



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

February 29, 2016

Sacramento Diocesan Council

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Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese

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Charity Has No Boundaries. It's official! We have re-organized successfully throughout the Diocese of Sacramento with [seven districts under one council](#). Our district presidents are in place, regularly meeting locally with conference presidents, and we have received formal recognition from the National Society as a "diocesan council." My special thanks to immediate past Council President **John Hallissy** for his leadership in making this a reality. Our vision of re-organizing locally serves the important Catholic principles of *subsidiarity* and *solidarity*. In a word, by *subsidiarity*, we mean we have moved the emphasis to local decision-making by conferences. With its focus on conference life, the Rule encourages (and even demands) this "local" approach. (Rule 3.9) At the same time, in *solidarity*, we understand how we, as Vincentians, are united here in the Diocese, and, indeed, throughout the world in the Vincentian Family. (Rule 4.3) However, while we have drawn new "boundaries" for purposes of organization, we know that Charity has no boundaries. Two examples: After last summer's wide-spread, ravaging fires in Northern California, the Sacramento Council, under the leadership of past Council President **Phil Neiderberger**, worked with other councils (Santa Rosa, Stockton) to bring immediate help to fire victims. That effort continues. And just this month, when we received a call for aid by referral from Sacramento Catholic Charities, Our Lady of Lourdes Conference, North Sacramento and St. Lawrence Conference, North Highlands—although separated by district lines—joined efforts to help a homeless woman regain possession of her car. Charity has no boundaries. In our re-organization efforts, we are seeing that we can work together, to do, as **Bl. Frederic Ozanam** said, "a little good."—**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President



Council and Conference News. ♦Congratulations to North State District President **Brendan Butler**, Conference President **Carolyn Hewes** and members of Sacred Heart Conference, Fort Jones for completing the final paperwork to be recognized as a conference by the National Council. ♦**Jon Berkely**, Conference President, Presentation, reports, "[in early February] at all of the Masses, we were able to invite parishioners to familiarize themselves more with SVdP and join us for some discussion and basic training [for] home-visits. We've sent some information [to 25 people] and have scheduled meetings for further orientation." ♦**Charity Snapshot:** In January, reporting from Our Lady of Grace Conference, West Sacramento: 13 home visits, serving 17 adults, 10 children and 2 infants with 15 bags of food, \$624 utility help (twinning with St. Anthony Conference; \$163 homeless ministry feeding (45 guests); over 146 volunteer hours. ♦**Save the Date: September 24, 2016**—the 2016 Friends of the Poor "Council Walk" will be held in conjunction with Sacramento Diocese "Ministry Days" and will be a [Year of Mercy](#) event.



Conference Officers Training. On January 30, 2016, the Council conducted its Annual Officers Training, hosted by the Placer District Council and St. Joseph, Lincoln Conference, with over 50 Vincentian officers attending. Following morning Mass and an officers' commissioning ceremony, trainers presented on the conference officer roles of president, vice president, secretary, and with special emphasis on treasurers. Council Treasurer **Roelof van Ark** gave an overview of the annual report process and our member data base. **Fr. Eric Lofgren** (pictured, addressing the group) presented on the role of

spiritual advisors. Handout materials included the Conference President's Manual and information about the [Holy Year of Mercy](#) and Youth and Young Adults. Many thanks to **Judy Dietlein**, our Training Coordinator, and **Ron Morin**, for organizing this successful event, and to all of the other presenters, including **Rene Perryman, Anna Johnson, Millie Wong, John Hallissy, Paul Starkey, and Andrea Spence.**

SVdP CALENDAR

- March 12, [Ozanam Orientation](#)
- May 9, Feast of **St. Louise de Marillac** ([moved from March 15](#))
- August 20, [Half Day Retreat with Bishop Cotta](#)
- September 24 – [Friends of the Poor Walk](#)



10th Annual Benefit for the Poor Charity Dinner (April 22)

Dinner keynote speaker, **Fr. Joseph Fessio, SJ**, founder and editor of St. Ignatius Press, was featured February 23 on the Bishop's Hour with Host **Bob Dunning**. [Hear the interview online](#) (around the :30 mark). Table sales are underway, and raffle tickets are being distributed by conference presidents. Do you know of a business or other sponsor that would like to *Help Us Help Others*? For more information about the event and how to sponsor a table, please [visit our website](#) or call Board Member **Tom Aguer** at (916) 599-0546.

Please Support the Annual Catholic Appeal

The [Annual Catholic Appeal](#) benefits the Society by direct distribution from the Diocese and by local support to conferences from pastors.

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Seeking Charity & Justice

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