CEO Corner - Ozanam Centers Meet Virtually

After meeting with each Ozanam Center individually at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, the plan was to have a meeting of all four Ozanam Centers early in the year. When Covid-19 struck, though, all plans were halted. Yet, we were able to then meet virtually via Zoom in early September. We had representatives from each Center, plus the presence of Gary Sole, speaking on behalf of the west side pantries. In total, there were 15 people in attendance. It was not only an opportunity for everyone to ‘meet’ each other, but it also allowed for a fruitful sharing of experiences.

The Ozanam Centers are similar in so many ways, but each has its own variation of operational challenges, ranging from parish support, to volunteers, to food ordering and clothing distribution.

All participants commented that it was a positive experience and have agreed to a quarterly meeting moving forward. As the saying goes, there is always room for sharing, learning, adjusting and growing. Thank you to all those who participated, and we look forward to seeing you again in December!

Anelize Nader, CEO

SVDP Receives Special Recognition from State of Ohio Treasurer

The Society was recently honored with a special recognition from Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague for its community service during the COVID-19 pandemic:

It is with great pleasure that I, Robert Sprague, Ohio Treasurer, recognize the St. Vincent de Paul Society for its dedicated community service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society’s commitment to providing food and supplies to local families in need should be honored. These generous actions have directly played a role in keeping members of the community safe and healthy during a truly unprecedented time.

Deep admiration and respect should be given to those who serve their neighbors. Therefore, I commend St. Vincent de Paul Society on its numerous contributions to the area and the State of Ohio. I wish them many years of continued success.

Robert Sprague
Ohio Treasurer
A Message from Our Spiritual Advisor

Saints of October

October is one of my favorite months. The world is full of color and the Church calendar is full of saints. Among them are some of the most familiar and beloved saints on the calendar. Actually, I make it a practice to choose a "saint's day" to celebrate every month. When I was a young Sister, on certain feast days we enjoyed "all day recreation." That meant that we could talk at meals and had longer down time during the day. We still had to do our daily chores at the Motherhouse in case you are wondering.

This month, take time to remember stories of the saints we honor: Francis of Assisi; Therese, the Little Flower; and Francis Xavier. Perhaps you or your parish is named after one of these. Toward the end of October, we celebrate feasts of St. John Paul II and St. Jude. Indeed, as St. Paul writes to the Hebrews (12-1) "We are surrounded by a crowd of witnesses."

There's more: Don’t forget those un-canonized saints who walk among us as witnesses to faith, hope and love. They come from our own families, participate in our Society’s ministry, and live in our neighborhoods. During this time of pandemic, we have been conditioned to honor first responders. Perhaps, too, those among us who have lost everything due to natural disaster, illness, shutdowns and layoffs, striving to rebuild lives for their families are leading saintly lives.

There’s another feast that we could all celebrate this month. October 7 is the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary. You might take time to pray the rosary asking that in all we do for others we may reflect Mary’s humble acknowledgement: "I am the servant of the Lord.” This month, may the Blessed Mother pray for us “that we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.”

By Sister Cheryl Keehner, CSA

Prayer Corner

Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:

Mary Ann Cowling
Cheryl Davis
Paul M.
Al Schiazza
Sr. Cheryl Keehner

St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us.

Please submit special intentions to Natalie Schrimpff: nschrimpff@svdpcle.org

Give me a person of prayer and that person will be capable of everything
- St. Vincent de Paul

Holiday Boutique Fundraiser

Nov. 28-29

The holidays are just around the corner, and SVDP will once again participate in the annual Holiday Craft Boutique fundraiser Saturday and Sunday, November 28 and 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Wagners of Westlake located at 30855 Center Ridge Road. The event will feature a variety of different vendors and an array of holiday items for sale. Stop by to peruse SVDP’s two rooms brimming with colorful Christmas trees, decorative wreaths and more that are sure to put you in the holiday spirit. All proceeds benefit SVDP. Food and beverage will also be available for sale. Admission is $3 and can be paid at the door or in advance at Eventbrite. For more information, contact Barb Leszynski at barbaras@svdpcle.org. (Attendees will be required to wear masks and social distance).

Home Visits Zoom Training October 17

The home visit is unquestionably one of the main ways SVDP assistance differs from emergency help provided by other social services organizations. And although the pandemic has temporarily altered the nature of home visits at this time, our Vincentians are finding alternative ways to safely meet with people in need and deliver help.

Learn more at a special Zoom home visit training on Saturday, October 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. When registering, please provide both your email address (to receive the Zoom link) and your home address (to receive the training’s accompanying guide). Please allow 10 days for the printed materials to arrive. For more information and to register, contact Gary Sole: gsole@svdpcle.org.
Every month, we will try to feature a Vincentian from one of our Conferences, sharing what he/she does and the impact of this work on those we serve. Feel free to submit stories about your fellow Vincentians by contacting nschimpf@svdpcle.org.

**Vincentian Spotlight**

Mike Dickey  “Knight of the Year”

(Part 2 of 2)

As a continuation from the September issue, this final article illustrates how Mike Dickey, vice president of St. Ladislas Conference achieves his commitment to help the poor as both a Vincentian and a Knights of Columbus member.

He was recently honored by the Knights of Columbus with the following recognition:

“The St. Ladislas Knights of Columbus Council 16373 is pleased to announce Michael Dickey as Knight of the Year. Mike is a very active 3rd degree member and serves as Lecturer and Program Director.”

The Knights of Columbus members have assisted SVDP at Brookside and St. Pat’s hunger centers, in addition to helping at the St. Ignatius of Antioch food pantry.

Please use the information gleaned from this article about Mike to look at the Knights of Columbus at your own parish. These members can be an outstanding resource as volunteers to help with your special projects or other SVDP activities your Conference is undertaking.

And that’s the rest of the story.

**Be Like Mike: The Rest of the Story - Volunteers**

*by Ed Leszynski, SVDP Board President & St. Ladislas Conference Member*

The St. Ladislas Knights of Columbus Council 16373 received much recognition at Ohio’s Knights of Columbus Supreme statewide assembly earlier this year, which included the number one ranking of Ohio’s Knights of Columbus councils.

The St. Ladislas Knights of Columbus Council 16373 is pleased to announce Michael Dickey as Knight of the Year. Mike is a very active 3rd degree member and serves as Lecturer and Program Director.

The Annual Conference Reporting Cycle is Upon Us

The Annual Conference Report forms are being sent out as this is written, and there are a couple of reminders regarding the bank statements and Conference rosters. A copy of the September month-end bank statement is needed with the completion of the report along with the updated Conference roster. Please submit a complete roster of current members with their addresses, e-mails, telephone numbers and as appropriate, the Conference Officer title listed next to their names. These rosters are used to update the National SVDP database, which is the same one that we use at the Central Office.

Keeping it updated helps us in our communications with our members. Also, noting changes for current members, and alerting us of new members, makes it easier for the person inputting this information into the database.

Your help with the Annual Report is very much appreciated.

SVDP Hosts First Virtual Ozanam Orientation

The Vincentian vocation is a calling and Vincentians see the face of Christ in the people they serve.

These principles and more were highlighted in detail at the Society’s inaugural remote Ozanam Orientation. Co-hosted by Vincentians Joanna Clancy and Barb Leszynski, the Zoom presentation reviewed core Vincentian topics that included the Society’s purpose and history, spirituality, Conference life, and understanding the various types of poverty.

Nearly 20 individuals participated in the virtual two-part orientation, which was held September 22 and 23. The program is designed for both new and long-time Vincentians who either have never participated in a training, or who seek a “refresher.” It also provided an opportunity for individuals to connect with other Vincentians during the pandemic.