



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

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Sacramento Diocesan Council

Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese

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Finding Christ's Mercy in our Vincentian Fellowship. We often talk about sharing Christ's mercy only in the context of our service—in our encounters with the poor. In so doing, we may overlook an important aspect of our Vincentian friendship, which is to encounter Christ's mercy *in our relationships with each other*. Friendship is an “essential element” of the Society. Our Manual describes this element, as follows: “To bring together people of good will and to assist them by mutual example and true friendship in drawing nearer to the Divine Model by fulfilling His essential precept, namely, the love of God in the person of others.” On September 10, at [our Second Annual Fellowship Breakfast](#), **Ana**

Ramirez Palmer, a Vincentian, catechist, and an energetic and delightful speaker, will explore with us in this Year of Mercy the meaning of Christ's mercy for our Vincentian friendship, or what our Rule calls “our journey together toward holiness.” This gathering will also serve as our Council's annual meeting. I encourage you to take this important time for a morning of friendship in our service together.
—**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President

Rendu University “Report Out”. Our Rendu University training on Saturday, June 18, was a successful learning event, with some 20 Vincentian servant leaders in attendance at the training in West Sacramento. Many thanks to our participating district presidents, **Ron Morin**, **Danny Camarena**, and **Dave Burmester**, and conference presidents, **Marilyn McCullough**, St. Joseph, Lincoln and **Mary DeLost**, Immaculate Conception, Sacramento, who all added to the group's learning experience. In three separate, interactive sessions, we covered the topics of (1) Vincentian celebrations and feasts, (2) locally addressing homeless issues, and (3) improving communication. We were pleased to have with us, **Richard Hernandez**, executive director of social service ministries at St. Francis Catholic Church in Sacramento. Special thanks to **Venus DeCoy**, who organized this Rendu U. training for us. Thanks, too, to Our Lady of Grace Conference, especially **Kathy Vilhauer**. Find more [photos posted on facebook](#).



Picnic in the Park, Sunday, July 10. The [Second Annual Vincentian Family Picnic](#) will be held again at Guerrero Park, Sacramento, on Sunday, July 10. This year's event, open to all, is hosted by the Young Vincentian Alliance (our active young adult group). The menu is traditional picnic fare, says **Venus DeCoy**, hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, green salad, baked beans, and plenty of water, and lemonade. Attendees are asked to bring desserts to share! The event will also serve as the “kick off” for

[our 2016 "Walk with Francis" event](#) on September 24. The park is dedicated to the memory of **Artivo "Art" Guerrero**, a beloved figure for his community service and a longtime Vincentian servant leader.

Young Vincentian Alliance (YVA) Projects and Events. The Council's young adult group participated with St. Philomene Conference, Sacramento at homeless feedings in May, and project liaison **Cathy Ho** reports this will be a regular project for the group. YVA is also developing a "home visit" service project for the homebound, reports **Venus DeCoy**. The aim is to meet and have fellowship with those who are homebound or in retirement facilities "to bring joy to those who cannot leave their residences." **Venus** seeks information from any conferences already doing this type of service. YVA is open to all young adults, and much more information can be found on [the Council website](#) and the [YVA facebook page](#).

Council and Conference News. ♦Reports **Ron Morin**, of St. Joseph Conference, Lincoln: On June 3, being First Friday and the [Feast of the Sacred Heart](#), **Fr. Eric Lofgren**, Conference Spiritual Advisor, after Communion invited Vincentians [over 40 attending] to the front of the altar for a reading of the Society's Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart. After he read the introduction, those gathered read the Act of Consecration together, and **Fr. Eric** then blessed the group. Suggests **Ron**, "Other conferences [might] do some similar activity, like attending Mass together. It's a good occasion to stress the spirituality of our Society." ♦From St. Mel Conference: the Pillow Case Dress project distributed over 1700 dresses in the last 18 months. Two boxes of dresses were sent recently to the Philippines, along with medical supplies. St. Mel's "Feed the Needy" effort continues to prosper, **Kathy Leuschen** reports, feeding about 60 people every Monday. ♦For five years, St. Dominic Conference, Benicia, has provided Christmas Giving Tree gifts to young children served by LAAM (Life Abortion Alternative Ministries) in Vallejo. After a recent presentation by **Linda Perkins**, LAAM president, the conference provided over 2,000 diapers and 20 very large cans of much needed baby formula (over \$500 in value). ♦St. Vincent Ferrer Conference, Vallejo has partnered with other local organizations to start a Homeless Day Center. Guests can come in for two hours and shower, wash clothes, eat a meal, and even use a computer. ♦Sacred Heart, Gridley in May served 69 families, providing food, rent assistance and other support, with over 131 volunteer hours. ♦We note with sadness the passing of **Patti Childs** on June 24. **Barbara O'Brien**, Conference President of Our Divine Savior, Chico shares: "She was our angel here on earth, showing us all how to live a beautiful and productive Christian life. She is and has always been in God's hands." **Patti** received the conference's first Ozanam Award. *May Perpetual Light shine upon her.*

Training and Formation Resources. Find our many training and formation resources on line on [our Council web page](#) under the Members Tab. New are our "training modules" that are designed to be used at conference meetings.

The Catholic Store offers a collection of Vincentian items, including holy cards, medals, and books. Please visit [The Catholic Store](#) and explore [the SVdP kiosk](#).

SVdP CALENDAR

- July 10, [Vincentian Family Picnic](#)
- August 13, [Ozanam Orientation](#), Vallejo
- August 20, [Half Day Retreat with Bishop Cotta](#)
- September 9, Feast of Bl. Frederic Ozanam
- September 10, [Annual Fellowship Breakfast](#)
- September 10, [Putt for the Poor](#), North State
- September 24, [Friends of the Poor Walk](#)
- September 27, Feast of St. Vincent de Paul

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for Us



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