



Summertime

The Church slipped quietly into “Ordinary Time” and some activities within our parishes went into summer hiatus. Summer often brings challenges for those we serve – some agencies fall short-handed due to vacations; the school lunch programs have been suspended till fall; and, with folks traveling, donations and thrift store shopping go down.



Within our conferences, this might be a good time for re-energizing the troops. Perhaps, your conference members could get together for a social activity. Picnics or group outings are a great way to put some spirit back into our ministry to the poor.

A brief overview of this edition . . .

- Report from the President
- News from the Executive Director
- Overview of Regional Meeting in Pittsburgh in May
- Spotlight on the Coatesville Consolidated Conference

From the desk of the President

As the Fall approaches, I would like to ask each conference to think about starting a Youth Conference, which we will refer to as “Minnie Vinnies”. We have a list of projects that we can assign to the youth groups. It is vital that we encourage our youth to participate and learn about our Mission.

I am also asking you to give us leads on potential new conferences. If you have a contact at a neighboring Parish, or if you know a Priest who has moved to a new Parish, please let us know and we will inquire about starting a new conference.

If you have any new members and would like us to come to your Parish for a 3 hour training session, let us know and we will schedule it for the Fall or Winter.

Carey and I are willing to help any conference with the Aggregation process and with the preparation of the Annual reports. Please let us know if you need our help. We currently have 50% of our conferences aggregated and our goal is to have 75% by the Winter time. As you know, you can qualify for National Grants if you are aggregated.

Please take note of the special upcoming events for the Society in the Calendar section. Mark your calendars for the Walk in September and the retreat in October.

Special thanks to Carey and Theresa, and all of our dedicated staff, for their continued dedication and support. If you have the opportunity, please visit one of our Thrift Stores. The staff at each store has spent the early part of the Summer improving our stores. They look great!

Please send us any suggestion for future issues of our newsletter. Let us know of any special topics that you would be interested in.

God bless all of you and I pray that you will continue to have a safe and enjoyable summer.

- Dom Visco, President, Philadelphia Council

News from the Executive Director

Dom Visco has announced that Larry Huber has agreed to serve as Board Secretary and Tony Antunes will join the Board, serving on the Marketing Committee. Best to both in their new roles serving the Philadelphia Council!

Congratulations to Ro Huber, the winner of our 50/50 Raffle to benefit *Guiding Star Ministries*.

Our annual *Friends of the Poor Walk/Run* will be held September 25th at Montgomery County Community College. It's easy to register at the website, either as a walker/runner or as a pledger. If your conference did not participate in prior years, why not give it a shot? All the monies pledged and collected go back to your conference to help benefit the people you serve. There is no administrative charge from the National Council or our Central Council. Also, if you run, or know someone who does, ask them to participate in the inaugural 5K in support of your conference on the same day!

Walk Registration: www.svdppffriendsofthepoorwalk.org
Run Registration: www.pretzelcitysports.com

- Carey Roberts, Executive Director

Eastern Region Retreat, May 21-23, Pittsburgh

Five members of the Board attended the Eastern Region Retreat/Meeting which was held in Pittsburgh, over Pentecost weekend. The keynote speakers included *Father Larry Snyder*, President, Catholic Charities, and *Father Scott Seethaler*, Capuchin, a motivational speaker, who currently serves as the Pittsburgh Council's Spiritual Advisor.

The activities of the weekend included talks and break-out sessions, where we learned about financial reporting, spiritual formation, the role of the Eucharist in our ministry and the challenges facing the Society today.

One of the options for local time on Saturday was a tour of two of the SVDP Stores. *Dom Visco* made a video of those tours and it is available on the blog we set up for the Board.

The weekend was topped off with a cozy and inspiring Pentecost liturgy, concelebrated by the two priests, and accompanied by an ensemble from the *Duquesne University Music Ministry*.

The members who attended were *Dom Visco*, *Carey Roberts*, *Jerry Hagarty*, *Doris Duncheskie* and *Larry Huber*.

The blog is available here: <http://svdpphilabd.blogspot.com/>.



Resources Available

From time to time, review the resources available from the National Council. Two additions you may not be aware of are the *Youth and Young Adult Handbook* and *Vincentian Leadership: Conference President*. Visit the National web site for more information: <http://www.svdpusa.org/>.

Conference Spotlight –

The city of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, a former bustling steel city, like others has seen more prosperous days. While outlying areas continue to develop, the city itself has become home to many in dire need of assistance from the likes of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Recognizing the need, one parishioner, Joseph Hould, having made the acquaintance of conference members of neighboring St. Peter parish in West Brandywine, began the creation of a conference by taking his concern to his pastor. While there are four parishes in the city, the parishes, some of diminishing size, simply could not afford to individually take on the role of providing for all those in need. It was recognized that a united effort would be required to be effective. And so was born the idea of a consolidated conference.

In fall of 2007, the pastors of St. Cecilia, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Stanislaus Kostka and St. Joseph parishes met with Dom Visco, President of the Philadelphia Central Council, other members of the Central Council and members of neighboring St. Peter Conference at St. Cecilia to explore the creation of a conference in which members of the four parishes would form a combined conference. Central Council offered a multi-media presentation on the Society, its works, and how it functions. Members of St. Peter Conference were on-hand to discuss how the Society operates in the local area.

By the grace of the Holy Spirit and the good will of Fathers Mulranen, Oulds and Brouwers, agreement was reached to form a consolidated conference. Members of the Society from across the Philadelphia Archdiocese came to the four parishes to give pulpit talks after Masses to encourage support and generate interest in membership. Members of neighboring conferences played an integral part in helping to start the new conference by conducting initial meetings, answering queries and, once officers were elected, mentoring the new members and joining them on initial client visits. Central Council presented its training program for the new members to help them prepare for client visits and fully adopt practices of the Society.



As a consolidated conference, members had to deal with issues not normally confronted by new conferences: where to meet, how to receive calls for aid, how to support the work of a multi-parish conference. Resolutions came quickly and business was under way in short order.

Meetings rotated from parish to parish to encourage participation of all parishes. The conference employs its own cell phone with its own Helpline, eliminating the burden of calls at any one parish office and short-circuiting the time between calls for assistance and response. The phone circulates among members to cover vacations, etc. The conference created their own business cards with their Helpline number to give to clients and for pastors and rectory offices to present to anyone calling for help, directing them to their appointed representatives for this ministry, relieving them of the administration of assistance. Pastors at each parish offered receipts from poor boxes and occasional special collections to support the work. The

conference's 2008 Walkathon was supported by participation of the neighboring Chester County conferences

Conference president, Patrick Ivkovich, notes that for the years 2008 and 2009, due to the generosity of its benefactors, this conference was able to assist between 150 and 200 clients with over \$30,000.00 in aid, not including in-kind assistance of food, clothing and furniture. The flourishing Coatesville Consolidated Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues its vital work to this day with members and support from each parish, bringing the love of God and neighbor to those in need in this historic community.

Jim Kurimay, President, Chester County District

The Rule and the Manual

It's easy to get lost in the hurried pace of day-to-day activities, especially at the Conference level. The old saw comes to mind about forgetting your objective to drain the swamp when you're up to your waist in alligators. Nonetheless, the *Rule* and *Manual* provide resources and reminders about what our mission as Vincentians is about. Encourage one another to read and explore their riches, incorporating them into your meetings and conference activities.



You may be surprised to learn how Vincent, Louise, Rosalie and Frederic lived their lives and handled the challenges they faced. We often forget that the Society is not as "old" as we may think. Many of the situations we encounter today had similar counterparts in the days of Vincent and Frederic.

Calendar of Events

- August 18 – Board Meeting
- September 9 – Feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam
- September 25 – Friends of the Poor Walk/Run
- September 27 – Feast of St. Vincent de Paul
- October 16 – Annual Retreat, St. David's, Willow Grove
- October 20 – Board Meeting
- November 17 – Board Meeting

Quote from Blessed Rosalie Rendu

"God has already touched your heart, or you would not be giving up your precious free day to serve the poor. And, because you see Christ in his poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as His servant. Always remember, that if we had been through the hardships they have had to meet —if our childhood had been one of constant want—perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred, as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter.

"But be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you bring them." *- Blessed Rosalie Rendu, 1833*

Board Members

- Dom Visco, *President*
- Jim Kurimay, *Vice-President, Chester County District President*
- Jim Blaney, *Treasurer*
- Larry Huber, *Secretary, Spirituality Committee*
- Patricia Walsh, *Bucks County District President*
- Jack Kearney, *Delaware County District President*
- Doris Duncheskie, *Montgomery County District Co-President*
- Jerry Hagarty, *Montgomery County District Co-President*
- Dom Bucciarelli, *Formation Committee, Ozanam Orientation, NE Philadelphia District President*
- Ron Mandel, *NW Philadelphia District President, Revitalization*
- Tony Antunes, *Marketing Committee*
- John Donohue, *Extensions*
- Sister Patricia Evanick, *Youth Outreach, Spirituality*
- Kathy Emery, *Catholic Social Services Liaison*

Philadelphia Council Staff

- Executive Director, Mrs. Carey Roberts
215-288-9540 x101
- Assistant, Mrs. Diana Cosme
215-288-9540 x110
- Operations Manager, Ms. Theresa Cipriano
215-288-9540 x102
- Council President, Mr. Dom Visco
- Warehouse & Store
901 E. Luzerne St
Phila., PA 19124
- Thrift Store
6247 Frankford Av
Phila., PA 19135
- Web Site: www.svdp-phila.org

Some online resources

Vincentian

Worldwide Vincentian Family:
<http://famvin.org/en/>

Vincentian Formation:
<http://vinformation.famvin.org/>

National SVDP Web Site
<http://www.svdpusa.org/>

Eastern Region SVDP Web Site
<http://www.svdper.org/>

Houston SVDP
<http://www.svdper.org/>

Boston SVDP
<http://www.svdpboston.com/>

Columbus SVDP (Ohio)
<http://www.vincentianvoice.org/>

Church-related organizations

Joseph's People
<http://www.josephspeople.org/>

Operation Rice Bowl
<http://orb.crs.org/>

Angel Food Ministries

<http://www.angelfoodministries.com/>

Other services/information

Info Link (for Montgomery County Services)

<http://www.infolinkpa.org/>

Fair Housing Rights (Southeastern Pennsylvania)

<http://fairhousingrights.org/>

Pennsylvania "Here to Help"

<http://www.heretohelp.pa.gov/>

JEVS Human Services

<http://www.jevshumanservices.org/>

Cradles to Crayons

<http://www.cradlestocrayons.org/>

FreeCycle.org

<http://www.freecycle.org/>

PA Non-Profit Senior Services (Montgomery County)

<http://www.panpha.org/montgomerycounty.html>

DPW Service Programs (Dept of Public Welfare Svcs)

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/servicesprograms/>

PUC Energy-Assistance Program

http://www.puc.state.pa.us/general/consumer_ed/energy_asst_progs.aspx

COMPASS (Comm of PA Access to Social Services)

<https://www.humanservices.state.pa.us/compass/>

Help with Meds

<http://www.needymeds.com/>

PA Department of Labor & Industry

(Unemployment Compensation Services)

<http://www.dli.state.pa.us/>

PA CareerLink

<http://www.cwds.state.pa.us/>

Closing Prayer Litany

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, *have mercy on us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, *pray for us.*

St Vincent de Paul, *pray for us.*

St Louise de Marillac, *pray for us.*

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, *pray for us.*

Blessed Rosalie Rendu, *pray for us.*

Notes

