



# THE VISITOR

## News & Updates

*Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese*

October 10, 2015

**Sacramento Diocesan Council**

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***Happy New Year!*** The Vincentian year begins on October 1, and this is a good place to stop, for just a moment, to reflect on where we've been and where we are going in the year ahead. First and foremost, thank you for your Vincentian commitment, dedication, and service in the past year as we continue to celebrate our 60 years of service in the Sacramento Diocese. Looking back, we successfully held our traditional events (Top Hat Dinner, Ozanam Orientation, Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner, [Day of Spirituality](#)), and we started some new traditions, with a [Vincentian Family Picnic](#) in June and our first annual [Fellowship Breakfast](#) in September. Our [Walk for the Poor](#) efforts continued to grow, with two very successful Walks in Lincoln and Sacramento. Our training efforts expanded with Rendu U. Saturday sessions and our first annual officers training last Spring. Through our Thrift Store, we provided re-location support for 12 refugee families. We responded to fire disaster in Weed, and more recently Middleton and Butte. Our formal re-organization into a council of seven districts is nearly complete, and, in the process, we have expanded our presence in Northern California, with the newly re-constituted Sacred Heart Conference in Fort Jones, and, to the south, our newest conference at St. Anthony, Winters. We saw innovation, with a systemic change project coming to fruition at St. Martin



Youth volunteers from Jesuit, St. Francis at Walk

***“First and foremost, thank you for your Vincentian commitment, dedication, and service in the past year as we continue to celebrate our 60 years of service in the Sacramento Diocese.”***

Conference, Esparto, with an [updated website](#) and communication via social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)), and with outreach to our Youth and Young Adult Vincentians. After our annual reports come in (*yes, due this month!*), we will have data in hand to assess how “efficacious” we have been in our service to the poor through our home visits and other programs. Looking ahead, we will continue our focus on Vincentian **spirituality** and in the months ahead we will journey together on “pilgrimage” as we explore the meaning of the [Holy Year of Mercy](#). It is my hope that by December 8, the start of the [Jubilee Year](#), and an important Vincentian Marian feast day, every conference president will have appointed a spiritual advisor to help guide the conference. (Rule, Statute 15.) We will continue to seek ways to build **fellowship** within and among our conferences and districts. We will make an ongoing invitation to serve to our fellow parishioners. In our **service to the poor**, we will strive for charity and justice, and make a renewed effort to be a *Voice for the Poor* in the Sacramento Diocese.

—Paul Starkey, Sacramento Diocesan Council President



On the ground, early responders at the #middleton #valleyfire, from left top, Charley Murphy (San Mateo), Joe Alves, Sylvia Alves (St. Mary/St. Joseph), Eva Dineen, Brian Dineen (Our Lady of Mt Carmel) Thank you!

**SVdP Disaster Relief; Butte and Valley Fires - Update.**

In the last part of September and to date, the Sacramento Council has been coordinating with districts and conferences, as well as the Diocese of Sacramento and SVDPUA Disaster Relief, concerning immediate and long-term relief efforts for those impacted by the fires. **Phil Niederberger** heads the Sacramento Council's Disaster Relief team and is coordinating communications, including donations.

**Council and Conference News.** ♦We welcome St. Anthony Conference, Winters as our newest conference. **Elizabeth Ehnat** serves as the newly elected conference president. Reports Yolo/Delta District President **Dave Burmester**, "**Fr. Mike (Hebda)** called up 13 members of the newly formed

conference for a very special commissioning ceremony — a perfect conclusion to the feast of St. Vincent de Paul!" ♦On September 25, St. Mel Conference, with **Craig Shaw** at the helm, held its annual fellowship dinner for conference members. Council President **Paul Starkey** thanked the many St. Mel attendees, including **Al Schindler**, **John Hallissy**, **Dcn. Dave Lehman**, **Marion Bishop**, **Roelof van Ark**, **Tiffany Madrid**, and others, for their leadership and commitment. ♦Our Lady of Grace Conference, led by new conference president **Ritamarie Sargent**, celebrates 11 years as a conference this month. ♦**Richard Kocher** is the newly elected conference president at Our Lady of Lourdes, North Sacramento, succeeding **Frances Hood**. We thank **Frances** for her dedicated service. ♦At the Roseville Area Conference, **Karl Thompson** is the new conference president. We thank outgoing conference president, **Dr. Tom Stanko**, for his servant leadership and example. ♦**Chelsea Becker**, of St. Martin, Esparto Conference, and her team have received a \$2,500 council grant to support the systemic change "Bridges Out of Poverty" program being initiated in that area. ♦Holy Family Conference, Citrus Heights, led by new Conference President **Ben Ramos**, will receive a \$2,000 council grant for its mattress distribution program. ♦On October 3-4 weekend, our Sacramento Council Thrift Store celebrated seven years at the 2275 Watt Avenue location. Congratulations to Store Manager **Martha Leandro** and her wonderful staff. ♦Council Leadership changes, effective October 1: **Danny Camarena** is serving as Council Vice President. **Craig Shaw** heads up our Formation initiative. **Dave Burmester** coordinates Extension (new conferences) efforts. [Editor's Note: We welcome news items!]

**SVdP CALENDAR**

- ▶ October 31, Conference tax filing authorizations due
- ▶ November 27-28, [Feasts of St. Catherine Laboure & the Miraculous Medal](#)
- ▶ November 30, on line annual reports due



**Reminder: [Top Hat Dinner: December 6!](#)**

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**Seeking Charity & Justice**

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