



Society of St. Vincent de Paul NEWSLETTER



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"It is for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them." (St. Vincent de Paul)

We'll be running past articles and BRICKS for you to enjoy!

BRICKS

Dear Conference President, please read this new BRICK, review it with your Conference, use the information, and file this BRICK in your BRICK book.

Vol. 10 No. 3

October, 2007



Collaboration Between Conferences

Collaboration and cooperation have become common buzzwords, but what exactly do these words mean? The concepts articulated by these words are hardly new or innovative. The Book of Ecclesiastes written thousands of years ago points out, "Two are better than one, for if they fall, the one will lift the other up, but woe to the one who is alone..." As beings, we are created to be interwoven into a family where collaboration and cooperation serve as cornerstones of life. Our inter-connectedness is everywhere around us. It colors everything and should be the lens from which we live out our gospel call. As Vincentians, we are intimately connected to the Lord, to the Church, to our parish communities, to one another and to those we serve.

Connected through the love of Christ and a common call to "seek and find the forgotten", Vincentians across the world strive to serve God through service to the poor and one another. We are all the same and yet different. The beauty and the strength of our Society is reflected in the diversity that exists in our membership, our conferences and our councils. We often speak different languages and come from different cultures, but in Christ we become one.

United by the universality of our call and Vincentian vocation, the organization allows conferences and councils to function in a variety of ways as long as the group is operating within The Rule, by-laws and guidelines of the Society and its governing councils. By the very nature of our Society, we have been formed to be at the same time different and the same. We all pray the same prayers, follow the same formats and serve the same people. Yet we meet at different times and places and speak in different languages. Always we are called to be one and yet many.

Often misunderstood, diversity is often poorly tolerated. While initially intrigued by differences, we often judge individual and group differences to be less than we are. Our differences are often the source of conflict and misunderstandings between conferences and councils. It is easy to get stuck and believe that our way is the right way and that others are wrong, misguided or at minimum less effective than we are. Often we get frustrated when we attempt to contact another conference to see what they have or could do for a client. To us, their procedures may seem non-responsive or too cumbersome for our tastes and so we assume we are better equipped to handle situations and cases. At times, we are much too eager to believe others including our guests when they complain about other Vincentians and/or conferences. After all, who does not want to believe that their conference is innately better than all other conferences? We have a vested interest in supporting and defending our conference and its practices, but at what cost?

Amidst our struggles to work together, it is important to remember that as Vincentians we are called to minister and to accept one another even before we reach out to others. How can we find Christ in the faces of the poor if we cannot find Christ in our brother and sister Vincentians? We need to live with open hearts and minds. We need to realize and accept the fact that different conferences can and should have different ways of handling things. Each conference must reflect the individual character of its group, its parish and its clients. What works for one conference may not work at all for another group. We need to remember that “our way” is not the only way that things can be done. Different is not necessarily better or worse; it is simply different.

To establish a protocol, representatives from each conference and/or council involved should meet with one another. Each conference and/or council should have the opportunity to present their operating procedures and how they deal with calls, etc. Difficulties in accessing the resources of the other should be talked about. Through sharing, discussion and consensus, a new protocol can be developed and taken back to each conference and/or council for approval. Once approved, the new procedure/protocol should be implemented. The collaborative group should reconvene in a few months to evaluate how the protocol is working. During this follow-up meeting, adjustments and changes can be made.

Conferences and/or councils can and should meet regularly with one another, discuss problems and concerns and establish effective ways to meet situational needs. Such interactions can improve how we work together and enable us to build increased solidarity and fellowship. It is hard to believe your conference/council is perfect and another conference is inadequate when you actually know the people on the other end of the phone. By working together, we expand our knowledge, our resources and our relationships. Through collaborative efforts, we can learn from one another, support one another and become a clearer reflection of the Body of Christ to the world. And, most of all, collaboration frees us from the temptation to function as the “end all and be all” of all conferences/councils and savior of all who call upon us. In true fellowship and collaboration, we can better live out our Vincentian call: seeking and finding Jesus in everyone, including our neighboring conference/council and its members. By means of cooperation and sharing, we lift each other up and reassure each other that we do not walk this Vincentian journey alone.

Examples of stipulations in collaborative agreements between Conferences: if Conference A receives a call for help from an individual who lives within the boundaries of Conference B,

- then, the members of Conference A should make contact with Conference B before giving assistance or promising to give assistance.
- except in the case of simple lack of resources, Conference A should honor the decision of Conference B if they chose not to assist.
- in the case of simple lack of resources, Conference A may offer to assist Conference B in giving aid to the individual.
- if crossing boundaries is a regular occurrence, Conference A and Conference B should establish a normal contact list for consultation.
- Conference A, after consulting Conference B and granting temporary assistance, should refer the individual back to Conference B for future assistance.
- Conference A should refer the individual to other possible resources for assistance

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

The next General Membership meeting will be on June 20th, 2009. Mass will be at 8:30 a.m. in the Hall of Banners.

Please bring a friend, or new Conference members. Remember that it's a time for spirituality, friendship, and fellowship, and just getting to know each other.

Make it fun and carpool.



Voice of the Poor May, 2009

www.voiceofthepoor.org

www.stvincentdepaul.net

Navigating the Benefit Maze – Part 2

Make sure your conference is represented on Saturday, May 9 for Part 2 of this workshop designed to help Vincentians help access the safety net for those who come to us for help. The workshop will be held at the Hope VI Community Center at the corner of 7th Avenue and Buckeye from 9 until 12:30. The Arizona Self Help Eligibility tool as well as Health-E Arizona will be demonstrated online. There will also be a speaker about job training opportunities. Reservations are a must as seating is limited. Call Lucy Howell (480) 424-3883 and leave your name, phone number, conference represented and how many will be coming with you).

St. Vincent de Paul Position on Arizona Budget

The following letter from SVdP Diocesan Council President, Joe Riley, and SVdP Executive Director, Steve Zabilski, has been released to the media and delivered to all members of the Arizona legislature. The letter was reviewed by members of Voice of the Poor and the Diocesan Council in mid May.

It goes without saying that these are trying times for our state and our communities, for our businesses, schools and non-profit organizations, and for most of us as individuals. We are in uncharted waters as we navigate through the economic challenges confronting us.

We all realize there are no simple solutions. This crisis reaches far beyond traditional approaches to crafting a state budget. Extraordinary efforts will be required to resolve it. Dire circumstances can produce appropriate decisions when the reality of a problem is recognized.

There are differing opinions on how we arrived at this crisis, just as there are conflicting ideas on how to find our way out. No one wants to create an economic environment that drives away business, reduces educational opportunities or balances the budget on the backs of those most vulnerable in our society.

Yet, when you carefully examine the magnitude of the present situation – a deficit of approximately \$3 billion in this coming fiscal year – it becomes clear that “shared sacrifice” will most certainly become a common theme. While some point to Washington and federal stimulus money as the answer, the fact remains that it represents only a small part of a temporary solution.

That is why the Society of St. Vincent de Paul supports Governor Brewer’s approach to balancing and restructuring the state budget through such steps as additional spending cuts, meaningful expenditure limitations, longer-term budget planning, a capital-funding plan, tax reform that promotes economic growth, and raising additional revenues through a temporary tax increase. It is our hope that such a broad-based plan will produce real progress and help prevent placing a disproportionate burden on those it is the Society’s mission to serve – the hungry, homeless and working poor.

We commend the Governor and her staff for their willingness to include “all options” in a comprehensive effort to reform our state budget. We ask all those in leadership to put aside partisan differences in support of the common good. How we address these crucial issues now will have profound consequences for the people of Arizona and the future of this great state.

Joseph J. Riley
President
Phoenix Council
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Stephen J. Zabilski
Executive Director
Phoenix Council
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Voice of the Poor meets monthly during the Arizona legislative session. Meetings are open to all who are interested. VOP will next meet on Monday, May 18 at 3:30 in Vincentian Support Services. For information or to be added to the VOP e-mail network, contact Lucy Howell at (602) 695-1604.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE –

You can get a copy of **HOW TO RUN A CONFERENCE** by calling Sandy Edwards at Vincentian Support Services 602.216.6803. The cost is \$14.00 each.

Serving In Hope is also available at a minimal cost of \$2.00 each. ❖

Western Region Conference to be held June 24th through June 27th.

This event will take place at the Holiday Inn – Downtown Everett. For more information please contact Paul Roth at 425.387.7049 or at adminsvdp@verizon.net or www.snohomishsaintvincent.com

What is Vincentian Support Services?

Vincentian Support Services exists to serve the Conferences in whatever ways it can.. These include formation and training; providing counsel to members and officers to resolve issues that need to be addressed, and to do so with love and according to the Vincentian Rule. We provide on-on-one or group training to help with record-keeping, filling out forms, understanding Vincentian Spirituality, and helping to start new or rejuvenate deteriorating Conferences. We teach workshops, conduct Days of Reflection, publish newsletters and other needed literature, and help run special events to promote fellowship and friendship among our members. We are here to primarily serve you, the Vincentian and your Conference. We are Patricia Metrick (602) 850-6717 and Sandy Edwards (602) 261-6803. You may also contact us via e-mail:

PMetrick@svdp-phx-az.org

Sedwards@svdp-phx-az.org

We're on the Web!

www.stvincentdepaul.net/VincentianSupport.htm



Praying With The People We Serve
WORKSHOP CANCELLED
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WORKSHOP
HAS BEEN CANCELLED

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is always a beautiful experience to see the best instincts of human nature at work. They are abundantly on display during this difficult time in the caring and compassionate communities within the Diocese of Phoenix.

St. Vincent de Paul is blessed to be a place where communities come together to help us help others. People of all faiths and backgrounds, individuals and families, businesses large and small selflessly show their love of neighbor in many meaningful ways. Their goodness and generosity is a heartwarming example of an ecumenical spirit of service.

The labors and contributions of these many wonderful people make it possible for us to fulfill our mission of serving the most vulnerable in society regardless of their race, creed, color or status. It is an endless source of inspiration that our commitment to restoring hope and transforming lives is shared and strongly supported by so many of our fellow citizens. Compassion is our common cause.

Thanks to our volunteers and benefactors, St. Vincent de Paul assists more people in more ways than any other non-profit organization. Those who help us, like those we serve, are part of the ever-growing St. Vincent de Paul family. Isn't such solidarity of all His children, whatever their situation in life, what Jesus had in mind? He teaches us clearly that God calls us not just as individuals but as a community and that how we relate to each other is part of how we relate to God. I believe it is an extraordinary blessing that our Vincentian vocation affords us, every day, the opportunity to show our love for God by lovingly caring for those in need.

I'm reminded of the inspiring words Frederic Ozanam shared with his fellow Vincentians soon after the founding of the Society, a time of severe economic turmoil in France:

“What a challenging but what an instructive time it is through which we are passing. We may perish, but we must not regret having lived in it. Let us learn from it. Let us complain less of our times and more of ourselves. Let us not be discouraged. Let us be better.”

Indeed, could we possibly have a worthier goal than to always seek to be better in our service to the Lord?

God bless.

Joe Riley

Special Ministries offers several new programs

The Esperanza/Hope Program encourages participants to become more involved with SVdP through volunteering and participating in our programs.

English Classes are free and are offered every Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30.

The Women's Discussion Group: This group is new and consists of women from Hope/Esperanza

Free Legal Clinic is offered every third Thursday of the month. There are 36 slots available for appointments.

Budgeting Classes are free and are available on Thursday's from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

For more information please call Francisco Alatorre at 602-261-6854



St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores **News Update**



The Fancy Dress Fashion Event on Saturday, April 25 at the Mesa thrift store was a big hit. With more than a dozen models, including Alison Ghan, a SVdP employee, the audience was treated to an array of prom, bridal and other fancy dresses.

There were over 1500 beautiful dresses to choose from and the audience enjoyed finding their favorite one to buy.

Besides the boost in sales, there was great team work displayed by the whole retail sales operational staff from the truck drivers, to the store general managers. Other departments, like Volunteer Services, were also key in making this event such fun. A similar event is planned for the fall.

Volunteers still needed. Our store managers report that having volunteers in our stores is making a positive difference in the store operations. Please continue to promote volunteer opportunities at our Valley stores. Your help is vital to the recruitment efforts. Feel free to call Pat Hedrick for more information at **602-484-4794**.



CAMPUS NEWS

Processing center going green

Last year, the Processing Center has been fortunate in forging new relationships and embracing old ones that has helped us Go Green. During this fiscal year the Processing Center has been able to cut more than \$37,000 in our disposable waste when compared to last year. The drop can be attributed to many changes that the Processing Center has made.

One major contribution has been the partnerships that we have made with Friedman, Westech Recyclers, Renovated Metals and Arizona Pacific Pulp and Paper. These partnerships have been instrumental in our development of a program that not only benefits SVDP financially but also has help keep the environment clean. Some of the items that are recycled include metals, cardboard, books, and computers.

I would like to thank the employees of the Processing Center. I would also like to thank the Management Staff for their efforts: Diana Moreno, El Fonza Renfro, Lee Henry, and Monica Ansell.

Submitted by Ken Hale

CONFERENCE NEWS FROM DISTRICT EIGHT

Donations to our conferences were good during Lent. Two conferences also received Ash Wednesday collections from their pastors that benefited all of our conferences in the District. We voted to send in a one time \$500 to the twinning committee even though our District is exempt.

We learned that St. Michael's Conference in Gila Bend experienced a break-in at their trailer after just obtaining their meat allotment from downtown. All the meat was stolen along with baby food and diapers. A police report has been filed. The good news, the facility was not vandalized.

St. Augustine Conference in Phoenix reported that they have sold their truck and no longer are obligated to pay \$650.00 monthly. However, the bad news, they learned they have been sent bills for all the expenses to obtain the donated trailer and renovate it for their office and pantry use. This bill is \$12,500. This bill will again seriously hamper their financial aid to families in their conference area. District 8 was able to give

them \$1000 toward the bill. Through a letter campaign we are hoping to drastically reduced the remaining \$11,500 as quickly as possible. We hope other Districts may be able to assist.

Finally we ask for your prayers for the following people in our District, as we have been experiencing lots of illnesses and death of family members.

Billy Rodriguez, President of St. Michaels, recovering from bypass heart surgery; Herminia Cavazos, President of St. Williams recovering from hip surgery; Clotilde Penolosa, President of Blessed Sacrament who is traveling to the Philippines to see her brother who is seriously ill; Mel Jones, Treasurer of St. Thomas Aquinas who is on leave to handle the estate of his brother Emory Jones who passed away.

My special thanks to the Vincentians in these conferences who have stepped up to try and fill the void.

Submitted by Jean Zell

Committee News

Formation & Spiritual-ity meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Vincentian Support Center. Every district should have at least one member on this committee and you don't have to be a conference officer to serve. We plan and execute programs to help form Vincentians both educationally and spiritually. We need your ideas and wisdom. Call Chairman Jim Prendergast at (480) 836-8082 to volunteer.

Development and Community Relations Meets the 2nd Thursday of every other month at 4:00 pm in the Vincentian Support Center. Reviews and helps plan those programs which establish the image of the Society in our community, and increase the donation of time, talent and treasure to the Society from those within the sound of our "voice." Joe Riley is current Chairman, (623) 544-1166.

Voice of the Poor. Contact Howishome@aol.com for Lucy Howell, Chair, if you would like to receive VOP information by e-mail. Next meeting date is Monday, May 18th at 3:30 p.m. in Vincentian Support Services.

Eldercare meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 2:00 pm in the Vincentian Support Center.

Call Victress Jenkins at (602) 250-2333 for information.

Stores meets quarterly, at St. Bernadette at 9:00 am. If you have retailing, merchandizing, or just a sense of style, come join us! Larry Shima 480-373-6312



The Harvest is great but the workers are few...

go therefore and ask the harvest-master to send workers into his fields..."

We desperately (yes, we mean that) need Vincentians to join the committees that form the backbone of our Society. We cannot have staff and one or two other people making decisions.

Some of these committees meet in the evening, others during the day, and we're open to change if a large number of new members prefer a different meeting time. Come. Speak up. Participate. Lead.

It's your Society.



Conference Resources & Concerns meets on the first Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm in the Vincentian Support Center. Since this committee deals with all of the problems and opportunities faced by conferences, it seeks the widest possible representation. Join in

by coming down! Chairman is Tom Clouser at (623) 979-3520.

Food Service meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in Vincentian Support. If you're interested in food allotments, quantity or quality, delivery charges, dining room or pantry operations, etc., this is the place to participate. All are welcome. Andy Andreano is Chairman, (602) 261-6818.

Facilities. Meets on the Monday preceding the Board meeting, at 9:30 am in Vincentian Support. Reviews and plans for the current and future physical needs of the Society. Looking for people with backgrounds in civil engineering, architecture, the construction trades, and related areas. Call Chairman Jerry Tong to help (480) 897-7922.

Safety. This committee is interested in safety problems anywhere in the Council – stores, dining rooms, Watkins campus, etc. Meet at 9:30 am on the 2nd Wed. of the month in Vincentian Hall. Chairman is Frank Kubinski 602-261-6819 ■

UPCOMING TRAINING AND FORMATION SESSIONS

New Members are encouraged to serve clients, be mentored, and attend a few meetings before taking the Ozanam Formation Experience (OFE).

OFE CLASSES

June 6th Saturday, **OFE #1 & #2** – Blessed Sacrament, Scottsdale - Mass at 8:30 a.m. Classes start immediately after - lunch provided – then 12:30 to 3:30

June 13th Saturday, **OFE #3 & #4** – Blessed Sacrament, Scottsdale - Mass at 8:30 a.m. Classes start immediately after - lunch provided – then 12:30 to 3:30

Please call in your reservation to attend to (602) 261-6803.

Tuesday, June 27th, 2009 "YES WE DO REPORTS" AND COATS CLASSES OFFERED AT VSS

VSS will hold a special "Yes we do Reports" from 9:00 am till 12:00 Noon; then from 12:30 to 2:00 pm we will hold the COATS program overview - revisions have been made.



PLEASE CALL IN YOUR RESERVATION TO: (602) 261-6803. If we don't answer, leave (1) your name, (2) your conference name, and (3) your home phone number on the voice mail. We do not call you back to confirm, but only to tell you if the session is *cancelled*. Without a reservation, if the session is cancelled, we cannot call you and you may make an unnecessary trip. Thank you.

REMINDER

Our Bishop expects that ALL members of St. Vincent de Paul attend the 'Call to Protect'. Please call your parish Secretary for dates and times. ■

We're on the Web!

www.stvincentdepaul.net/VincientianSupport.htm

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Intercession Prayer Line

O God, our Father, You alone have the power to bestow those precious gifts of Yours which we rightly call miracles. If it be Your will, be pleased to grant such a gift on behalf of

<i>ALL SAINTS</i> Sister Esther Marie	<i>SVDP DINING ROOMS</i> William Lanford VirJean Moore	<i>SVDP EXECUTIVE OFFICE</i> Edith Stern Theresa Johnson Marla Nilson Charles Flaherty David Smith Ben Sarrat Larry Hall John Bogle Phyllis Anderson Erin Grace Bailey Peggy Barrett Judy Casey Bill Collier Victoria Coury Charlie DeFrancesco Gladys M. Friedman Dan Geddes Eugene Hicks Evan Jahanski Jeffrey Mark Mae Jolley Rusty Lyon Rosie Lyon Linda Shultz	<i>OUR LADY OF THE DESERT</i> Marie Hedrick Eva Neal
<i>ST. JOSEPH</i> Kathleen Henes	Jesus Yanez Joseph Yanez Edna Yanez Mary Fields Mark Ross Francis Naughton Larry Seeger Christina Wacknov		<i>ST. JOHN VIANNEY SEDONA</i> Al Bimas
<i>SVDP ADMINISTRATION</i> Christina Skaates Peggy Auer Beatrice Villaseñor Joy Carter Jerry Gilbreath Laura Heist Clark Jackson Ruth Kubinski Stuart Newell David S. Shughart Romeo S. Celaya Bob & Mert Phillips Brian Rossi Jim Sherman Cody Lehe Jo-El Detzel	<i>OUR LADY OF THE LAKE</i> Marilyn Dorn LeRoy Wika Mary Campbell Bill Woods Tony Muzzall Jeannie Anderson Bobbie Potts		<i>FOOD RECL. CTR</i> Tom Joos George Lucchi Mark Angel Burgos Leticia Burgos Marlene Ramirez & family Martin Ramirez & family Dominique Bustos Brian Diaz
<i>HOLY CROSS</i> Bob McNamara	<i>OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY</i> Ray Gillette Fred Matheson		<i>ST. MARGARET MARY</i> Marlene Shaffer Marcella Paul
<i>OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL</i> Dr. Herman Van derbroeck	<i>ST. GABRIEL</i> Leslie Fink Rose DiElio	<i>ST. WILLIAMS</i> Herminia Cavazos Paul Cavazos	<i>ST. JOAN OF ARC</i> Rosa Sanches Chuy Rascon Leonardo Lopez Larry Orasco Lorraine Dickerson Barbara Corral
<i>SAINTS SIMON & JUDE</i> Tom Lane Bob Bradwohl Dottie Salviano Kimmie Bowerman Jim Redfield Lillian Dye	<i>ST. GERMAINE</i> Roger Codwell Ray Koffman John Buckley Pat Burnett Robert Remillard Rick Matosich Nancy Phillips Josie Elks Calli Jo Howard Trey Kueper Jerry Shriner Joel Wernimont Martin Jeffries Betty Moroney Sr. Mary John Danny Smith Susan Tamburello Jody Behrens	<i>ST. GREGORY</i> Jeanette Jenkins	<i>SACRED HEART, PARKER</i> Valerie Beuchart
<i>ST. MARK</i> Kris Rubino		<i>QUEEN OF PEACE</i> Yolanda Leon Violet Daskocil	<i>ST. MARY - KINGMAN</i> Dawn Reuter Ruth Jefferson Jeanne Anderson
<i>ST. MICHAEL</i> Billy Rodriguez		<i>SPECIAL MINISTRIES</i> Bill Bruein	
<i>ST. HELEN</i> Ray Heffley		<i>SVDP CLINIC</i> Kitty Williams	

O God, who put love of the poor into the hearts of Frederic Ozanam and his companions, and inspired them to found a Society for the relief of the spiritual and corporal miseries of those in want, bless this work of charity and zeal, and in accord with Your designs that Your pious servant, Frederic Ozanam was glorified as Blessed by the Church, we beseech You to manifest by heavenly favors the power he enjoys in Your sight. We make this prayer through Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit. Amen.



REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them;
and may their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Sister Anna Bailey, I.B.V.M. Minnie Balazs
Saints Simon and Jude *St. Gabriel*

***May the Angels lead them into Paradise,
may the martyrs receive them at their coming and lead them
into Jerusalem, the holy city. May the Choir of Angels
welcome them and, with Lazarus, who was also poor,
may they have everlasting rest.***

Bob Tomasi receives AVACA Awards

On April 23rd 2009, our own BOB TOMASI received the Association for Volunteer Administration of Central Arizona Award.



Congratulations Bob!

When it comes to food, Bob Tomasi does it all for St. Vincent de Paul. He logged thousands of hours in our kitchen, four days a week, (practically running the place), preparing and serving meals for the hungry and homeless. Bob also works with AJ's Fine Foods to obtain delicious donations for our meals. On his day off, he makes home visits, bringing food boxes to families. We are blessed by his compassion and energy.

current resident or

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Vincetian Support Services
P. O. Box 13600
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