



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

December 19, 2015

Sacramento Diocesan Council

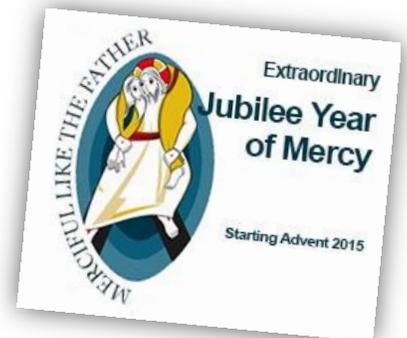
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Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese

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Our Watchful Mother! In the weeks before Christmas, we celebrate **Mary**, the Mother of God, on two joyous feast days: the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Patroness of the United States (December 8), and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Nuestra Señora) (December 12), Patroness of the Americas. **Mary**, our Mother, watches over us—especially in the darkest of times. Our Society, too, is dedicated to **Mary**, as our Patroness, and we invoke her watchful guidance at every conference meeting (and hopefully before every home visit!). From **Mary's Magnificat**, we recall the phrase, “he has filled the hungry with good things” (Luke 1:53), and we are reminded of our singular vocation as Vincentians, which allows us the privilege to express Christ’s Mercy to the poor that we serve as we humbly seek, with **Mary** as our model of charity, “to fill the hungry with good things.” In our being present to the poor, at Christmas and throughout the year, we know that God is among us. Indeed, we have every reason to say, *Merry Christmas!* —**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President

Vincentians and Holy Doors. The Holy Year of Mercy officially began on December 8, with the opening of the Holy Door in Rome. In the days and months ahead, we will reflect upon, and exercise in various ways, the Works of Mercy. The Council earlier this month adopted [a resolution for renewed Vincentian dedication](#) to the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy. We will be seeking ways to express Mercy in the good that we do. **Fr. John Freund, C.M.** has [an article about our Vincentian connection with the Holy Doors](#). That article and other information about the Jubilee Year of Mercy, including a list of the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy and the Diocesan “Year of Mercy” calendar, can be found at www.svdp-sacramento.org under the “Get Involved” tab, Members Page.



Council and Conference News. ♦**Michael Carroll**, President of St. Mary Conference in Sacramento, has been elected to serve as District President for the Sacramento Metropolitan (Metro) District. “**Michael** has been key to helping me support the Metro District conferences over the last year,” said Council President **Paul Starkey**. “I welcome **Michael** to the Council leadership team and look forward to working with him in the months ahead.” ♦Our Divine Savior Conference, Chico has received \$1,000 for a “food assistance” grant from Sacramento Diocese Catholic Charities. Conference President **Barbara O’Brien** explains that the grant will help the conference expand its food program to provide fresh and healthier food. ♦**Service snapshot:** From West Sacramento, Our Lady of Grace Conference President **Ritamarie Sargent** reports that in November the conference with over 190 volunteer hours made 10 home visits (23 adults, 1 children), helped with housing payments, utilities (over \$2,000, twinning with conferences: St. Joseph, North Sacramento, and St. James, Davis), and provided a meal for 68 homeless persons. ♦St. Mary Conference President **Michael Carroll** expresses his appreciation to **Craig Shaw** and members of St. Mel Conference and **Inez Reyes** and members of St. John Vianney Conference for providing volunteers to help St. Mary Conference meet its heavy demand for home visits in recent weeks. ♦The

Sacramento Council's President's Walk raised \$1,225 through online donations during last September's Friends of the Poor Walk. "I have designated the funds to go to the Council's conference twinning program for direct aid to the poor," said Council President **Paul Starkey**. "Many thanks to our donors!"



ONE MILLION!

At left, St. Mel School Principal, **Janet Nagle**, and students present **1,000,000** pieces of rice to St. Mel Conference President **Craig Shaw**. "The teachers challenged the students to complete this project," reports **Craig**, adding, "The rice will help feed the homeless on [our] Monday night feed the poor project."

(Photo: Courtesy of **Jim Carlson**)

Top Hat Dinner Re-Cap. With over 200 Vincentians in attendance, our Annual Top Hat Dinner on December 6 proved to be a wonderful evening of fellowship and sharing. In addition to the recipients of the Ozanam Awards, we recognized and honored, St. Martin Conference, led by Conference President **Michael McDonald**, with the Rendu Award (recognizing a model conference from among our dedicated conferences throughout the Diocese), **Dr. Thomas Stanko, M.D.**, immediate past president of the Roseville Area Conference, with the Emmanuel Bailey President's Award (for distinguished servant leadership as a conference or council president), and **Phil Neiderberger**, longtime Council member and past Council president, with the Top Hat Award (for longstanding service to the Council and exemplifying Vincentian virtues). We also recognized our Silver Jubilarians (over 25 years of service). With the help of **Roelof van Ark, Inez Reyes, Jim Floyd** and others, we kicked off our annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner raffle ticket sales, bringing in over \$2,000 that evening. Thanks to Event Chair **Dave Burmester**, Yolo/Delta District Council President, and all who worked to make this a very special event.

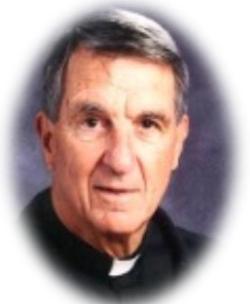
SVdP CALENDAR

- ▶ December 25, Christmas
- ▶ January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- ▶ January 4, Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Sister of Charity (first American saint)
- ▶ January 30, [Conference Officer Training](#) (location to be determined)

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Speaker Announced

Mark your calendars for April 22, 2016. As announced at our recent Top Hat Dinner, our featured speaker for the 10th Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner is **Fr. Joseph D. Fessio, S.J.**, founder and editor of St. Ignatius Press. **Fr. Fessio** brings unique insights to share about serving the poor.



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