

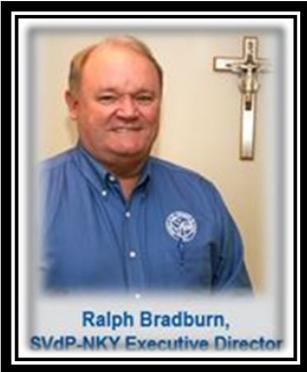


Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Council of Northern Kentucky, Diocese of Covington

# Vincentian Newsflash

Volume VI Issue IV December, 2015

## Can It Be 2016 Already?



It's been quite a year. Natural and man-made tragedies all around us. It seems like every news broadcast is nothing but bad news that can really bring a person down. My wish for everyone is that just for a day, you could enjoy my "job" and see all the good, kind people that live in Northern Kentucky and make it such a special place to call home.

You would see all the smiling faces I see when we give a coat and even a bed to a child who may have never had one. You would see the smiles on the faces of mothers and fathers who woke up that day wondering how they were going to feed their family and after receiving a gift of food from SVdP, that stress is now gone for at least a bit. You would see one of our senior citizens with asthma, COPD or even lung cancer who received a fan or air conditioner from SVdP to help them cope with our summer heat and humidity.

You would see Bishop Foys, the priests, deacons and religious sisters in our Diocese who support us every day. Norb DeJaco and I held our first State of the Society meeting with Bishop Foys this year to make him aware of all the good things taking place in our Society and to thank him for his on-going support. I'm amazed each year when I attend our SVdP National meeting and meet with my fellow Executive Directors. I have yet to find one of them who enjoys the level of support and friendship we have with our Bishop and clergy.

You would see all the wonderful foundations in the Greater Cincinnati area who have helped us feed our neighbors, give them those beds I mentioned, give us trucks and balers and fork lifts and so much more to help us run our thrift stores and donation centers which in turn help us raise funds to provide many of the gifts we give to those we serve.

You would see the wonderful staff we have at our Erlanger, Newport, Falmouth and Florence stores who show up for work each day knowing that what they do helps our neighbors struggling with the demands of everyday life. We lost one of our staff this year. Eddie Northcutt passed away after a long medical battle. Eddie's only job was at SVdP when he started working here in 1977. Before that he was always here as his father and mother worked at SVdP also. Eddie is missed every day and we pray that his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed may rest in Christ's eternal peace.

You would see the many, many donors that support our mission with their material and monetary gifts. They have a bit extra, they entrust those treasures to SVdP and we then get to see those smiles I mentioned before on the faces of those we serve. We may get to see those smiles but never forget that our kind donors are the reason those smiles exist.

I have to specifically mention the one donor who for the past several years has given us 400 Christmas meals to share with his neighbors in need. He gives me an even bigger gift each year. Every time I thank him for his generosity, he is always quick to remind me that like everything in life, the gift comes from God and our donor is blessed simply to be the one that God works through.

Finally, I give thanks every day to see the best blessing our Society has, you. Our almost 600 Vincentians in Northern Kentucky who perform little miracles each day. You see your neighbors in need, you respond to our Lord's call to care for his children and you do just that. You devote your time, talent and treasure to doing those little miracles and most importantly, you become the face of Christ for them to remind your brothers and sisters that they are not forgotten. They are loved by God and their neighbors care about them and wish to help them put their lives back together. You and your spiritual journey are the primary reason this Society exists and our gift to you is to allow you too to see the face of Christ in every face that you visit and help.

May the joys of our upcoming Christmas celebrations be with you throughout the coming year!



Father Reinke leads the opening procession with Father Cushing, Deacon Bill & Father Ryan Maher at Feast Day Celebration.

# The Vincentian Pathway



The last couple months have been a busy time for our Society here in Northern Kentucky, for spiritual growth and formation. On September 26<sup>th</sup> we gathered at St. Therese in Southgate to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Vincent (Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>) and Blessed Frederic (Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>). On October 24<sup>th</sup> nearly 50 Vincentians travelled to St. Anne's Convent in Melbourne to join for a day of Spiritual Renewal and Retreat. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the Cathedral Conference hosted an Ozanam training where 25 more people came to better understand the heritage, purpose, structure and dynamics of the Society. These opportunities to gather in community and friendship are as vital to us as a Society as the work we do in service to those in need.

Missy Mosea and the St. Therese Conference should take great satisfaction from the Feast Day celebration they hosted. Even though the Bishop was not able to come due to sickness, Father Maher stepped in and did a terrific job. The attendance was excellent and the attitude of friendship, welcome, and celebration was evident throughout the day. The meal after provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. We recognized and celebrated Vincentians who have modeled our values for the rest of us in exemplary ways for many years.

At St. Anne's, we took time to step back and reflect upon what we do and why we do it. Father Reinke led us in the celebration of the Liturgy of the mass to begin our day. We had a series of four reflections that looked at the challenges and crosses we are given in life, how God calls us to answer those challenges, How Vincentian Spirituality helps us to frame our response, and



Pictured are VP, Dennis Coyne, Father Reinke, Kathy & Vince Bressler and Father Mayer at feast day celebration.

recognizing the blessings and good work that are present in all our lives as Vincentians. After each talk, participants had time to reflect alone or join with others to discuss what this meant to them. In the afternoon we shared in praying the rosary and Eucharist Adoration. Many took the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Ed Salerno poses a question at the Ozanam Retreat.

We closed the day with a recommitment ceremony to our Vincentian vocation. It was a day that truly afforded us the opportunity to stop for a moment and ministered to ourselves and to each other.

The Cathedral Conference provided us with great hospitality for our Ozanam Training. The session was held in the board room on the third floor of the Covington Latin School. The participants were predominately new Vincentians (brand new to three months of time)

which is a true blessing as this is how new Vincentians are supposed to begin – in training. They learned about SVdP and all the various aspects of it. The group was engaged and energetic throughout the day.

They functions are all a key part of the Vincentian Pathway we are all called to follow in our vocation as Vincentians. The Vincentian Pathway consists of four key elements – the three Essential Elements of Service, Spirituality, and Friendship – plus Servant Leadership. As Vincentians, we do an amazing job of service!



Vincentians discuss various aspects of the Society.

We say that 'no act of charity is foreign to the Society', and I see that demonstrated over and over again as Vincentians provide care to those in need, those who are hurting, and those who lack hope. What these three functions (and others like them) do for us is help to develop the other three legs of The Vincentian Pathway.

Ozanam Training helps us to explore and understand what our Vincentian Spirituality is to look like. The Retreat and the Feast Day both help that Spirituality to come alive through the celebrations of Liturgy and

Adoration. At the retreat, participants were able to spend time in meditation and reflection on how their lives are shaped by Vincentian Spirituality – and how we can better engage in all aspects spiritually through our vocation.

All three events address one of our biggest areas of opportunity as Vincentians – to be in friendship and community with one another. Jesus placed a high premium on friendship and forming community. He calls us to do the same. Sometimes I suspect we all get so wrapped up in the ministry that we forget to care for each other.

That is also a key aspect of servant leadership – to lead from a position of service and not from a position of power. We celebrated those who have modeled this at the Feast Day. We learned about and fostered this at the training. The retreat helped us to stop for a moment and reflect on the importance of the servant leader.

The Vincentian Pathway is a roadmap to grow in holiness through the Essential Elements. Serving the poor and those in need is a wonderful outcome and blessing we receive when we walk the pathway.

*Deacon Mike*

## *The "Vincentian Heart" Leads with Love and Compassion.*



*Good and humble people abound in the Vincentian movement, but it always gives us pause when we lose one of our own who has been faithful for so long and served so well.*

All Saints conference of St Vincent de Paul is deeply saddened by the passing of one of its original members, Marilyn Hicks, on Wednesday September 16, 2015. Marilyn was at the very first meeting in March of 2005 when Mark & Mary Jane Stone began our conference. When the Stone's moved to Atlanta for their careers, Marilyn stepped in and took over as Treasurer.

Through the years Marilyn held every position at our conference, ending as President for the last two terms. During all the offices she held Marilyn still went to various stores weekly to get the specials for the pantry & made sure it was stocked. When the parish office would call and tell her they had someone at their door in need of help with lodging, food, etc, Marilyn would go to church to meet them and help with their needs. She visited the homes of thousands, picked up elderly to take them to church, arranged to have the grass cut for widowers living alone.

In March of 2012 when a tornado hit our conference area of Piner, Crittenden, Morning View leaving dozens of injuries and 4 fatalities not to mention the endless damage to homes & property for the community. Marilyn spent countless hours filling out paperwork & writing grants getting thousands for those in need of more than our funds could support. She helped relocate residents, whose homes, trailers or apartments were unlivable and continued to follow up with them during their rebuilding process, offering help when she could.

Marilyn was the backbone for our conference in many ways. Marilyn was also lector at All Saints church for many years. A very heartfelt thank you to Norb DeJaco for arranging to have a plaque presented to Marilyn, by Msgr. Schulte, for years of service and the SVDP Jubilarian Crucifix while she was in the hospital. Marilyn is survived by her husband Ron and her son's Ronnie & Jason.

## *Remembering Good Friends!*

We are saddened to note the passing of Edward "EDDIE" Wayne Northcutt. Some people spend their lives serving others and Eddie did just that. Eddie's father, William Ray Northcutt, worked as a truck driver for St. Vincent de Paul; and when Eddie was old enough, he came to work here as well.

He was a faithful Donation Center employee for 40 years. "You could always count on Eddie to work hard and when there were down times Eddie would pick up a broom and sweep the floor. He loved to stay busy," remarked Amy Smith, Transportation Manager. "He took such pride in his work and we were very blessed to have him here to touch countless lives in his many years of service." Eddie loved fishing and collecting coins.

He was a gentle soul who was often quiet until you got to know him. He loved his family dearly and is survived by his devoted wife Patricia Northcutt, his beloved children and son-in-law, Amanda and Nick Lawson, and Jesse Northcutt and many grandchildren, with one more on the way.



## *One Classy Lady!*



Our St. William Vincentians will surely miss the smile of Mary Ann Cook who passed away Thursday, October 29th. Mary Ann was a retired teacher who gave 42 years of service to the children in our community. As a member of St. William Catholic Church in Williamstown, KY, she has been an active Vincentian in the SVdP conference. Mary Ann grew up at St. William, attended our elementary school and raised her family here. Her service to others also included volunteer work within her faith community and extended well beyond. She was a member of the Retired Teachers Association, she loved reading, sewing and is fondly remembered by her family for her love of cooking and collecting cook books. Mrs. Cook leaves to mourn her passing a sister, a brother, a son, daughter and 2 grandchildren. Mary Ann was compassionate to all she met and brought hope to our families. Our condolences are extended to her family and friends. YES, she loved UK basketball! You will be missed.

*Mary Ann Cook March 16, 1947 - October 29, 2015*

## SVDP Council of Northern Kentucky 2014-15 Annual Report



From early records our first conferences were part of the "Particular Council of Covington" and included with the "Metropolitan Central Council of Cincinnati". Mother of God Conference has the distinction of being the earliest conference begun in early 1923 and aggregated in 1924. Parish conferences at Blessed Sacrament, Holy Cross, St. Aloysius, and St. Joseph (Covington) followed only months afterwards. Today we are 29 conferences strong, one of four Diocesan Councils in Kentucky, and, along with 79 other Diocesan Councils in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, form the Society's Midwest Regional Council. The National Council of the United States remains headquartered in St. Louis since 1845. What a legacy of service our Society has!

As our operating year ends and another begins perhaps it is a good idea to identify that which has been achieved over the past year before we consider that which is yet to be done. Let's do that here.



Stan and Rita Bond receive 2015 DeJaco Service Award. Thank You for your service to others!

Our official membership roll of active, associate, and contributing Vincentians now stands at 565 men and women. With the addition of St. Timothy Conference there are now 29 parish conferences officially organized as the Diocesan Council of Northern Kentucky. Other parishes are still without functioning conferences so the challenge is still there. The Council food pantry continues to provide food for those in need living in areas without SVDP conferences, and over \$12,300 plus in-kind food donations were used this year to support it. Last October forty-five of our members were given insight into their role as Vincentians through Ozanam Orientation.

To promote our goal of spiritual fulfillment, a Mass celebrating the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day at the St. Therese

in Southgate was held in September. Afterwards at the fellowship gathering, four Jubilarians, Vince and Kathy Bressler, and Dan and Wendy Tobergte, were honored for their many years of dedicated service. Stan and Rita Bond were recognized for their dedication to Vincentian mission over the years with the DeJaco Service Award. Approximately 150 Vincentians gathered to again demonstrate that spirit which attracts us to bettering ourselves through service to others.

Our centralized assistance office has received and forwarded to the conferences over 9,000 calls for help and assistance, including 5,600 requests for food, 2,000 for clothing, 1,200 for furniture, almost 800 requests for rent assistance, and nearly 1,700 for utility bill help. There were over 555 requests for beds alone. Over 30,000 adults and their children were helped. The number of cases this year is somewhat fewer than last year. Council provided over \$70,000 in stipends to help the parish conferences meet client needs, purchased over \$65,000 in beds and bedding, and bought \$33,000 in air conditioning units and fans. To meet these and other financial needs operations brought in \$1.9 million in revenues, and another \$210-thousand was provided through successful grant requests and donations. The sale of the former Dayton thrift store property was nearly \$110-thousand.



Vince and Kathy Bressler were recognized for their many years of service to the Society.

Our donation centers realized a sizeable increase (15%) in donations with the addition of the Florence location. After its first full year of operation our Florence store is striving to achieve expectations mostly through better publicity and advertising. The store features well lighted and attractive retail space stocked with everything from clothing to furniture. Many clothing vouchers are now being redeemed at Florence too. It is worth noting that this year clothing donation boxes are being placed at some of our parishes financed through grants. This program will continue.

Deacon Mike Lyman was chosen as Midwest Regional Council Spiritual Advisor, and publishes words of encouragement weekly to the Regional Vincentians. Congratulations! On a more solemn note, we note the passing of past council president Bill Schneider, and conference presidents, Don Cross of St Francis Xavier conference and Marilyn Hicks of All Saints conference. May they rest in the Lord's peace. We Vincentians will continue to remember them and the other deceased Vincentians of our Council in our prayers.

Yes, we have made progress but there is much more to do. Will you help? Thank you.

*Norb DeJaco, President*

# Great Weather,,, Great Time... Great Cause!

Despite a little chill in the air on the morning of Saturday, November 14th, the sky gave way to an abundance of sunshine with nearly 300 runners/walkers participating in the 8th annual Turkeyfoot Trot 5k to show their support for St. Vincent de Paul and our neighbors in need. The timing of the event couldn't be more perfect. November and December is such a busy time as many families ask us to help them give their children a nice holiday. That is in addition to the regular services we provide daily.

Approximately \$10,000 in proceeds from the 5K will put smiles on many faces in our community this holiday season. Those smiles are there because of the generosity of event sponsors, volunteers, and participants. A special thanks to the 5K Committee and to Vincentian John Jump pictured in the Santa suit below, and to our title sponsors TriVaco, DBL Law, St. Elizabeth Physicians and the Tri-State Running Company. We hope that we can count on this support again next year.

Please check out more photos from race day on the Turkeyfoot Trot's Facebook home page at [www.facebook.com/turkeyfoottrot](http://www.facebook.com/turkeyfoottrot)



Ten people from Grant County gathered together to run and walk for a wonderful organization. Giving to others in need is exactly what St. Vincent de Paul does! This small but mighty group, mostly from St. William of Williamstown, KY decided to give a little and trot the SvDP Turkeyfoot 5K to help those less fortunate. "It made us feel good in more ways than one!" commented Pam Saylor, leader of the 'St. William Walkers'. Thank you everyone.



On October 10th, Evan Wells from Troop 8 of the Boy Scouts' Dan Beard Council led the construction of an equipment shed at the Erlanger location for his Eagle Scout Service Project. The shed will be used to store lawn and St. Vincent's garden equipment. "A big Thanks & Congratulations to Evan Wells. He is one step closer to earning his Eagle Scout."



# Vincetians from St. Timothy Conference share their expertise, love and compassion ...

In March, Fr. Bolte initiated the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Timothy's Parish. We shared our vision at all masses; "With guidance from the Holy Spirit, to help us, help our neighbors lift themselves out of poverty". Our message was greeted with enthusiasm with a host of people showing interest in our ministry. With the guidance of local Vincetians, Dennis Coyne, Rose Clear, Frank Lewandowski, Susan Chisenhall, Executive Director Ralph Bradburn and others we received instrumental "on the job training" to prepare us for start-up. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we completed all our prerequisites and became a fully sanctioned conference of St Vincent de Paul. Only by the grace of God and with the assistance of our brothers and sisters have we begun.

As of October 31st, Vincetians from the St. Timothy Conference have visited over 100 families, provided over 200 bags of groceries, and invested over \$6,000 in rent, utility and other assistance to families to prevent homelessness. We have visited veterans, single parent homes, the disabled and many others.

Homelessness is a serious concern in the Florence area. There are families living in hotels and tents waiting for apartments and other

housing. While each case is unique, we've been able to re-settle a single mother with two children in a local apartment and provide the basic necessities to get them started. We are also working with social service agencies to address this urgent need for services that we cannot provide.

Additionally, Bob Maze recently joined our Conference and put his expertise in Veteran's benefits to good use helping our vets obtain the support and benefits they've earned. In conjunction with Bill Saalfeld, a local vet received transportation to his surgery and after care was arranged. With his increased income and improved health care outlook, he and his wife are looking forward to increased independence.

We've come a long way since our inception as a Conference five months ago. We couldn't have come this far without the dedication, prayers and generosity of St. Timothy parishioners who have been so generous with food donations and other contributions. This support has not only allowed St. Vincent de Paul to assist our neighbors with nutritious meals, but has also made an impact upon our families at City Heights/St. Augustine Food Bank as well. We will continue to need the prayerful, ongoing support of the St Tim's Community to provide food and monetary support. We provide shopping bags with a list of food and personal care items that are needed to provide complete meals for our neighbors. We provide a convenient place in the Gathering Space to drop off food items. Nearby is a "poor box" beautifully crafted by Don Lecander, and envelopes to allow easy giving either by cash, check or direct deposit using the new "We Share Online Giving App". And a St. Vincent de Paul collection bin has been placed in the parking lot for those wanting to donate gently used clothing, shoes, linens and other durable goods.



Pictured above is Don Lecander beside his beautifully crafted "poor box" for donations for the needy.



Thanks to more than \$15,000 in funding from the **Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels** there are 6 donation bins that have been deployed at several locations in Northern Kentucky including St. Timothy Church, Blessed Sacrament Church, and the Donation Center. An additional 6 bins have been ordered to be placed in the Spring of 2016. Look for a St. Vincent de Paul collection bin at your parish to conveniently donate gently used clothing and other durable goods.

*Bill Anderson, President St. Timothy Conference*

On August 15<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup> the Boone County Peewee 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 3,143 items were collected - a 43% increase over last year's collection of 2,135 items. On behalf of our neighbors in need, thank you so much Boone County Peewee Football League!



## *St. Cecilia Vincentians follow their faith and the Vincentian Pathway*

On September 19th, 2015, Father Harry A. Settle, Jr. welcomed into the Catholic Church and parish family of St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Alvin Hardin and Claudia Weckler, through the Rite of Reception. Mark Bergman, former CCD instructor and member of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Cecilia Church, through his ministries at Regency Manor North and Regency Manor South, provided RCIA instruction to Alvin and Claudia who had stated a desire to become members of the Catholic faith.

Mark Bergman served as Catholic Christian Sponsor for Alvin and Susan Chisenhall, Secretary of the St. Cecilia Catholic Church Conference, served as Catholic Christian Sponsor for Claudia. After the Mass a reception was held in their honor, in the St. Cecilia undercroft, followed by a family-style dinner at a local restaurant. Mark Bergman is retired and has made his personal Christian mission working with residents of the two nursing homes to bring those desiring to be Catholic, into the faith. Mark truly lives by the code of a true Vincentian.

*Susan Chisenhall, St. Cecilia Conference*



Mark Bergman, St. Cecilia Vincentian and Sponsor.  
Alvin Hardin, Nursing Home Resident.  
Father Harry Settle, Parochial Vicar, St. Cecilia Parish.  
Claudia Weckler, Nursing Home Resident.  
Susan Chisenhall, St. Cecilia Vincentian and Sponsor.

## *Pandas make Christmas a little brighter!*



On behalf of our neighbors in need, a huge THANK YOU to the NDA Pandas for the donations to our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. This couldn't have come at a better time with the holidays fast approaching. An amazing 13,407 cans and dry goods!  
**WELL DONE PANDAS!!!**

## *Crusaders Support 'Society'*

In past years members from St. Paul Conference were invited to speak to the school's service committee, providing information about the society and our conference. This year Maureen Kaiser, Service Coordinator, held a Service Assembly in September which was attended by the students and faculty. Representatives from Mary Rose Mission, Free Store Foodbank and St. Vincent de Paul were invited to speak at the assembly.

Mark Von Bokern, a St Paul Vincentian and teacher at the HS, Marla Kelly provided the students insight into our society and SVdP conference. Marla provided a brief history of the society and outlined the structure of the society from National to our No. KY Council to the conferences. She also spoke about the steps taken when a person needs assistance and contacts SVdP. Mark shared his experiences with handling calls and told the students the story about how he remembers to be humble when visiting a client. He extended an invitation to each student to grow in their Catholic faith by helping with donations and to consider joining the conference at their parish.

Maureen is always encouraging the students to give back to the community. She works with our conference throughout the year and especially at Christmas. Since 2012 the school had taken anywhere from 5 to 9 families a year and students, faculty and St. Henry families provide our families with lots of presents and food for the holidays. We are grateful to SHDHS for the opportunity to speak and share information about SVdP with the students and for the help they continue to give our conference with food collection and monetary donations.





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and act together"*  
St. Vincent de Paul

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