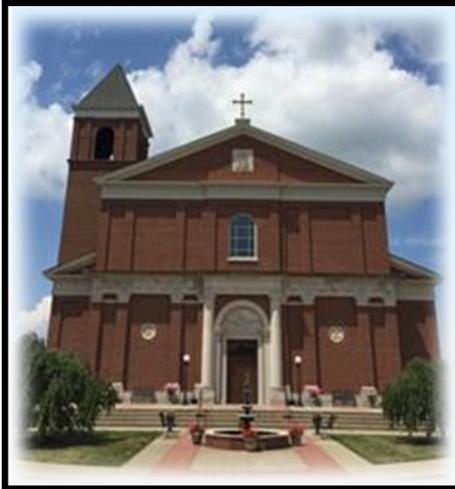




Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Council of Northern Kentucky, Diocese of Covington

# Vincentian Newsflash

Volume VII Issue III September, 2016



*Once again it's that special time of .....*

the year when we come together as our Vincentian family in Northern Kentucky and celebrate the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul. This year we will head down to All Saints Church in Walton on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and start with Mass at 10:00 am with our Bishop Roger J. Foys as celebrant. After Mass we will adjourn to the All Saints Undercroft for brunch and a celebration of the many blessings our Society has received this past year. We will recognize our wonderful Jubilarian Vincentians who have served 25 years in the Society, we will recognize our Vincentian Service Award recipient and this year we will say thank you to Norb DeJaco for his six wonderful years as our Diocesan Council President and also wish our incoming President, Dennis Coyne well as he assumes that responsibility.

Please contact Carolyn Ashcraft at 859-446-7720 or at [carolyn.ashcraft@svdpnky.org](mailto:carolyn.ashcraft@svdpnky.org) and let us know if you are able to join us in this special celebration. Thank you all so very much for your time and dedication to serving our neighbors in Northern Kentucky.

## *Phil Vaske .....true spirit of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul*

I will always remember the roar of laughter that came from our fellow Vincentians as we were leaving our local nursing home after a routine prayer visit with the nursing home residents. As we were gathering by our vehicles to leave we noticed that somehow we had gained an extra person in our party. I grinned and ask the question, "And who is the new member we have here with us"? Phil replied "Oh, this is Betty and she lives by me in Taylor Mill so I am going to drop her off on my way home". But we all were laughing because Betty has lived at the nursing home for 8 months. This is the way Phil Vaske looks at everything! He is willing to help everyone with anything.

Phil Vaske is the true spirit of The Society of St. Vincent DePaul. He started his Vincentian Life about 12 years ago when he began to put his talent as a Certified Public Accountant into action for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He held the position of the Covington Diocesan Council Treasurer before we were blessed to have him as Treasurer for our St. Cecilia Conference. With his knowledge of numbers he assisted our group with setting up a Treasure Reporting System that made the ease of tracking for our conference a breeze. That is just one of his gifts to us.

As a fellow Vincentian and a friend, I and many who know him have discovered Phil's greatest joy in his life is that the smallest things delight him and best of all Phil truly wants all to enjoy that exultation. Phil has suffered much in his health in the past few years and his example of living with God and for God during this time of affliction has taught us all a treasured lesson that we will never forget. Our group has grown spiritually because

of Phil Vaske and every one of us is truly blessed. We thank his family for sharing him with us because we often take his time away from them.

Phil's prayer is constant, that we love God with our whole heart because he knows that is how God loves us. He has his way of sharing that good news with

those we serve and they listen. Those nursing home residents that we visit are his biggest fans. His Love of the Eucharist is why we had two nursing home residents become Catholic last year.

Phil's health has now deteriorated to the point where he can no longer serve. His humility and servant leadership would never allow him to nominate himself for the 'Norbert F. DeJaco Vincentian Service Award,' but those of us that have been privileged to serve with him know how dedicated, selfless and truly deserving he is of this award. Phil would never seek the recognition this award affords and our nomination of him is but a small token of our sincere and heartfelt thanks and gratitude. Phil often tells all of us. "It is great that we can plant those seeds, let's just keep planting".



*Planting seeds into a little cup filled with soil is fun, but it's A BIG DEAL when that little seed sprouts and pokes its head up through the dirt.*

*Written By Susan Chisenhall, St. Cecilia Conference*

## *"From Ozanam Comes a Spirit Of Love"*



"Why do we have Ozanam training – and why do we make such a big deal of it? I just want to help the poor." That actually is a good and fair question for someone to ask. After all, what does one have to do with the other? The answer resides in the understanding of what Saint Vincent DePaul is all about. It isn't just about helping the poor. It isn't even first and

The second calls us to plunge headfirst into relationships that have us share in the joys and sorrows of others, walking with them until the road is straight and smooth. Jesus looks to each of us and asks the question, "do you love me?" We answer through our actions. We answer through the building of relationship with Him in the poor. He asks much of us, but to those who give much, more will be given. Loving relationships with those in need is the ideal. It is what Jesus and Mary are all about – after all, we are all a part of those who were in need – and they especially had this love for the poor. It is what St. Vincent sought so deeply and it is what each of us is called to seek as well. I for one am not there yet, but the mission and virtues of SVdP help to move me in that direction. It begins with an understanding of who we are as Vincentians and what our purpose is. Ozanam Orientation helps us to set this foundation that we might begin our pursuit of a deep and loving relationship with our lord – one in which we can eventually say with total sincerity, "Yes Lord, you know that I love you!"

foremost about helping the poor. It is first and foremost about growing in holiness. Sound familiar?? No, I am not going to simply repeat my article from the March Newsflash – you can go back and read that one. But these first lines bear repeating. Given that our purpose is about growing in holiness, let's explore that a little deeper.

It is not simply about helping the poor – it is about entering into relationship with them. St. Vincent and the Blessed Virgin Mary – our patron and patroness – both have an affinity and love for the poor and those who are in need. St. Vincent developed this out of his deep desire to get as close to Jesus as possible so as to have as deep of love for him as possible. The Blessed Mother's very essence is intertwined with Jesus in the deepest relationship possible – that of a mother and child. When we seek relationship with someone, we give ourselves totally and freely to that which is the passion and life blood of the other. St. Vincent wanted a relationship with Jesus. He recognized that Jesus is found with and in the poor. Entering into relationship with Him means entering into relationship with the poor. In these relationships is where we will find the holiness which we seek.

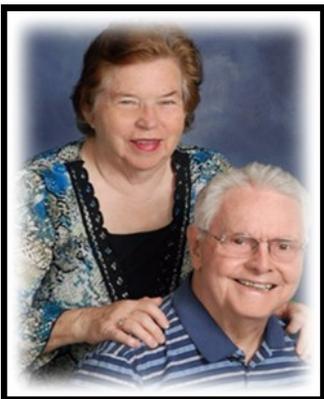
Helping the poor must transform itself into loving the poor. The difference is the difference between charity and sympathy on the one hand and mercy, compassion and justice on the other. The first calls us to make ourselves available and has us walk into the shallow water of love.

There is great wisdom in insisting that all Vincentians must go through Ozanam training and that the best time to do that is when they are first joining the society. November 5th at St. Thomas from 8am to 3pm provides an excellent opportunity for you to join us in this formation. Encourage your new members to attend. For those who have been around awhile and haven't yet made it – perhaps it is time. There is no cost – only your time! We invite you to come, learn and grow.

Registration for the Ozanam training is as easy as it gets. Simply send an email to [deaconmikelyman1@gmail.com](mailto:deaconmikelyman1@gmail.com) and let me know your name, email address, phone number, and conference. I will send you a confirmation note. You don't have email you say. Not a problem – just send me a text or give me a call at 1-859-806-4440. Don't miss out. Register today as space will be limited.

*Deacon Mike*

## *Joe Theis, a lending ear to those he ministered will be missed.*



Although Joe Theis was 84 when he passed, it was hard for me to tell, because he was always young at heart. The short time I was blessed to know Joe as his pastor, I didn't get to know him as well as I'd have liked. One reason was that he was a man a few words. But he didn't have to say much. He radiated. He radiated a love for life, and for all around him. And he found love for, and took interest in, everyone around him. He would truly do anything for anybody if he could. He saw beauty in everyone and everything around him, as exemplified by his work as an illustrator/artist.

Joe took that love along with him in his work with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of St. Benedict Church in Covington. He had been involved in the society so long that no one can remember when he started, and had been in charge of it, it is estimated, for at least 40 years. His comrades in the St. Ben's conference of the society tell me Joe was always lending an ear to those to whom he ministered. He took an interest in each individual's well being. He was a rock for them, a manifestation of Christ for them. And he had the

patience of Job! No exceptions. And never a bad word toward or about anyone. A truly charitable man, in the image of Ozanam and St. Vincent himself.

I've been told that Joe loved Christmastime. He would go all out to get presents to the people on the SVdP roster. In that way, he adopted many under his wing. And Joe did that in his family life too. He was a devoted husband and father not only to his biological children, but toward the children he and his loving wife Mary Jo adopted over the years. He treated them all with the same love and devotion. I was blessed to know Joe, as were so many in the City of Covington and beyond.

May he rest in the Lord's peace, and be rewarded for his labors.

*Father Joshua Lange  
Pastor, St. Benedict*

## "Case Management System in Full Gear"

We are grateful for the more than twenty conferences that have launched the new Case Management Suite we refer to as CMS!

Feedback from the new users tells us that it's like learning to ride a bike or drive a car; once the Home Visitor spends some initial time moving through the screens and becomes familiar with the process, the Home Visitor simply navigates from screen to screen as if it were second hand.

Treasurers have shared that it is like performing your



bookkeeping process on the computer. One treasurer commented, "I closed out the month of July yesterday and it took all of fifteen minutes. When I do the entries it takes about five minutes each.

When I receive a check request I look at it, review the numbers and enter my check number and approve it. I have to pay attention to detail, but it is simple. And I am not a computer whiz! At the end of the month you simply reconcile it to your bank statement just as you would with your checkbook and bank statement. It's like an online checkbook."

Home Visitors value the client record keeping side of the sys-

tem. It tracks both who they are helping and the assistance they are giving. The long term value of CMS is that it expands how we can grow into the future. With the development of a database on who we serve and how we serve them, we will be able to grow our capacities to seek grant money, expand services, problem solve, support healing processes beyond Band-



Aids, and help both clients and ourselves grow in the spiritual journey of spreading God's love.

The learning of something new always has its challenging mo-

ments, so know that Council and everyone at the Assistance Office appreciate the Vincentians' positive forward movement in on-boarding CMS. We are committed to help new users adopt and learn the ins and outs of CMS. CMS Administrators and Vincentian CMS Expert/Coaches have been practicing CMS as early learners. They are available to respond to questions that may arise. We have been conducting CMS Orientations throughout the diocese, and will schedule more as new users come on-board. As well, Small Group, and One on One sessions are available at the Erlanger SVdP Store. You may call Margaret to arrange an appointment at (859-777-2526).

We trust that you will find that CMS will provide meaningful support in your work as you answer your call to serve your neighbors and meet Christ in the faces of those who are in need.

*Margaret Rahn*



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3. Scroll down to the "Caring Neighbor" section, choose our organization, and click "update"



*With the fall fast approaching are you cleaning out closets?* Please consider donating new and gently used coats to St. Vincent de Paul for the annual Coat Drive to be held in November and December. There is a special need for children and large adult coats.

Donate coats at any thrift store location or at

any of the St. Vincent de Paul donation bins located at various parishes. If you wish to make a monetary donation, visit [www.svdpnky.org](http://www.svdpnky.org) and click on the DONATE link.



## PASSING THE TORCH!

I like watching the Olympic Games! The athleticism is amazing. The event kicks off with a lot of ceremony including the lighting of the Olympic fire lit from a torch passed from runner to runner for over many, many miles. Some torch

runners are young and some old, some experienced athletes and some not, some even with disabilities. One thing they all have in common is the determination to do their part in making the Games a successful event.



**Above** St. Therese Conference members discuss how best to help flood victims in Baton Rouge, Louisiana after an urgent request from National President, Sheila Gilbert.

**Below** Blessed Sacrament Conference members shown at their August meeting talk about the flooding in Baton Rouge as well as the Indiana tornadoes and how best to respond to requests for assistance from Baton Rouge.



Our Society is like that too. Its zeal has been passed on generation to generation, Vincentian to Vincentian, country to country, and officer to officer since its beginning in 1833. This year in particular a torch will be passed to a new National Council President, a new Mid-east Regional Council President, and a new Diocesan Council President here in NKY. Men and women currently serving in those positions will be passing the torch to the next group elected by the membership. The new officers will serve for the next three years.

What does taking on the position of President entail? Well, it takes a bit of your time, and admittedly time is perhaps the most precious commodity we have today. Here in NKY the position is certainly not as demanding as it was 8-10 years ago.

Then the Council wisely determined to separate the Council's governance and operations functions. The operations part, including the stores, donation center, delivery trucks, other special works, and physical running of the business were assigned to a professional executive director. He takes on the scheduling and budgeting, hiring and firing, government compliance issues, auditing interactions, and the myriad of other operational tasks associated with the running of a successful enterprise. We have an exceptionally fine executive director here in NKY today.

What is left for the President to do is to interface with the Diocesan Council members, that is, the 29 other Parish Conference Presidents and members, to assist them in succeeding in their mission to help the poor and needy of their community. The president assumes a moderator position. As with the officer group in the entire Society, a periodic change in leadership is necessary to maintain compliance with the Society's Rule and Bylaws. It is important to get new leaders who will bring with them new ideas and insights into ways to help those in need. Just as the Olympic flame is passed runner to runner, the Council and Conference presidential position must be passed. No one can make the entire run himself.

So now here I am in the last month of my run as President of your Council of NKY. It has been a pleasure to work with you over the past six years. We have made progress. I have the best team of Board members that have made the job easy. The Vincentians here are all dedicated to the Mission of our Society. I certainly congratulate the newly elected Council President, Dennis Coyne, and I know he will lead the Council to even greater accomplishments. Thank you for all you are doing.

*Norb DeJaco, President*

## OUR SOCIETY MARCHES ON.....



Our Northern Kentucky Council has reached a significant milestone in its history. Norb DeJaco's six year run as our Diocesan Council President comes to an end this October. Our conferences have elected Dennis Coyne as our new President starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. Dennis has been

elected to a three year term and will be eligible for reelection to a second three year term.

The last six years have been a time of growth and progress for our Society. Those of you who have been around for awhile know of the struggles we had. Norb was asked by SVdP National in 2010 to become our president and he turned out to be the right person at the right time.

Norb's calming leadership helped everyone catch their breath and refocus on what is truly important to our Society...the spiritual journey of our Vincentians and bringing hope to those we serve. He has provided much needed leadership to our conferences and council and as a result we have seen the number of our Vincentians grow to 560. These are our NKY neighbors helping our NKY neighbors in need.

We know where Norb lives and we won't let him get too far from the Society. He has deserved a rest from the responsibilities of the president's position and his being a part of our Society for over 20 years has helped so many of our neighbors in need. THANK YOU Norb!!

Dennis has been a part of the Society for the past 16 years. Dennis and his wife Pat lived in Cincinnati before his retirement from the IRS and the United States Army. While in Cincinnati, Dennis was active as a conference member and president and also involved with many committees at SVdP Cincinnati's Council. Dennis continues to serve on Cincinnati's Conference Life Committee.

Dennis and Pat retired to the Erlanger community and they have played a very active role in revitalizing our conference at St. Barbara Church. Dennis served as conference President and currently serves as Spiritual Advisor. For the past six years, Dennis has also served our Council as our First Vice President, been a vital part of our Ozanam Training program and our conference revitalization coordinator. Pat is currently the conference Treasurer at St. Barb's and volunteers every Friday at our Florence store. I can honestly say that I have not met many people as dedicated to the mission of our Society as are Dennis and Pat. Dennis is also a past president of Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity and co-founded and continues to sit on the Board of an orphanage in Vietnam administered by the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal.

Please join me in thanking Norb for all he has done for our Society and wish him well as our past president and welcome Dennis as we look forward to his continued dedication and leadership to our Society.

*Ralph Bradburn, Executive Director*

On behalf of those in need, our sincere appreciation to Bishop Foy's and the Diocesan Curia staff for the generous donation of fans to help our neighbors cope with the heat and humidity.



We value our current partnership with the Diocese of Covington and Matthew 25 to bring much needed supplies and hope to the flood victims of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

# "Community food drives making a difference"

On August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> the 'Boone County Peeewe Football League' hosted a can food drive to benefit St. Vincent de Paul's Erlanger Food Pantry. The teams competed against each other and the winner won a Kona Ice Team Party. In two days 3,293 items were collected - over 2,000 lbs. of food. On behalf of our neighbors in need, thank you so much Boone County Peeewe Football League!



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On Sunday, April 17th, the children from St. Henry Grade School and the Foresters sponsored their annual FOOD DRIVE for the St. Barbara SVdP conference. Laura Ryan from St. Henry's leads this effort each year.

This is a great awareness program for the children to learn that hunger is an issue in this country. As you can see from the pictures, the children unload the truck of food they have collected and deliver it to the St. Barbara pantry. After the distribution is completed, the children enjoy a treat from the Konia Ice truck. Many thanks to the children, Laura, and the Foresters who help those in need.



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*'Give your hands to serve  
and your hearts to love.'*  
Mother Teresa



*'You are the Hands  
and Feet of Christ'*

## "The Kindness of Strangers - St. Vincent de Paul, Ireland"

Pat and Dennis Coyne were in Ireland this past May. They saw the SVdP presence in many cities they visited. On his morning run in Waterford, Dennis took a turn down a narrow side street (close to Waterford Crystal) where he noticed this SVdP thrift store. Later, they stopped by the store to meet with the Irish Vincentians to exchange thoughts on what works well for them and us in Kentucky. This was one of those serendipitous moments when you realize how much we are connected by the Vincentian spirit no matter where we are in the world. Pat felt very much at home discussing our Florence store while gaining insights on how they market their products. This store was donated space. I believe it was a conference Store. They have 10 conferences in their city area – probably one District. The person at the cash register is an employee. There were about 10 volunteers working in the back room with one or two employees. According to their Conference President, they are still feeling the effects of the 2008-09 recession in Ireland's slow recovery.



## The Sweet Dreams Bed Program is life-changing

In March the Collins family contacted the St. Paul Conference requesting assistance. During the home visit, Frank Lewandowski and Jerry Sherman discovered that Shante and Russell Collins had been homeless living out of their van with their three children for over a year. They had recently been able to secure affordable housing. They had lost everything!

Shante spoke of the experience as a very trying, discouraging time for her family. They had contacted agencies for help both in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky and there just was no place that they could go where the entire family could stay together. Compounding the disheartening situation, they were forced to give up the family dog of many years.

Shante and Russell never gave up hope though. They are extremely grateful for two beds for their children, a sofa, kitchen table and chairs, and food provided by the St. Paul Conference. Since the initial request, the Collins Family has received additional food and vouchers. However, they seem to require less assistance as time passes and they make progress toward self-sufficiency.

Without the support of private donors and foundations, we could not offer the bed program. Thanks to foundation grants totaling \$37,500 from The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Hail, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation, the Reuben Herzfeld Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the Speedway Children's Charities—Kentucky Chapter we have been able to provide 475 beds this year to children, seniors and the disabled. These gifts have truly changed lives.



Are you an Amazon.com shopper? Did you know that you can support the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul every time that you order online?

- **AmazonSmile** is a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization selected by customers. To sign up to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Council of Northern Kentucky, you will need to link your Amazon.com account
- When first visiting AmazonSmile <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/32-0350542> you will be prompted to select a charitable organization. You will then be prompted for your Amazon.com username and password. St. Vincent de Paul will then be linked with your account as your charitable organization for AmazonSmile. IF YOU SEARCH THE LIST OF CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS, PLEASE TYPE IN: "**COUNCIL OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY**".
- Remember, if you want Amazon to donate to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Council of Northern Kentucky, you will need to start each shopping session at URL <http://smile.amazon.com>
- If you have difficulty setting up AmazonSmile, please contact Lou Settle at [lou.settle@svdpnky.org](mailto:lou.settle@svdpnky.org) or call 859-446-7727



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## Come trot your feathers at the 9th Annual Turkeyfoot Trot 5k!

Join us for this family friendly 5k run/walk on Saturday, November 12th, 2016 at 9:00 am beginning and ending at St. Barbara Parish in Erlanger. The event includes chip timing, a children's fun run, great food and door prizes after the race. All proceeds to benefit St. Vincent de Paul throughout Northern Kentucky to assist in helping our neighbors in need with food, rental/utility assistance, and more.

Pre-registration fees for the 5k are \$25.00 and include a t-shirt. In-person registration at Tri-State Running Company during packet pick-up week (includes shirt while supplies last). Additionally, race day registration will start at 7:30 a.m. in the church hall and/or its parking lot. Race day registration fees are \$30.00 for the 5k (includes shirt while supplies last). For more details, to donate or to register online go to

[www.turkeyfoottrot.com](http://www.turkeyfoottrot.com) or [www.sprunning.com](http://www.sprunning.com)

*Please share with your neighbors, family and friends.*

*We can't do this without you!*



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