



Society of
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SACRAMENTO
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

St. Vincent de Paul Sacramento Diocesan Council

Serving in Hope and Mercy

Celebrating
65 YEARS OF
VINCENTIAN
service

Monday Morning Memo



Remember the movie *Groundhog Day*? Every day was exactly the same. That's what it seems like under our shelter-in-place days. No Sunday mass at church to begin the week. No commutes to work and sitting in our offices to mark the days of the week or volunteer activities to keep us on schedule. How many times have you asked "what day is it today?"

Instead we find new ways to fill our days. Remember when zoom meant "a sudden fast movement or to travel very quickly"? Now it is a meeting on our computer in which we can see each other in our homes in various modes of attire, drinking coffee or eating lunch. I become distracted watching the screen, seeing others touch their faces or cough without covering their mouths. I wonder how often they are washing their hands and if they are practicing social distancing.

If all our efforts to keep this virus from spreading is effective, it is worth these modifications and minor inconveniences. I do wonder how many of these changes will become permanent. Maybe we won't be shaking hands as much, but I do hope we can go back to hugging to show we care about each other.

It is gratifying to know that conferences are still answering calls for assistance, not with in-person Home Visits, but via phone calls, and food distribution continues with certain adjustments to normal operations. We are first and foremost Vincentians and will always find a way to serve those in need. It is no different

during this national disaster. Our faith is strong and will keep us believing that God will lead us to better times.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe and healthy.

Have a blessed week and thanks for all you do,

Judy

We Are Living in a 'Loaves and Fishes' Moment

A couple of weeks ago I found this article entitled 'We are Living in a Loaves and Fishes Moment' on a website I regularly visit. We all know the parable of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. The author shares a homily she heard which had a different take on how the miracle may have happened. It is thought provoking and relevant to the times we are currently living in. Please do check it out and see if you think it could have happened the way the pastor suggests in his homily. It begins:



There are three accounts in the New Testament of Jesus Christ feeding a multitude of people with a handful of loaves of bread and a few small fish. In the Gospel of Matthew, the number of people is listed as 4,000. In the Gospels of Luke and Mark, the number is stated to be 5,000.

According to all three gospels, large crowds of people follow Jesus into a remote area, where he preaches to them for several hours. (The account in Matthew says that the crowds are with Jesus for "three days"). Christ's disciples advise him to send the crowds away to get food and drink. Christ tells his disciples to give the people something to eat. The disciples protest, saying that they have nowhere near enough food or money to feed so many people. When Christ asks his disciples how much food they themselves have, they point to a handful of loaves and an even smaller number of fish.

At that point, Christ blesses the food before him and asks His disciples to feed the people with it. Dutifully, they seat the crowd in smaller groups and then proceed to distribute what little they have.

Continue reading

Vincentian Prayer Chain



The Prayer Train is a special prayer developed by the International General Council for Vincentians around the world in hopes that our unified spirituality will help bring an end to the current pandemic. We all know the power of prayer. It is to be said each day until the end of April. Those of you who are holding virtual meetings, please recite at your meetings and make sure all of your members receive a copy of this **special prayer**.

Let us include in our prayers our doctors, nurses, first responders, police officers, military personnel, grocery clerks, and all others who are putting themselves at risk for the greater good of others. God bless them and God bless our great nation. □

Updates

My return to rosary making was for the most part successful. I chose some lovely crystal beads and found no difficulty in stringing them. When completed I realized the size of the beads were larger than are normally used for rosaries and it was much heavier than your typical rosary. In fact, one could multi-task with these beads - do some weight training while praying! Actually, I am going to take it apart and make 5 much more manageable St. Vincent de Paul chaplets. Let me know if you want one.



Western Region Meeting in May: During this Friday's Conference Call WR VP John Hallissy reported there has not yet been a decision as to if the meeting is a go. He did say a decision would be made fairly soon, so stay tuned . . . I will let you know as soon as the decision is announced.

"For me, prayer is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance directed to heaven, it is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy; finally it is something great, supernatural, which expands my soul and unites me to Jesus."

~ St. Therese of Lisieux

"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."

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