



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



Yet another holiday comes and goes and we are still sheltering-in-place. Mother's Day is traditionally a day most families get together, share a meal, and generally enjoy showering their mothers with kindness. Our new together involves technology – Skype, Zoom, Face Time, and probably other things I don't even know about. It is wonderful to have such formats available so we are able to see each other, but you have to admit it is not the same as in-person celebrations. Case in point, Friday's birthday Zoom celebration for a nephew did not bode well when we all attempted to sing Happy Birthday. It really makes you appreciate those YouTube videos of choruses and orchestras playing separately, yet together. We were no Tabernacle Choir!

We can agree that moms are in many ways the mainstay of the family and we are all blessed to have and to have known so many wonderful examples of motherhood in our lives. Although my own mother, who is now gone, was the definitive parent who was always loving, patient, generous, and encouraging, there were other mothers in my life who weren't mothers at all. But they did possess all the qualities of motherhood even though they did not have their own children. I bet you know some of these women as well. For me it was my two aunts, Grace and Jo, my mother's sisters. They were such a major part of my life growing up. They set an example for me as strong women who were independent, went to work, and took care of themselves. But they took care of the whole family too. They were there to help, to nurture, to spoil us with gifts and trips, every niece and nephew in our family. And there were a lot of them – my

mother had 8 brothers and sisters. They were what we call a mother.

Nowadays, most women work, have kids, do it all. And now with COVID-19 they are doing it all from home. Some are fortunate to have their own moms around to help with the kids, maybe even have grandma as a teacher! But some are working, homeschooling and doing everything else that goes with taking care of a family. I hope you were able to find a way to celebrate the moms in your life this Mother's Day – those who are still here, those who we have lost, and those who are mothers at heart, even though children did not come to them. Let's sing all their praises, say thank you to all of the special women in our lives, and pray they continue to be healthy and strong and with us for a very long time.



Mothers set great examples for all Vincentians through their caring and compassion ways. They teach us to bring a mother's love and a listening heart to all we serve. Let us keep all mothers in our prayers and learn from their gentle and benevolent manners how to help all who come to us in hardship and poverty.

***Have a blessed week and thanks for all you do,***

***Judy***

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## Conference Corner

Many conferences are reporting that calls for assistance, especially financial, are way down compared to before COVID-19. We are beginning to wonder why this is and what is going to happen a few months from now. Once the stay-at-home is lifted and people begin to go back to normal, well the new normal, will conferences be bombarded with requests for help. Will we be prepared and will we have the resources to provide this considerable increase in our neighbor's needs?



One factor contributing to the low amount of calls could be that people are not aware we are "open for business." St. Dominic's Conference in Benicia began doing "care calls" to their neighbors and were surprised to find just that. People didn't think the conference was actively helping with food and other types of assistance. Additionally, these calls were well received, people genuinely happy to know those at SVdP cared enough to call them, were praying for them, and there to help if necessary. Is your conference doing care calls? It is the one thing we can do safely from home and still be able to share our Vincentian core values and the essential elements of the Society – Spirituality, Friendship, and Service.

Being ready for this future influx of requests for help means we need to have the money to support the them. Most conferences have lost their major means of funding with our parishes closed and no 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays to depend on. One conference, St. James in Davis, was pro-active and sent a mailing to their 200 plus regular donors asking for contributions for rent or grocery cards. To date they have received \$6,000 and 20 grocery cards. President Dick Hoenisch said, "Since we can't have our traditional 2nd collection, we did an alternative!" And it worked. Good job St. James!

If your conference is taking steps to plan for the future increase in demands for help, please **det me** know so I can share with others. To quote the Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared." We need to do whatever is necessary to be able to continue our service to those who come to us for help. Now and later.



***DONATE NOW! HopeHelpHeal65***

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***"Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them." ~ Pope Francis***

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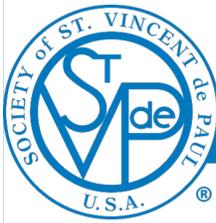
*"A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need."*

*~ Mission Statement*

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