



# THE VISITOR

## News & Updates

April 30, 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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**May and Mary: Our Marian Devotion.** May is the month of Mary, and, for Vincentians, a time to recall our special Marian devotion. St. Vincent de Paul preached Mary as the “model” of charity and focused on three mysteries in her life: the Immaculate Conception; the Annunciation, and the Visitation. Our Society’s principal founder, Bl. Frederic Ozanam, being devoted to Mary, proposed Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception as our patroness. December 8 is a Vincentian feast day (Manual, p. 67). An “essential” of every conference meeting is the recitation of the *Hail Mary* (Rule, Statute 7). As we serve in hope and charity this month, let us especially remember the “model” of Mary and our devotion to her (Rule 2.2). “*O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.*”

–Paul Starkey, Sacramento Diocesan Council President



### **Art Opens Eyes and Hearts at Annual Benefit for the Poor Charity Dinner.**

“*Seeing Christ in the Face of the Poor*” was the theme of the Council’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner, held at the Doubletree in Sacramento on April 22, 2016. Watercolor paintings (pictured) by artist **Michael Miller** and black

and white photography by **Adrian Vargas**, a senior at Inderkum High School in Natomas, beautifully served to re-open our eyes to the condition of those in poverty. Insightful

remarks about the important role of benefactors in the service of charity, given by **Fr. Joseph Fessio, SJ**, our keynote speaker, perfectly followed the presentation of our Benefactor Award to AdMail West, represented by company president **Kathy Pescetti**. (Pictured from left, **John Hallissy**, **Kathy Pescetti**, and **Paul Starkey**.) We were honored with the presence of **Auxiliary Bishop Myron Cotta**, who provided the evening’s welcome and invocation. **Walt Gray** was entertaining again as returning master of ceremonies. The Annual Benefit for the Poor Dinner and Raffle is the Sacramento Council’s signature fundraising event, with proceeds funding our many charitable activities throughout the Diocese. Reports Council Treasurer **Roelof van Ark**, the dinner was a financial success, with proceeds from this year’s event “up 14% from last year.” Council President **Paul Starkey** acknowledged and

thanked our guests and many table sponsors, especially Ozanam Sponsors, AG Association Management Services and **Bridget and Max Ruiz**, of JMJ Seekers, Inc. dba McDonalds. Special thanks, here, to **Roelof van Ark**, and the event organizing committee: **John Hallissy**, **Tom Aguer**, **Debbie Cairns**, **Jenna Cosca**, **Tiffany Madrid**, **Inez Reyes**, **Jim Floyd**, **Craig Shaw**, **Jim Carlson**, **Marion Bishop**, **Ana Keyworth**, **Dot O’Connor**, and **Paul Starkey**. [Editor’s Note: the photography display is now viewable at our Thrift Store, where our Benefactor Award is also displayed. Follow Facebook for more photos from the dinner.]





**Participants in “Bridges Out of Poverty” Program Celebrate Graduation.**

On April 7, 2016, St. Martin Conference “completed its first ‘Getting Ahead Cohort’ with six graduates!” reports **Chelsea Becker**. (Photo: graduates with certificates.) Conference President **Michael McDonald**, Board Advisor **Chelsea Becker**, and St. Anthony-Winters Conference President **Elizabeth Ehnat**, among others, have led this initiative, sponsored, in part, by the Sacramento

Council. (See our story, last issue.) Looking ahead, Chelsea adds: “Our mentors are still being supported by us as they continue to build their relationships with the graduates. We are preparing for our second cohort which we hope to start in the fall [collaboration between St. Martin and St. Anthony conferences with the class likely to be held in Winters].” Congratulations to the recent graduates, the group leaders and mentors. [Editor’s note: Chelsea is available to talk with conferences interested in running the Getting Ahead program in their communities or to provide the Bridges Out of Poverty training.]

**Year of Mercy – Jubilee Day of Deacons.** On Corpus Christi Sunday, May 29, **Bishop Jaime Soto** leads the faith community in a solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament to celebrate the Jubilee Day of Deacons. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been invited to participate and “share in this diocesan experience of providing public witness to the mercy of God in his church, especially through the diaconal ministry of service to the underprivileged, poor and vulnerable.”

**SVdP CALENDAR**

- May 3, [Youth Event: Feeding the Hungry at St. Philomene](#)
- May 9, Feast of [St. Louise de Marillac](#) (moved from March 15)
- May 21, [Rendu U. in Redding](#)
- May 29, Year of Mercy-Procession
- July 10, [Vincentian Family Picnic](#)
- August 20, [Half Day Retreat with Bishop Cotta](#)
- September 10 – Save the Date . . .
- September 24 – [Friends of the Poor Walk](#)

President **Marilyn McCullough**. See our website, or click video photo at right)

◆On April 21, St. Mel celebrated a success: Conference President **Craig Shaw**

reports, “We have been feeding the homeless on Monday afternoons for a year now. [From 5-10 meals], it has progressed to 60 or so every week. This has truly been a team success. Everyone has helped in one way or another.”

◆Training: [May 21 Rendu U. in Redding](#). ◆July 10 our Young Vincentians host a Vincentian Family Picnic at **Art Guerrero** Park in Sacramento. [Like our Youth on Facebook](#).



**Council and Conference News.** ◆April 16 Trivia Night in Redding was a resounding success, reports North State District President **Brendan Butler**. ◆St. Joseph, Lincoln this month published an excellent introduction video about the work in Lincoln and nearby communities, which features a presentation by Conference



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