



THE VISITOR

News & Updates

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Sacramento Diocesan Council

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Happy New Year! The end of the Advent/Christmas season allows some time for reflection. I am thankful for the work of the Holy Spirit in our conferences this past year. We recently welcomed three new conferences (St. Martin, Esparto; Our Lady of Guadalupe, National Shrine, Sacramento; and Our Divine Savior, Chico). Our Top Hat Dinner in December reminded us of the many wonderful works of charity of the conferences throughout the Sacramento Diocese and of the hope that we bring—even out of the ashes, as we saw from the untiring spirit of our Vincentians at Holy Family Conference in Weed. Of course, it was a year of transition for the Sacramento Diocesan Council. Under the leadership of **John Hallissy**, Immediate Past President, the Sacramento Council began the process of re-defining itself in the rapid formation of seven district councils. That process continues. Already we have seen the benefit of working together locally (*subsidiarity*) in a common spirit of friendship (*solidarity*). In 2015, we mark the 170th anniversary of Vincentian tradition here in the United States. We also celebrate the Sacramento Council's 60th anniversary. The challenges of the past year seem ever present as we look ahead. But, in the Vincentian tradition, we serve in hope. —**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President



Feeding the Hungry
(photo collage courtesy of Mary Dempsey, Our Lady of Grace Conference, West Sacramento)

Conference News. **Kevin Darr** is the new conference president at St. Katherine Drexel, Jackson, effective January. Kevin follows **Jim Birmingham** who ably served the conference as president for six years. *Thank you both for your service! . . .* At Our Lady of Grace, West Sacramento, **Ritamarie Sargent** has been elected conference president. Ritamarie has served with the conference for many years and has been a home visit team leader and worked in the OLG homeless ministry. *Welcome, Ritamarie! . . .* In Auburn, St. Teresa of Avila Conference is active with serving the homeless, and, as recently reported by the *Sacramento Bee*, **Fr. Michael Carrol** is leading an effort to use former World War II barracks as a shelter location. **Geri Wuelfing** reports, "There's a coalition here in Auburn called the Right Hand, spearheaded by **Fr. Carrol**, who is our pastor here at St. Teresa of Avila, to get a shelter here in Auburn." According to Gerri, "Some of our Vincentians are directly involved with the movement, one fellow being a contractor and another couple, both

lawyers. If the shelter becomes a reality, SVdP would be asked to play an active part in it.” Gerri adds, “There is a lot of determination...and many prayers, for securing a homeless shelter. St. Teresa [conference] plays an active role in helping the homeless. We provide breakfast every Sunday at a parking lot, and we also have a trailer, which goes to the lot every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, to distribute clothing, sleeping bags, tarps, toiletries, first aid supplies, etc.” The need for a shelter is keenly felt: “We have only 10-12 Vincentians who are actively involved in this, so at times we all feel quite stretched but we know we are doing God's work. This service is all good but a homeless shelter would definitely enable us to even better serve our homeless folks.” . . . With great sadness, we learned of the passing last month of **Margie Johnson**, SVDP secretary for the St. Thomas More Conference in Paradise. **Jan Bolger** notes, Margie was “a major volunteer at St. Thomas More in Paradise. Thanks for all the prayers for Margie who was a real saint in our lives.”

Q & A

Q: We understand “twinning” should take place only among the conferences within a district council. Is that how “twinning” works?

A: We always start with the Rule. Article 4.1 describes "twinning" as being part of the "network of charity." I have heard some say, "twinning" technically refers only to sharing funds with the International Council (e.g., sending conference funds to the Haiti relief effort) (See Manual, p. 46). However, Article 4.1 is clear that “twinning” is sharing between any conference or council. The "network of charity" has no boundaries because poverty has no boundaries. "Surplus funds can be shared with needy conferences or the special works of the District Council (Rule, Part III, Stat. 25) (Manual, p. 26.) A key to "twinning" is personal involvement with the other conference or council. For example, one conference provides the home visit, while the other conference provides resources. The conference/council receiving the funds should share with the providing conference about the experience of how the funds helped the poor. Twinning promotes "subsidiarity" (helping the poor locally) and "solidarity" (being in the "network of charity".)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- February 21, **Rendu U.**
- February 20, **Vincentian Stations of the Cross**, St. James, Davis
- March 7, **Ozanam Orientation**, St. Joseph, Vacaville
- April 17, **Annual Charity Dinner**, Sacramento

Vincentian Reflections. The 2015 Vincentian Reflection and Vincentian Bulletin Announcements are [posted on the National Website](#).



Lord, thank you for letting us be your hands!



Seeking Charity & Justice

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