



Inside this issue:

2017 National Meeting recap	2
National Meeting recap (cont.)	3
Formation News	4
Formation News (cont.)	5
SVdP News & Notes	6

THE TOP HAT....

Is a publication for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and it's designed to inform its communities of past, present and future services and events. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization that offers service to the needy in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam and its patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

The Top Hat

The Vincentian Voice of
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocesan Council of New Orleans

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2017 WFP Countdown

The **2017 SVDP FOP** Walk is right around the corner, in fact, just days away! On line registrations are pouring in so are looking forward to a great turnout!

Also, provisions for credit card donations have been added this year. join in the walk, good food, music, games and Vincentian Spirit.

PLEASE NOTE: PREGISTRANTS MUST CHECK IN AT REGISTRATION DESK TO CONFIRM REGISTRATION AND RECEIVE A WRISTBAND WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES AND FOOD LINES.

ALSO: the Reunion Shelter is located adjacent to Christian Brothers School.

Please be advised that traffic is blocked due to construction at the intersection of Canal Blvd, Canal St, and City Park Ave. Our Reunion Shelter site is best accessed from Wisner Blvd onto Friedrichs Ave. Wisner Blvd can be accessed from Marconi Dr., So. Carrollton Ave, Esplanade Ave, and De Saix Blvd. Canal Blvd Southbound traffic is detoured to Marconi.

See You There!

Friends OF THE POOR Walk

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL USA

Saturday, September 30, 2017
New Orleans City Park Reunion Shelter & Festival Grounds

Onsite Registration: 9:00 am
1-Mile Walk: 10:00 am
After Party & Refreshments: 10:30 am

Register Today! www.fopwalk.org

The Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run is a national event coordinated by SVDPUSA

***President's Report
2017 National Meeting Recap***

Ten local members of the Society took part in this year's National Assembly in Tampa. Here's what a few of them shared regarding the experience:

In his keynote address, Fr. Robert Maloney, C.M. spoke of our celebrating 400 years of Vincentian charism, and that we must continue to see the face of Christ in those we serve. He also challenged us to do even more in our communities. During Dr. Leonard Doohan's talk on Spiritual Leadership: The Quest for Integrity, he challenged all of us to recognize that we were all here for a reason, and that we were all personally chosen, and for us to be aware of this calling. We need to focus on our spirituality in this ministry, and he asked us to see things in ways we've never seen them before. Ralph McCloud's spoke on Racial Injustice, and his perspective on its impact on poverty. He discussed many poverty issues and the role of the SSVdP in collaborating with the USCCB's Campaign for Human Development. Becoming advocates on behalf of those who don't have a voice is paramount to making substantive changes in these communities. Economic development and education were the biggest takeaways in ways to improving the lives of persons living in impoverished areas

I was able to attend several of the meetings on recruitment of new members, retaining existing members and dealing with conflict in our meetings. The biggest takeaway was the call for mutual respect for our members toward each other. We should be cultivating a spirit of friendship and check our egos and personal agendas at the door.

The Disaster Relief folks have been involved with many areas of the country affected by natural disasters. Not only are they dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Texas (and now Irma in FL) and SW Louisiana, they're still dealing with disasters from 2016. They are still closely working with our neighbors in Baton Rouge with their recovery efforts.

-Michael Champagne

The National SVDP gathering was a very satisfying experience for me. I was delighted to take part in the full day meeting of the National Voice of the Poor Committee from 9 AM to 4 PM on August 30. We had some interesting discussions on our latest position paper, "Environmental Stewardship", on how to build Voice of the Poor in areas where it does not exist (e.g New Orleans) as well as on the new advocacy tool, VoterVoice, that is replacing capwiz as a better way to contact legislators. Getting together with fellow Vincentians from across the USA and in Canada added to my enjoyment, as did the dinner with the Louisiana delegation and the Yacht StarShip Dinner Cruise. To top[it off, people even remembered my birthday on the 30th. I got a couple of free dinners and the Happy Birthday song. Pleased we were in Tampa a week before the hurricane arrived in the area .

-Fr. Louie Arceneaux

The national convention in Tampa Bay was a fantastic experience for the newly formed St. Therese of Lisieux Young Adult Conference. As the president of our conference, I had been eager to get our conference involved with growing, and serving- but was looking for a better understanding of Saint Vincent de Paul. Well, God works in wonderful ways, as I needed to look no further!

The convention gave us so many great ideas to grow our Young Adult conference. Numerous conference attendees approached me with such excitement for our group, and offered ideas, encouragement, and inspiration. This convention gave me a real sense of direction for our group. It was a spiritual experience, and inspirational experience, and I left Tampa Bay energized, and encouraged for our future.

-Greg Joubert

2017 National Meeting Recap (cont)

As Executive Director, I've attended numerous St. Vincent de Paul national meetings and have always gathered meaningful lessons and perspective on ways we can continue to serve our communities. This annual event continues to enlighten us as Vincentians, and now more than ever, prepare us for the new challenges we face as the needs of the needy change. This year, I was so proud of the dedicated group that represented all New Orleans (area) Vincentians, which included tenured members as well of new members of the Society. After this year's experience, I could not help but feel confident about the future! Our team embraced the information that the national meeting provides and I look forward to seeing the impact this team makes regarding our mission.

-Deacon Rudy Rayfield

This was my first year attending the National Convention as your Archdiocesan Council Board President. WOW, what an experience! I must admit, I was very unsure of what to expect when arriving in Tampa. The shuttle ride from the airport to the hotel left the young adults and myself breathless at times. Thought we were in a New York cab the way the driver drove. Fortunately, we all made it to our final destination safely.

Now the fun began at the welcome reception. Mix people with food & drinks and of course everyone's going to be relaxed, do a lot of talking and start making new friends. The next several days were a mix of business, education and more mixing with other Vincentians.

Our Team of (10) local Vincentians (Fr. Louie Arceneaux, Sr. Teresa Daly, Deacon Rudy Rayfield, Sandy Norman, Leslie & Mike Champagne, Greg Joubert, Marie Jubb, Brian Harris and myself) had several opportunities to get together as a group. We divided and conquered the workshops that were available to educate us on the society and programs to help the poor. There is a wealth of information and exciting things going on in the society.

There was one element of the convention that truly stood out to me, the daily liturgies. To see so many Vincentians gathered in one place celebrating our faith and re-committing themselves to work for the poor. Also, to witness the commissioning of the National President, Officers, Regional Vice-Presidents, Directors & Observers, National Council (Which I represent N.O.) and Members. This is an excerpt from the commissioning ceremony for National Council Members:

Do you promise to promote the mission and spirituality of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul by encouraging all members to grow in holiness, to adhere loyally to the Rule, Governance, Bylaws and Policies of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and to always seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for what is best for the service of those living in poverty and the Society as a whole?

My Response was: I do

I am commissioned to do many things in the name of the Society for the betterment of our council and conferences. I pray daily for this guidance and ask for your prayers as well.

What goes on in Tampa, stays in Tampa!

No, not really.

My hope is that you have a little understanding of our adventure in Tampa and join us next year at the 2018 National Convention in San Diego, California.

SAVE THE DATE: August 27 – September 2

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

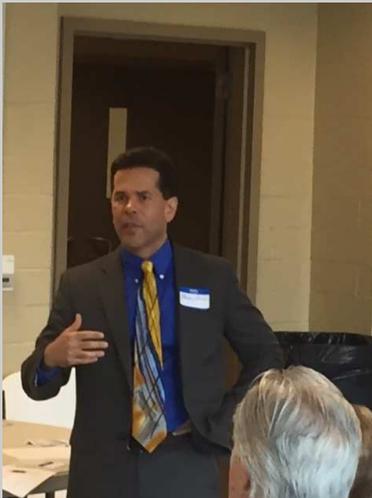
Council President Alan Demma

Formation News

Over the past several years we have been on a Vincentian Journey. Over the past few weeks where have we come from on our Vincentian Journey?
We have journeyed with 32 of our young people at St. Angela Merici who were commissioned as young Vincentians at the 9:30 am school Mass on September 15th. Thanks to Wanda Salzer for her work with this group.



Approximately 30 Vincentians journeyed together and with Michael Acaldo (below), SVdP Baton Rouge Exec. Director as he spoke with us and we shared with each other "OUR LIVES AS VINCENTIANS". Thanks to the Corpus Christi Conference for hosting this day for us.



Approximately 25 new members of the Conference at Mary Queen of Peace in Mandeville have journeyed together as friends through participation in the Ozanam Orientation. Thanks to Jimmy Dykes for his Leadership as Conference President.

Where do we stand on a firm foundation of God at this time? We stand in the midst of many Best Practices throughout our Conferences.

We stand with singing Vincentians as they have developed a song group and with great music. One of their ministries is going to Nursing Homes, homes of shut-ins where they offer some delightful entertainment. When you come to our 400th anniversary of the Spirit of Vincent celebration you will hear them sing and see them perform. **WHAT A CREATIVE AND GREAT BEST PRACTICE FOR MINISTRY.** Thanks to Paul Claudel for his leadership in this.



Formation News (cont)

We stand in the midst of another **BEST PRACTICE** coming to us from **St. Rita's Conference** in Harahan. At one of their Parish Masses the Vincentian Conference was all there and Father was very supportive throughout the Mass. It was after Communion that three of our Vincentians were surprised with awards: **Al Dowty** for 27 years of service; Gerald Ruiz for 24 years of service and Herb Soileau for 10 years of service. After these awards were given, there was a reception in the Parish hall where Parishioners who might be interested in the SVDP Society could speak with Members. Thanks to Ron Cambias for his leadership as Conference President at St. Rita.

As a Community of Friends what are some gatherings we can look forward to?

September 27, 2017 we gather as friends to celebrate with our Vincentian Priests their 200th anniversary in the United States. This will happen at 5:00 pm at St. Joseph's Church on Tulane Ave. Thanks to Father Tom Stehlik and the Vincentian Priests for their work on planning this. **PLAN TO COME IF YOU CAN,**

September 30, we gather as friends at City Park for our annual Friends of the Poor walk. **COME ON OUT AND WALK, RUN, SUPPORT ALL WHO ARE THERE,** Thanks to Conner Ellis and Sandy Norman for their hard work on this event.

December 9, 2017 we will celebrate our 400th anniversary of our Vincentian Spirit. This will be from 9:00 -12:00 Noon at St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall. This is re-scheduled from the August date we had to cancel.

Saturday, November 11, 2017 we will gather on the West Bank for an Ozanam Orientation. If you desire to come please mark this date on your calendar.

Saturday, January 20, 2018 we will gather as friends on the East Bank for an Ozanam Orientation. Mark your calendars all East Bankers and others. we will gather once again as Friends on the Northshore for another Ozanam Orientation. Plan to come and meet me as I cross the pond.

What great opportunities we have to gather as friends. May we take some of these opportunities?

Many Blessings My Friends,

Sr. Teresa

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Archdiocesan Council of New Orleans**

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AND NOTES...



IBERIABANK

OZANAM INN PRESENTS OUR
37TH ANNUAL
CENTURY CLUB GALA

*Rollin'
ON THE
River*

ENTERTAINMENT
AUSTIN SICARD &
THE MEDICS

DINNER & BAR
COMPLIMENTS
OF THE CRAZY
LOBSTER

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BENEFITS



HONORING
THE DEAN OF LSU SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
THE DEANS OF LSU AND TULANE SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 12
6:00 - 9:00 PM



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#1 POYDRAS STREET, SUITE 83



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L. Lee Hamm III, MD, FACP
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