



St. Vincent de Paul Sacramento Diocesan Council

Serving in Hope and Mercy



Monday Morning Memo



It finally feels like the beginning of the new year. This was the first full week of 2019 and it was chockfull of meetings, phone calls and contacts, both old and new. I am sure conferences are experiencing much of the same as everyone is back in "work" mode after the holidays.

This is an exciting time with so much happening within the Sacramento Council; looking forward to future events and considering new ways to serve our neighbors.

*Have a blessed week and thanks for all you do.
~ Judy*

Why are these people smiling?

It was the first Board/District Council Meeting of the year and it was held at the Thrift Store. It was very productive and well-attended with four people participating via phone.

On the agenda was a re-cap of the Top Hat Dinner in December. It was decided to keep the venue at the Croatian American Center for the 2019 dinner and look into the new facilities being built in the diocese for the 2020 dinner.



Our 13th Annual Dinner for the Poor is scheduled for Friday April 26, 2019. Chairperson Marion Bishop is looking for new committee members to help with the monumental planning of this major fundraiser. It is a benefit for all the conferences within the Sacramento Council which enables us to provide grants and support the mattress program. Please join us at our first meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Thrift Store. For more information about how you can help please email **Marion**.

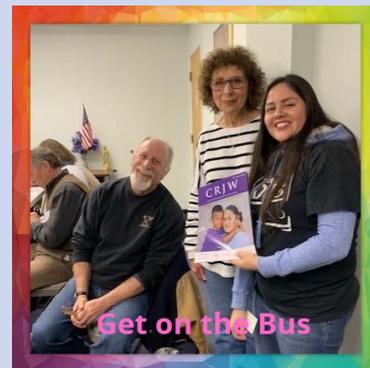


Attending the Board Meeting was Rabbi Seth Castleman. He has been recommended by the Exodus Project Advisory Committee to be its Program Director. In his own words, Seth says, *"I have worked as a consultant for The Diocese developing the Exodus Project for the past two years. Over this time, I was the primary architect and author of the project. I have also developed strong relationships with the key players at the county jail, probation, and in other organizations providing re-entry services."*

Over the past twenty years, as a consultant and program director with multiple non-profits, I have implemented new, spiritually-based programs in a dozen jails and prisons. I have also taught spiritually-based post-release groups. I have experience hiring, training, and managing volunteers and staff."

By overwhelming consensus Seth was approved to be hired as the Program Director. There will be more to come as this project launches in the very near future.

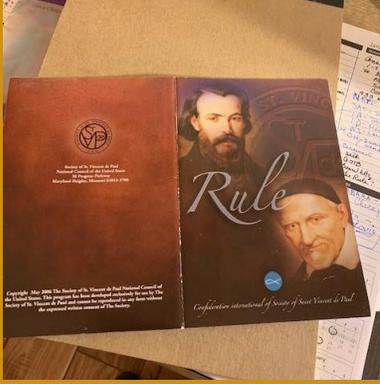
At the Solano District Council Meeting on Thursday, we had a guest speaker from the **Get on the Bus** program, Jackelin Aguilar, Regional Coordinator. You may remember our keynote speaker at last year's Dinner for the Poor was Sr. Suzanne Jabro, who is the founder of this program. Jackelin came to talk to us about the specific needs the organization has and what ways conferences can help. The visits take place around Mother's Day and Father's Day. It takes between \$3,500 and \$4,500 to sponsor a bus to take children to visit their incarcerated parents. The buses go to Folsom, Dublin, Chowchilla and Soledad prisons. Each bus carries 52 passengers which includes the children and a family member or chaperon. There was discussion regarding the District sponsoring a bus. It is now up to the conferences to confer with their members.



You can find more information about Get on the Bus at the **Center for Restorative Justice Works**.

A new year is the perfect time for conferences to review the Rule. How many of you have your own copy? How many of you have read the Rule?

Conference Presidents, how about a 2019 New Year's



Resolution to study one section of the Rule at every meeting starting now? If you don't have a copy here's one for your **desktop**.

Part I covers The Origins of the Society and Service to the Poor. It is here that we learn that *"no work of charity is foreign to the Society. It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions."*

Let me know if you have decided to review the Rule at meetings. Let's see how many of our conferences will take on this challenge!

"May God the Holy Spirit move within us and give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with, and hands that God's work might be done."

~ St. Dominic

"A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need."

~ Mission Statement

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**St. Vincent de Paul
Sacramento Diocesan Council**

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