



# THE VISITOR

## News & Updates

March 31, 2016

**Sacramento Diocesan Council**

*Celebrating 60 Years of Service in the Sacramento Diocese*

[www.svdp-sacramento.org](http://www.svdp-sacramento.org) (916) 955-6758

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**Renewal.** “[There are ‘compelling proofs’ for the Resurrection], but the most convincing proof that Jesus is the Messiah lies in our hands. *We are the evidence* that Jesus is risen! Like his first disciples, we, too, have left our hiding places and spread the message of God’s love and mercy—even in the face of opposition and misunderstanding. Our existence, both as individuals and as a Church, confirms that Jesus truly is the Son of God and the Lord of creation.” (From meditation, *The Word Among Us*.) In the everyday work of our Vincentian ministry, serving in hope, and in mercy, we truly are “Resurrection People.” In our encounters with the poor, in seeing Christ in the face of the poor, we look for change, new beginnings, renewal. As a Society, too, we set aside a special time on the last Sunday of April to renew ourselves and our conferences as Vincentians. In April, I invite you to re-dedicate yourself to our shared mission of charity and justice. Information about [Conference re-dedication is available on our website](#). *Christus Resurrexit! Alleluia!* —**Paul Starkey**, Sacramento Diocesan Council President

**Benefit for the Poor Dinner Focus: Charity with Mercy.**

We are pleased to announce **Bishop Jaime Soto** and **Auxiliary Bishop Myron Cotta** will join us for our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner on Friday, April 22, 2016. We are also pleased to have as our

keynote speaker, **Fr. Joseph Fessio, SJ**, founder and editor of St. Ignatius Press, and author of insightful Catholic commentary. This year, we recognize as “Benefactor of the Year” **Admail West**, whose family business has supported the Council over the years. Please note the event will be held at a new venue this year, the Double Tree at Arden. Table sales are underway, and raffle tickets are being sold by the conferences. The Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner is the Sacramento Council’s signature fundraising event, with proceeds funding our many charitable activities throughout the Diocese. ([Dinner brochure artwork, above](#): “Seeing Christ in the Face of the Poor,” courtesy of artist and illustrator **Michael Miller**.)



### Help Us Help Others

For information about the Benefit Dinner and sponsoring a table, [please visit our website](#) or call Board Member **Tom Aguer** at (916) 599-0546.

**“Getting Ahead” Participants to Graduate.** The Getting Ahead program at St. Martin Conference, Esparto nears completion of its 20-week course, reports **Chelsea Becker**. “Together the six original participants [have investigated] the causes of poverty, how to build their resources, and setting goals to change their lives.” Graduation is April 7,

2016, at St. Martin Hall, 25633 Grafton Street, Esparto, with dinner at 5 p.m. followed by graduation at 6 p.m. Participants will share what they have learned with community members and present their individual plans for Getting Ahead. In January, **Chelsea** coordinated a Mentor Training which included information about the Getting Ahead program for conferences considering bringing that systemic change program to their communities. (Photo above: Participants at training for mentors.) Four conferences represented at training were St. Lawrence, North Highlands, St. Vincent Ferrer, Vallejo, St. James, Davis and St. Anthony, Winters. "We are excited by the opportunity to collaborate with the entire community to walk with their neighbors out of poverty," **Chelsea** noted.

**Ozanam Orientation.** On March 12, 2016, over 75 persons attended the Council's Ozanam Orientation hosted by St. Anthony, Florin Conference. Following Mass, **Fr. Mieczyslaw "Mitch" Maleszyk**, Parochial Administrator, gave welcoming remarks. The morning program had key sessions by presenters: *Who We Are and What We Do*, **Craig Shaw**; *Our Heritage*, **Cathy O'Neill**; *Vincentian Spirituality*, **Jim Toner**; *Our Rule*, **Danny Camarena**; *Accountability*, **Judy Dietlein**; *Poverty Overview*, **Paul Starkey**; and *Home Visits*, **Marilyn McCullough**. Handout materials included a "pocket size" copy of the Rule. Thanks to **Judy Dietlein**, Council Training Coordinator, and St. Anthony Conference President **Fred Nichols** for organizing this successful event. Thanks, too, to our wonderful presenters. (Photo, at right: Sacramento Council Vice President **Danny Camarena** (standing) leads a discussion session.) More photos from the event can be found on [our facebook page](#).



<b>SVdP CALENDAR</b>
• April 16, <a href="#">Trivia Night fundraiser</a> , Redding
• April 22, <a href="#">10<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner</a>
• April 24, <a href="#">Ozanam Sunday</a>
• May 9, Feast of <a href="#">St. Louise de Marillac</a> (moved from March 15)
• August 20, <a href="#">Half Day Retreat with Bishop Cotta</a>
• September 24, <a href="#">Friends of the Poor Walk</a>

throughout the Sacramento Diocese. ♦**Charity Snapshot: Steve Ramirez-Palmer** of Holy Cross Conference during Holy Week distributed seven mattresses among families in need in West Sacramento. The donation of mattresses was coordinated by **Michael McDonald**, president of the St. Anthony, Esparto Conference. ♦Council President **Paul Starkey** has been named to the National Council's Strategic Change Task Force.

**Council and Conference News.** ♦We welcome Sacred Heart Conference, Gridley as our newest conference. **Maria Sanchez** is the new conference president. Thanks to **Maria** and Placer "Gold" District President **Ron Morin** for their leadership in bringing about this important extension of our Society, now at 53 conferences

**SVDP "Communities of Practice" a Networking Site for all Vincentians.** The SVdP Communities of Practice Forum invites you to network and share ideas about: home visits, funding, governance, youth and young adult, and much more. Explore the site at [svdpspecialworks.net](http://svdpspecialworks.net)



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**Seeking Charity & Justice**

Help Us Help Others SVDP Thrift Store, 2275 Watt Avenue, Sacramento (916) 972-1212