

# SVdP San Diego Diocesan Council Newsletter



Mar 2019

Volume 4, Issue 3

*"No work of charity is foreign to the Society"*

## Upcoming Events

**Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday**

**Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> – General Council Meeting**

**Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Saving Starts**

**Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day**

**Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> – St. Joseph Feast Day**

**Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> – Annunciation of the Lord**

**Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> – Council Board Meeting**

**Conference Meeting Info in Conference Section**

**(Feast days visit [http://vinformation.org/en/tagged\\_feasts](http://vinformation.org/en/tagged_feasts))**

## Message from the President

Like so many of our members I have accumulated several Vincentian books over the years that I have just piled on a shelf. Last month I found one that I found interesting and decided to make it part of my daily reading. "Faces of Holiness" by Robert Maloney, C. M. In the book he writes about several persons that we have heard a great deal about during our time as Vincentians.

The one that I found most interesting to me is Sr. Rosalie Rendu. Known as the "Apostle of the Mouffetard District" she helped establish the first counsel of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Again all information we have heard about. What struck me as something new was the realization that she did this work "joyfully".

I began to ask myself if I am doing my SVDP work joyfully? I discovered that there are certain parts of being a Vincentian that I do joyfully and others not so much.

I have been working with the Southern District in starting a new conference. During the process I have had the great pleasure of talking with a couple of these new members. They are so excited to begin their journey as Vincentians. It reminded me of the excitement I felt when I first began my journey.

Where has this joy and excitement going? Most of my work is with district and conference presidents. Am I joyful when

meeting with them? Do I share excitement about being a part of SVDP? More importantly is the joy and excitement than passed on to the members?

Do the works you do bring you joy and excitement? If not what has changed? As leaders we need to be aware of these changes and try to rekindle the flames that burnt so brightly when you first joined SVDP.

Please share with me your feelings. How do you keep the joy and excitement in your membership as a Vincentian? If the flame has gone out how can we rekindle it?

Please send any comments or suggestions to me at:  
[judy.marquie@hotmail.com](mailto:judy.marquie@hotmail.com)

Blessings,

Judy Marquie, President

## Message from Council Spiritual Director



As we prepare to enter our Lenten journey this month we may assess our spiritual growth and find ourselves longing for conversion. Many of us became Vincentians out of a desire to better serve. We now have a new view, seeing the world through the eyes of those in greater need than our own.

During this sacred season of penance we may become more aware of our sinful nature. We reflect on how we can change our lives not just during these 40-day's but also for our entire lifetime journey. Our conversion from sin to grace can be as great as the newly baptized who join us at Easter Vigil.

There is much to meditate on during this season. Our desire to improve our spiritual being, by turning away from the natural inclinations which interfere with our improvement, needs to be addressed daily if we are truly going to grow. We may begin our day asking for grace and end our day either

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with thanks to God for the grace he gave us or asking forgiveness when we could've done better.

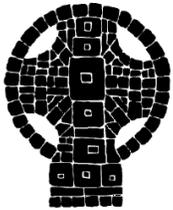
From this we prepare for our Reconciliation with the Lord. This wonderful sacrament renews us, and allows us to experience the embrace of our merciful God. We repent so that we can experience this joy of knowing Jesus and his love.

No matter our age, our station in life, our abilities or our hearts, we are reminded of our morality and this need for repentance. May our outward Joy during this time reflect a Lenten journey that brings us closer to our Lord.

"God gives us the strength to begin anew. It is in discovering the greatness of God's love that our heart is shaken by the horror and weight of sin and begins to fear offending God by sin and being separated from him." CCC 1432

I pray that we all journey closer to God through our service to the poor.

God's Blessings, Bonnie Sardo, Spiritual Advisor



## A LENTEN PRAYER

### Leader:

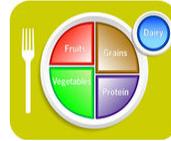
May Jesus gift us with his presence this Lent, so that we can be a gift to others, and so we pray: (All-response in bold)

- Fast from judging others; **to feast on kindness.**
- Fast from unrelenting pressures; **to feast on trusting God.**
- Fast from self-concern; **to feast on compassion.**
- Fast from personal anxiety; **to feast on hope.**
- Fast from discouragement; **to feast on encouragement.**
- Fast from criticism; **to feast on affirmation.**
- Fast from complaining; **to feast on complimenting.**
- Fast from social media; **to feast on prayer and silence.**
- Fast from resentments; **to feast on forgiveness.**

### Together:

Lord, give us the grace to fast during Lent so that we can truly celebrate Easter. Amen

## Dining Room



The launch of our dining room project to provide meals to disadvantaged teens that are juniors and seniors in high school will kick off in April 2019 at Good Shepherd Ministry Center (GSMC) in El Cajon.

Menu planning has begun and lead positions for the team have been identified.

These positions include:

- Food Service Director** – oversees the entire team and will work with the GSMC coordinator.
- Volunteer Coordinator** – Schedules and communicates with all volunteers.
- Kitchen Coordinator** – Responsible for food transport, dining room coordinator, inventory reporting and meals served.
- Food Server** – Provides help in the operation of the kitchen and meal service.
- Food Transporter** – Provide vehicle and safe transport of food from kitchen to center.
- Dining Room Coordinator** – Oversees dining room volunteers, proper setup of dining room, serving and cleanup.
- Dining Room Server** – Provides any needed help in the operation of the dining room and meal service.
- Food Prep Assistant** – Assist the chef in preparing and cooking food for the meal service.

We will be renting the kitchen at Our Lady of Grace one day a week to prep and cook food to be served. Food will be transported to GSMC and stored for service on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly.

Ideally we would like to have our own certified kitchen or purchase a mobile kitchen for this meal service and to be able to create more opportunities to serve under nourished people in our community.

In addition to the lead positions we will need volunteers to help make plates and serve those attending the meal. Watch for the launch of Signup.com in the near future to sign up for

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a time slot that works for you.

If you are interested in any of the lead positions, have information for a certified kitchen or mobile kitchen or would like to be a server please contact Paul Marquie at [paul.marquie@hotmail.com](mailto:paul.marquie@hotmail.com) or 619-916-9680

### Project Homeless Connect – East County



Crisis House is hosting their annual Project Homeless Connect on April 12th from 10am – 2pm. This year it will be at the Ronald Regan Community Center in El Cajon.

They are looking for volunteers who are interest in being docents for the homeless that attend. This individual will escort an individual or families based on their needs to the various agency tables in the room. If you are interested in being a part of this event please contact Allissa Torres at 619-444-1194 ext. 305

If you know of someone who experiencing homelessness who may benefit from this event please share this information with them.

### Ozanam Orientation – COMING SOON

There will be an orientation scheduled sometime in May. We are not sure of the exact date or location at this time.

If you or someone you know has not attended an orientation or if you have not attended one in the past 3 years please contact your conference president, Sandra Watson ([svdp.sandra@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.sandra@gmail.com)) or Judy Marquie ([judy.marquie@hotmail.com](mailto:judy.marquie@hotmail.com))

Remember one of the three elements of being a Vincentian is fellowship. Attending an orientation not only will help you to grow as a Vincentian but it allows us to have fellowship with members from other conferences.

If your conference is interested in hosting an orientation

please contact Sandra Watson ([svdp.sandra@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.sandra@gmail.com))



The National Council is proud to announce that the Society's feature-length film, "Our Faith in Action," will air again on Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) this Sunday, March 3, 2019.

The film is based on our network TV series "Our Faith in Action: Today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul."

### "Our Faith in Action" Movie Description

The spirit and charism of a 400-year-old French saint lives on through the examples of charity by nearly 100,000 dedicated men and women of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The feature-length presentation "Our Faith in Action" tells the spiritually uplifting, personal stories of our Vincentian members in direct service with people in need across the country.

### Sunday, March 3

3:30 p.m. Eastern / 2:30 p.m. Central

1:30 p.m. Mountain / 12:30 p.m. Pacific

### "Our Faith in Action" Movie available with Spanish Subtitles

The "Our Faith in Action" movie is now available with Spanish subtitles!

To view the movie with Spanish subtitles on YouTube, copy and paste this link:

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_HCOVSQOiA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_HCOVSQOiA&feature=youtu.be)

To view and download the movie with Spanish subtitles on Vimeo, copy and paste this link:  
<https://vimeo.com/320334378>

### Voice of the Poor (VOP)– Ken Poggenburg



Voice of the Poor (VOP) is the advocacy arm of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. With members representing every section

and demographic of the nation, the VOP identifies those issues that are critical to those living in poverty and need, and helps bring attention to them so communities and our elected representatives can help develop strategies and tactics that will provide the most effective and efficient means to reduce or eliminate poverty.

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching, the VOP collaborates, educates, and advocates to improve conditions of the people we serve.

To learn more about the VOP copy and paste this link:  
<https://www.svdpusa.org/members/Programs-Tools/Programs/Voice-of-the-Poor>

For ways to get involved copy and paste this link:  
<https://www.svdpusa.org/members/Programs-Tools/Programs/Voice-of-the-Poor/How-Can-You-Get-Involved>

### Father Augustus Tolton America's First Black Catholic Priest



America's first black Catholic priest, Augustus Tolton, began his journey to priesthood escaping from slavery in 1862 at the age of eight. The Catholic Church now considers him for sainthood.

Augustus was born in Brush Creek, Missouri on April 1, 1854, nine years after the first SVdP Conference formed in the United States in St. Louis in 1845, only 170 miles away. His baptismal record reads 'son of Peter Tolton and Martha Chisley, property of Stephen Elliott.'

Baptized at birth into the Catholic faith, by the Missouri family that owned him, when the Civil War broke his father Peter Tolton ran away to join the Union Army. His mother Martha fled months later with her three children, Augustus, Charles and Anne.

Nearly captured by Confederate slave catchers in the woods, the family saved by Union soldiers were smuggled into a dilapidated rowboat and pushed out into the mighty Mississippi River. The Confederate soldiers continued to shoot at the boat, as Augustus's mother courageously rowed the boat, praying the rosary across the muddy river.

They arrived safely to freedom 217 miles later across the river to Quincy Illinois, where they joined a St. Peter Catholic Church. Tolton's mother took him to a Catholic school and asked the priest to allow Augustus to study there.

The victim of constant racism, he was denied continued attendance at the Catholic school because of the racial tension imposed by parishioners of their children attending school with a black child.

Father Peter McGirr, a priest at St. Peter parish impressed by Tolton's intelligence mentored him, teaching him Latin and Greek. He was the first to encourage Tolton to enter the priesthood.

Father McGirr wrote letters to seminaries across the United States in an attempt to enroll Augustus. None accepted him because of his race. Then Father McGirr wrote letters to Rome, saying, "this individual is brilliant."

In 1880, Tolton was sent to Rome, where he entered the seminary at Collegium Urbanum de Propaganda Fide. Six

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years later, on April 24, 1886, at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran in Rome, Augustus Tolton was ordained a priest. The next day on Easter Sunday April 25, 1886, Tolton celebrated his first Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Pope Leo XIII delegated Cardinal Giovanni Parocchi to officiate at the ceremony.

After graduation, Tolton imagined his assignment as a missionary to Africa, but instead the Vatican ordered him to return to the United States. "It was said that I would be the only priest of my race in America and would not likely succeed," Tolton wrote, according to the Catholic News Herald.

Augustus returned to the hostile environment of his hometown of Quincy, Illinois. His sermons and presence were inspiring and charismatic. Blacks and whites alike in Quincy flocked to his church. This aroused the jealousy of the white Catholic priests in the area. Protestant black ministers were also envious and felt he was stealing people away from their congregations.

Father Tolton transferred to Chicago as instructed by the Catholic Church where he began to establish a parish on the city's south side. First, his tiny mission congregation met in the basement of "Old Saint Mary's" Church. Then Tolton led the development and construction of St. Monica the first black Catholic Church, named for the African mother of St. Augustine; completed in 1893 at 36th and Dearborn Streets on Chicago's South Side. On December 6, 1924, St. Monica merged together with St. Elizabeth Church in the city's Bronzeville Community.

Father Tolton's reputation for holiness grew. The phenomenon of a black Catholic priest, who was a terrific preacher, placed a demand on him to travel the country. Tirelessly he evangelized raising money for his struggling congregation. Returning from a priests' retreat, Father Tolton collapsed from heat exhaustion and was taken to Mercy Hospital. He died on July 9, 1897, at the age of 43.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE: MAR. 6 – APR. 14



40 Days for Life is a community-based campaign that takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in

their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of His plan for the end of abortion. It draws attention to the evil of abortion through the use of a three-point program:

- Prayer and fasting
- Constant vigil
- Community outreach

The 40-day campaign tracks Biblical history, where God used 40-day periods to transform individuals, communities ... and the entire world. From Noah in the flood to Moses on the mountain to the disciples after Christ's resurrection, it is clear that God sees the transformative value of His people accepting and meeting a 40-day challenge.

The next life-saving campaign is coming soon to locations around the world. Will you speak for those who cannot speak for themselves?

To find a campaign near you use this link <https://40daysforlife.com/>

## SVDP Disaster Corporation (DSC)



Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO of SVdP's Disaster Services Corporation (DSC) is asking for Vincentians to support the efforts of the DSC and their Rapid Response Teams. "We need

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funding to help our Conferences wherever a natural disaster hits to cover the cost of utility deposits, hotel stays, prescription medication assistance, food, fuel and other unmet needs for disaster survivors not covered by FEMA, state programs, or other Voluntary Organizations Active by DSC.

Your donation TODAY will help to support the SVdP DSC with resources needed to respond to disasters across the United States. Thank you if you have already made a donation and for your continued support.

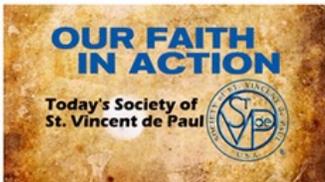
The DSC is a national organization formed by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul specifically to aid local Councils in responding quickly and effectively to natural and manmade disasters.

**If you prefer to support SVdPUSA's disaster relief efforts by check, please send it to:**

**National Council of the United States  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
58 Progress Parkway  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043  
(Be sure to write "Domestic Disaster Relief Fund" in the memo field)**

We are deeply thankful for all you do to give glory to God by giving to those in need!

## EWTN Our Faith In Action



Join Society of St. Vincent de Paul members on their spiritual growth journey through service to people and families in need. From the Society's traditional

home visits, food pantries and assistance with rent and utilities, to innovative health care, financial and mentoring programs, the Society's Vincentians see the face of Christ in

the people they encounter. In this series, Vincentians volunteer across the country to bring effective, personalized help to those in poverty, and share with you their stories of Christ's love along the way.

For more information on EWTN, visit: [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com).

Go to <http://www.ewtn.com/channelfinder/> to find the EWTN station in your zip code.

## ARE YOU GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!

**WERE YOU GETTING THIS NEWSLETTER BUT NO LONGER ARE?**

There is so much information provided through our e-Gazette. Much of the information, not all, that is included in emails and this newsletter comes from articles written in this document. If you are not getting this important information you might want to consider signing up for it.

When the owner has removed an email address, or the email address holder designates "Do Not Mail," the email address cannot be re-added by the National Council office. The email address holder must sign him or herself up to resume receiving Frederic's E-Gazette at: <http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6>

## Links that might be of interest to Members

**Famvin WEBSITE** <http://famvin.org>

**Webpage - Diocesan Council of San Diego!**  
[www.svdpsandiego.org](http://www.svdpsandiego.org)

### EWTN Links

For more information on EWTN, visit: [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com).  
Click here to find the EWTN station in your zip code:  
<http://www.ewtn.com/channelfinder/>

**SVDP National**  
<http://www.svdpusa.org>

### E-Gazette

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Julie Witzel at [jwitzel@svdpusa.org](mailto:jwitzel@svdpusa.org).

## District News

### Mother of Perpetual Help – Shirley Shetula (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 5:00 at St. Francis)

We are still looking for an individual who is interested in taking the next step in their vocation as a Vincentian to be a leader. If you are interested in this position or would like more information about it please contact Shirley Shetula at [sshetula@mac.com](mailto:sshetula@mac.com) or Judy Marquie at [judy.marquie@hotmail.com](mailto:judy.marquie@hotmail.com)

### St. Joseph the Worker – Paul Marquie (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the odd months at 6:30)

We are pleased to announce that we have added a new conference to the Southern District, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in the City Heights.

We will be commissioning their new president, Debora Samuels and their officers, this Sunday at the church hall after the 11:00 am mass. We are very excited to have them join us. Their community is in dire need of St. Vincent de Paul's works.

Please join me in welcoming them aboard by sending out a welcome to Debora at [mayatu11@yahoo.com](mailto:mayatu11@yahoo.com)

## Conference News & Meeting Days and Times

Christ the King (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10-12)

Holy Family (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 8:30)

Most Precious Blood (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 10:00)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6:45pm)

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 12:00)

Pius X (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6:30)

### San Rafael (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:00)

The San Rafael SVdP conference had a very busy February. Our Winter Rotational Shelter began on Saturday February 2nd and our guests were with us until Saturday February 16th. Overall we provided shelter, food, laundry and transportation services for a variety of 12 shelter guests. This year we had several children including a few teenagers. Our guests enjoyed home cooked Ethnic dinners each night provided by members of our parish. There were Italian, Mexican, Indian, Irish and Chaldean dinners to name a few. The ethnic theme was a big success and we thank our Monsignor Dennis for the idea! It is always a relief when our guests move on to their next shelter, but over all we do miss all the activity that takes place. Now we are preparing for March and the coming of Lent. At our last meeting our conference assembled Smile Bags to give to all our parishioners so that they may give, with a Smile, to our friends in need. "What's on your schedule for Lent?"

### Santa Sophia (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7:30 and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 2:30)

### St. John the Evangelist (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7:00)

### St. John Mini Vinnies (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00 in Parish Hall)

### St. Francis (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 5:30)

### St. Luke's (1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 11:00 & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 6:30)

Our Friends of the Poor Walk 2019 will be on Saturday September 28th at the Church of St. Luke Grounds-- Vincentian Anita Razzouki will chair the event. We have 4 people who are interested in attending training for Ozanam Orientation. A number of families we are helping go to Payday Loans-- not so much by choice but more out of desperation. Can we try to research what could be alternatives to Pay Day Loan? We are finding more & more homeless in the East County area. Our Helping Bags are helping us to really get to know some of our neighbors who are homeless & hungry (a clean pair of socks go a long way). Prison Ministry from your home--Sister Helen Prejeans & San Diegan's Against the

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Death Penalty are looking for help to write pen pal letters to death row inmates." ....I was in prison and you visited me. President Mike Wasyliw and VP Andrea Zigelman compiled an easy to read SVDP Annual Highlights of the Year and placed in church bulletin (will do 3 part installments).

**St. Stephens (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7:00)**

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**If you have any articles or information you want to share with other members regarding your conference activities and projects please submit them to Judy Marquie.**

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