



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



The first time I heard the term reentry was a little more than 3 years ago. I became part of a committee that was tasked with creating a reentry program for those being released from the county jail. Reentry refers to the transition of the incarcerated back into the community. The result of that committee's work is our **Exodus Project** which offers mentoring for men and women coming out of Sacramento County Jail. These returning citizens are often without any support system, have only temporary shelter, and are in need of employment, healthcare, and education along with many other things. It is a precarious time for those recently released, and proceeding on the right path will make or break their successful reentry into the community.

Coincidentally, we now find the term reentry in the news referring to how we will begin to bring some semblance of normalcy back into our lives as cities and states gradually reopen after weeks of isolation and sheltering-in. However measured the process is, we are sure to be somewhat hesitant to delve right in and go back to life as it was before COVID-19. Guidelines and recommendations will continue to be followed, but some habits will be hard to break. Case in point, my husband and daughter stopped into our SVdP food pantry for a short time today. One of the food delivery teams was there bagging food when another Vincentian stopped by to drop off some donated groceries. Without a thought, two of the members introduced themselves and automatically shook hands! My daughter and husband were aghast, but the reality is some lifelong customs will not be easily cast aside. I wonder if social distancing in stores

would be diligently practiced if we didn't have footsteps painted on the floor reminding us of how far we need to stand from each other. Whenever and wherever the term reentry is used, it is certain to be a difficult progression.

This soon to be (I hope) upcoming transition will be tentative at best, but I do have faith that we will accomplish a reentry that will be safe, sane, and sensible. I found a definition of faith that seems to sum up how I see faith playing a major part in how we will survive this pandemic and ultimately re-enter life as we knew it and know it can be. *"Faith, at its core, is deep-rooted in the expectation of good things to come. It goes beyond hope. While much of hope lives in the mind, faith is steeped in the heart and the spirit. ... While life can be hard at the best of times, faith is the knowledge, deep down inside, that things will get better." With our faith we believe ". . . with God all things are possible."* Matthew 19:23-30

Have a blessed week and thanks for all you do,

Judy

Simple Acts of Kindness

by Dot O'Connor

This week Holy Spirit Conference Sacramento received a call from a UC Davis physician requesting assistance for a patient who had been in the hospital since March 10th. The young man lived in Iowa and he had no money or any means whatsoever to travel. The hospital put together a bus ticket to get him back home and the doctor paid for his medications.

Holy Spirit Conference provided food and gift cards for his three-day trip to Iowa. He has recovered fully and as of this writing is home with his family.

This is a wonderful example of what collaboration with others can accomplish and how small acts of kindness can make a difference in another person's life and also add a little bright spot for the conference as well.

Additionally, Dot wanted to make sure to give a shout out to **Sky Riders Motel in Sacramento** across from the Executive Airport. They are doing touchless invoicing so Vincentians don't have to show up and confirm a booking, they just provide the date of birth and the guest's name. They have been wonderful- thank you Sky Riders Motel!



Happy Birthday to our Saint Vincent de Paul!

Dot O'Connor, Holy Spirit Conference President shared this reflection with her conference on Friday, the birthdate of St. Vincent de Paul.

Saint Vincent de Paul (born 24 April 1581, died 27 September 1660) was a French Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. He is venerated as a saint in the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion. He was canonized in 1737. He was renowned for his compassion, humility, and generosity.

The aim of SVdP is to assist with poverty in all its forms through assistance to those in need. The concept of need is more than financial hardship, so supporting people who are excluded or lonely forms a large portion of the Society's work.

There is no need greater than during our current Covid-19 crisis, so many are lining up for the first time in their lives for food to provide to their families, so many are out of work and add to the ever growing unsheltered population in our society, with so many falling ill due to the virus, it's hard to know how we will come out on the other side, and it is organizations like SVdP who will be there to catch the folks needing help.

Let's all take a moment and say a prayer on the birthday of Saint Vincent de Paul, to remember all who are suffering in any way, for our clients, our volunteers, and all impacted with the pandemic.

Blood Drive in Sacramento During COVID-19 Outbreak

Each week during this pandemic, the Sacramento Region VOAD holds a conference call with all their partners who are then able to share valuable information. This week it was learned that The American Red Cross has a scheduled blood drive in Sacramento on May 12, 2020 at 1565 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95815 from, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.



To support social distancing, appointments are now required. With thousands of blood drives cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic, they are working hard to open new donation sites. ***This link*** will take you to the site to schedule your appointment. The need for blood is constant and patients need your help.



DONATE NOW! HopeHelpHeal65

"Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another..."
~ St. Vincent de Paul

"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

[Visit our website](#)



St. Vincent de Paul

Sacramento Diocesan Council

Call Us: (707) 315-3368

www.svdp-sacramento.org