



# THE VISITOR

## News & Updates

May 31, 2016

Sacramento Diocesan Council

Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese

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**Understanding and Transforming Our Vincentian Culture.** The U.S. Council has launched an important initiative, “*Transforming Our Culture ... Living Our Rule,*” aimed at achieving “key results” in the next five years, namely, increasing, diversifying and developing our membership, implementing strategies to eliminate poverty, increasing our outreach to the poor and needy through home visits and special projects, and developing the necessary resources to achieve these aims. [Our “cultural beliefs,” as presented by our U.S. Council](#) (see chart, below), are self-descriptive and include: Spiritual Growth; One Society; Servant Leaders; Today’s Society; Embrace Accountability; Inclusive Planning; Advocate for Justice. As can be readily seen, these “cultural beliefs” have their basis in our Rule and in the traditions of our Vincentian vocation. In the Sacramento Council, we are in complete alignment with the National Council’s strategic vision for the years ahead. In November 2015 and again in March of this year, Sacramento Council servant leaders held two planning sessions, which resulted in four initiatives: (1) fostering Vincentian **spirituality**, (2) developing our members and conferences through **training**, (3) expanding and diversifying our **membership**, and (4) increasing our **funding**. The implementation of this vision for the Sacramento Council, and, indeed, for the Society itself, is well underway—as evidenced by our focus on spirituality (seeking to have spiritual advisors in every conference); increased, focused



training (including officer training); outreach for diverse membership (rural conferences, young adult, ethnic diversity); and identifying new funding sources (for example, our increased participation in the Friends of the Poor® Walk). We do this together, *One Society*, through the power of the Holy Spirit, alive and present every day in our conferences. –**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President



**Rendu University Updates.** On Saturday morning, May 21 at St. Joseph Conference, Redding, **Judy Dietlein**, Council Formator, and **Venus DeCoy** (pictured presenting), led three informative sessions as part of our “Rendu U.” training. A report out from the event was sent to conference presidents for distribution to those who could not attend this valuable instruction. Notes Council President **Paul Starkey**, “I am very pleased that we were able to bring this training to the North District, with participants from as far away as Fort Jones and from our new conference in Gridley. My thanks to our training team.” Find more pictures on [our Facebook page](#). Our next Rendu U. is **June 18** in West Sacramento.

**Council and Conference News.** ♦The Bridges Out of Poverty “Getting Ahead” program moves to St. Anthony Conference, Winters this fall. **Chelsea Becker** is available to talk with conferences interested in running the Getting Ahead program in their communities or to provide the Bridges training. ♦Our Second Annual Vincentian Family Picnic is **July 10**, details on [our web page](#). ♦In June, conference members annually re-dedicate themselves to the [Most Sacred Heart of Jesus](#).

**Corpus Christi Procession – Jubilee Day of Deacons.** On Sunday, May 29, 2016, the Feast of Corpus Christi, members of the St. Basil Conference in Vallejo participated in that parish’s procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Processions were held throughout the Diocese, reviving a beautiful tradition that has fallen out of practice. Pictured from left to right at the altar established by the conference are members **Joanne Goheen, Germalina Rescober, Muriel Fortes, and Virginia Scott.**



#### SVdP CALENDAR

- June 3, Feast of the [Most Sacred Heart of Jesus](#)
- June 18, [Rendu U.](#), West Sacramento
- July 10, [Vincentian Family Picnic](#)
- August 20, [Half Day Retreat with Bishop Cotta](#)
- September 10, [Putt for the Poor](#)
- September 10, 2d Annual Fellowship Breakfast
- September 24 – [Friends of the Poor Walk](#)



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