



# St. Vincent de Paul Sacramento Diocesan Council

Serving in Hope and Mercy



## Monday Morning Memo



### *THE YEAR IN REVIEW*

*In looking back on this past year, 2018 was an extremely eventful year for the Sacramento Council. It brought new projects and several new people to us, all welcome additions and all part of our mission to serve the poor.*

NEW FACES: **Jean Machado** joined our staff as bookkeeper in September, and the Thrift Store has a new manager, **Viktoriya Kotyash**. **Linda Hamilton**, Ozanam Resource Center Coordinator, completed a successful first year assisting many of our neighbors in need. In some instances they walked in the door of the Thrift Store where she has an office, and she was able to provide items from the store such as clothing, blankets or sleeping bags. In other cases she referred callers to local conferences that could assist them. We welcomed **Dina Weger** as Case Manager for the 2017 fire victims in Yuba and Butte Counties. Her position is a result of a FEMA grant we administer in partnership with Catholic Charities of California.

***We also welcomed the Sacramento Life Center's Mobile Clinic to our store parking lot every Monday. They offer free medical care and free patient advocacy on site.***

***NEW PROJECT:*** The Exodus Project Sacramento, a prison mentoring program for returning citizens, was finalized in November and it will hit the ground running in January. After nearly 2 years in the making, we will begin to recruit mentors who will be paired with participants newly released from the Sacramento County Jail. This is an important undertaking to help stem recidivism.

***FUNDRAISING:*** ***Our 12th Annual Dinner for the Poor took place in April with Sr. Suzanne Jabro as keynote speaker talking about the Get on the Bus program which she founded. It is a program which enables children to visit their parents who are incarcerated. It was an extraordinary evening and a very successful fundraiser.***

In May we participated in the ***Big Day of Giving*** and effectively doubled our donations from 2017. The September ***Walk for the Poor*** had nearly 20 conferences taking part, with hundreds of walkers and thousands of dollars raised to serve the poor. It is an event that not only raises money, but also raises awareness about SVdP and what we do. In November, it was ***#GivingTuesday*** which helped us raise additional funds for the Council online.

***OTHER EVENTS:*** ***In September the Council hosted a Day of Reflection at St. Anthony's in Sacramento. We were fortunate to have two inspiring speakers, John Watkins, Director of Catholic Charities and Mark Renick, Coordinator for the Prison Re-entry Program in Boise, Idaho.***

Our final event for the year was the well attended Top Hat Dinner where we recognize Vincentians for their outstanding service. This year 30 conferences acknowledged a Vincentian with an Ozanam Award.

***Of course most activity takes place within our conferences who offer a multitude of services to all who call them. They are busy doing Home Visits, feeding the poor and homeless, assisting with both financial and in many cases spiritual needs.***

The most challenging happenings this year were the two devastating fires, one in Redding in July and the recent Camp Fire that destroyed the city of Paradise. St. Joseph's Conference in Redding and Our Divine Savior in Chico both stepped up to take on disaster relief services in these areas. Chico is still reeling from the aftermath of the fire and currently completed 43 consecutive days at the Disaster Relief Center assisting victims. The level of servant leadership exhibited by these two conferences has been nothing short of astonishing and we thank them all for the services they have provided those who have suffered such unbelievable destruction in their lives.

***The most exciting news was the addition of a new conference formed within the South Sacramento/Elk Grove District Council. In September District President Danny Camarena announced the new St. Stephen the First Martyr Conference. And just last week, Ron Morin, District Council President for the Gold District announced the formation of St. Joseph's in Marysville. It is not signed, sealed and finalized yet, but the new members***

*ected officers and are ready to go to work! Congratulations to both new conferences; we are now 55 in number!*

*Wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019,  
~ Judy*

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## A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, but  
by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you, but by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping your face bright,  
even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you when people and  
their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help.

*God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.*



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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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**St. Vincent de Paul  
Sacramento Diocesan Council**

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