



# THE VISITOR

## News & Updates

October 31, 2015

**Sacramento Diocesan Council**

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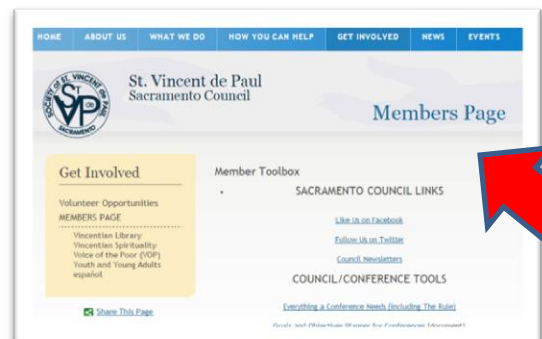


**All Saints & All Souls.** On November 1, *the Feast of All Saints*, we celebrate the communion of saints, those here on Earth and those in Heaven. In the Society, we are blessed to have [our Vincentian saints and models of charity](#): Our patron saint of charity, **St. Vincent de Paul**, of course! We celebrate his wonderful associate, **St. Louise de Marillac**, who carried out the spirit and letter of **Vincent's** vision of charity. Our Vincentian family of saints includes **St. Catherine Laboure**, of the Miraculous Medal, which feast we celebrate in November. Among our "modern" Vincentian family saints, we honor **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**. And there are others, such as the **Vincentian Martyrs of Spain** (see, [Manual, ch. 4.5](#)). In the category of "blessed," we patiently pray for the canonizations of the Society's principal co-founder, **Bl. Frederic Ozanam**, and his associate, **Bl. Sr. Rosalie Rendu**. On November 2, *the Feast of All Souls*, we celebrate and call to mind—and heart—the members of our Vincentian family who now rest in the Lord: "For our deceased members, associates, benefactors, and the

poor" (our prayer at each conference meeting). I fondly recall as a mentor, **Art Guerrero**, who served on the Council, led our Thrift Store efforts, and for years helped the poor in his community. It was **Art** who taught me about the Voice of the Poor. This November marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the dedication of a community park named after **Art**, where we held [our annual "Vincentian family" picnic in June](#). I like to think of **Art** as being among our local Vincentian "saints." In November, we remember especially our deceased Vincentians with loving thoughts and prayers, confident in faith that they, too, are among the saints in Heaven. —**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President

**New! Members Page.** Resources and tools for members are now [located on our Members Page](#) under the **GET INVOLVED** tab. You can easily find information about Vincentian spirituality, how to run a conference, Youth and Young Adults, Voice of the Poor, and much more. Check it out here: [www.svdp-sacramento.org](http://www.svdp-sacramento.org)

**SVdP Disaster Relief Update: Butte and Valley Fires.** **Phil Niederberger**, who leads the Sacramento Council's Disaster Relief team, reports on the recent Long Term Disaster Committee Meeting held in San Andreas this month: "Attending were some 50 plus public assistance agencies, non-profit, faith-based organizations, including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), California Office of Emergency Services, and several VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters). Committee officers were appointed and chairs for Volunteers, Fundraising,



Construction, and Case-management were established. SVdP will participate [in three significant ways] in supplying volunteers when needed, Construction (House in a Box or HIB when qualified), and case-management." This week, **Phil** is at the Disaster Relief Center in Calaveras, along with **Nancy Bain**, Stockton District Council President, and **Kevin Darr**, St. Katherine Drexel Conference President, and other volunteers (including **Rachel Crane** and Conference President **Cathy O'Neil**, of St. Joseph, Elk Grove). **Phil** writes: "Yesterday [October 24] was a reality check on what has happened in Calaveras County. We spent most of the day dispensing food and fuel cards and completing HIB applications for the wildfire victims who have no insurance but whose dwellings were destroyed. It was a heartfelt day, to say the least." (Editor's note: Since late September, 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. *Many thanks to our volunteers and to the conferences, members, and benefactors who have donated toward fire disaster relief efforts.*)

**Council and Conference News.** ♦With the start of the Vincentian year (October 1), we welcome new conference presidents: **Ben Ramos** (Holy Family, Citrus Heights), **John Berkeley** (Presentation, Sacramento), **Richard Kocher** (Our Lady of Lourdes, North Sacramento), **Marilyn McCullough** (St. Joseph, Lincoln), **Karl Thompson** (Roseville Area), **Elizabeth Budua-Smail** (St. Vincent Ferrer, Vallejo), **Joie Joslin** (Good Shepherd, Elk Grove), **Barbara Koeberlein** (St. Charles Borromeo), **Cathy O'Neil** (St. Joseph, Elk Grove), and **Elizabeth Ehnat** (St. Anthony, Winters). *Thank you for your servant leadership!* ♦Thanks to Our Lady of Grace Conference, West Sacramento, and especially **Mike McFeely**, for organizing a successful "Bundle Sunday" weekend event on October 3-4 to support the Council's Thrift Store. To host a Bundle Sunday event, please contact Thrift Store Manager **Martha Leandro**. ♦We officially welcome **Dan Cairns** to the Council's Board. **Dan** also serves on the Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner committee. ♦**David Gonzalez**, of Gonzalez Government Consulting, now leads [our Voice of the Poor \(VOP\) program](#). Our thanks to **Dennis McSweeney**, who headed the Council's Change Advocacy committee during the last year. ♦The Sacramento Council in October distributed its share of the Annual Catholic Appeal allocation (\$45,800) to conferences throughout the diocese. Heartfelt thanks to **Bishop Jaime Soto** and the generous parishioners throughout the Diocese for supporting the Society's works.

## SVdP CALENDAR

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



December 6, [Top Hat Dinner](#)

## Learn On Line with VinFormation

Famvin: [Learning to Serve](#) has resources for you. <http://vinformation.famvin.org/>

**Need a Special Gift this Holiday Season?** Visit [The Catholic Store](#), 1928 Broadway, Sacramento and please be sure to stop by [our SVdP kiosk](#), located at the front of the store.

## Support Immaculate Heart Radio

Hear St. Vincent de Paul News and Interviews on The Bishop's Hour with Host Bob Dunning 1620 AM



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