about the breakfast](#) are available on our webpage.

Join the Society's National Friends of the Poor™ Walk. The Sacramento Council hosts its Walk event at [Jesuit High School](#) on September 27 and all districts and conferences are invited to participate. This national Walk is an excellent opportunity to show our solidarity with Vincentians throughout the United States, to witness to the needs of the poor in our communities, and to raise money for our charitable aims. It's also a great way to get our young Vincentians involved. [Watch our webpage](#) for details. [Online registration is available](#) now at www.svdpnnet/fop.



Systemic Change Efforts Moving Ahead in Sacramento Council. Under the leadership of **Chelsea Becker**, who coordinates systemic change efforts for the Sacramento Council, three Vincentians from St. Martin Mission Conference in Esparto, California, have been familiarizing themselves with the Bridges Out of Poverty material and have trained as Getting Ahead facilitators. On July 13, 2015, St. Martin, Esparto Conference President **Mike McDonald**, **Chelsea Becker**, and **Elizabeth Ehnat** attended a Getting Ahead facilitator planning meeting in Winters, California. (Photo, at left.) "Getting Ahead" is the learning program used by the National Council that helps people transition out of poverty. According to **Chelsea**, "As a result of this meeting, the facilitation

team prepared a budget for needed supplies; created a brochure to begin outreach to participants, mentors, donors and volunteers; identified community groups to target in our outreach; and began reviewing the curriculum in preparation for facilitation." Notes **Chelsea** in a recent issue of the [Western Region Voice of the Poor newsletter](#), the facilitators "will be reaching out to other local groups to draw mentors, donors and support. They will also initiate a local campaign to recruit potential participants. Their goal is to start the first Getting Ahead program at the beginning of October." Thanks to **Chelsea** and the Esparto team for taking the lead on this project.

Council and Conference News. ♦Reports Store Manager **Martha Leandro**, since January 2015, the Sacramento Council, through the [Thrift Store](#) and in collaboration with Catholic Charities, has spent some \$4,000 to help relocate 12 refugee families in the Sacramento area. For more Council and Conference updates, please regularly check our [Council web page](#) for "News." [Editor's Note: We welcome news items! Contributors this newsletter: **Chelsea Becker, Martha Leandro.**]

SVdP CALENDAR

- ▶ August 15, [Vincentian Half-Day Retreat](#)
- ▶ September 8, [Feast of Bl. Frederic Ozanam](#)
- ▶ September 12, [Annual Fellowship Breakfast](#), St. James, Davis
- ▶ September 27, [Walk for the Poor](#) @ Jesuit High School, Sacramento
- ▶ September 27, [Feast of St. Vincent de Paul](#)

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Seeking Charity & Justice

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