

New SVDP Committees Formed

Share Your Talents : Participate on a Committee

As a result of the Team Charter Process, there are a number of new Committees:

The Outreach Team, headed by Bea Garza (214.324.9013) and Domino Carvajal (214.987-1008), will work to form new Conferences and to increase Hispanic participation in SVDP.

The Youth Outreach Team, headed by Phillip Young (972.303.3891), will work to lower the average age of SVDP members in Dallas.

The Web Site Team, headed by Mark Bryan (214.221.1799), is developing a diocesan wide web site and a secure database of client info.

The Ozanam School Team, headed by Michele

Farner (972.635.6838) will coordinate four Ozanam Schools each year.

The Best Practice Team, headed by Andy Higgins (972.276.8462), will encourage sharing of best practices and plan a "Best Practice Saturday".

The Funds Development Team, no leader yet, will plan and implement an annual fundraising event.

The Annual Retreat Team, headed by Sr. Aileen Marek, D.C. (214.638.5207), will plan a retreat.

The Fill a Prescription for the Needy Team, headed by Margaret Londenberg, (214.352.9830) is evaluating the program and, if deemed feasible, will implement it Lent 2004 or Lent 2005.

Every member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has a talent that can be shared through Committee participation. Help us be all we

Ozanam School
Bilingual
(Spanish/Eng)
Holy Trinity
September 27

164 Reasons to Send Us Conference Annual Report by Nov. 15

At the Annual Meeting in Atlanta, the Trustees voted to increase the Annual Solidarity Payment to National from \$100 to \$150 per Conference. This is the first increase in ten years.

The Regional Solidarity Payment will remain at \$14 per Conference.

In the past, the Dallas Council has paid the Solidarity Payments on behalf of the Conferences from our Treasury.

We will GLADLY do so again this year, for those Conferences that file their Annual Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003 with us by

the deadline of November 15, 2003.

Please mail your Annual Report before November 15 to:

Michele DiGiacomo
4831 Elsby Avenue
Dallas, TX 75209

The Council will pay the \$164 Solidarity payments for Conferences whose Annual Reports are received by Michele by November 15.

All other Conferences must pay the \$164 themselves to National and Regional.

" Please mail your Annual Report before November 15 to: Michele DiGiacomo

Happy 90th Birthday, Joe Lang!

Joe Lang's 90th birthday was August 21, 2003.

At our Team Charter meeting two days later, our SVDP membership surprised Joe with a birthday celebration, a gift of wind chimes, and a cake.

Earlier in the day, the Diocesan Council voted unanimously to name our new office at the St. Vincent Center The Joe Lang Room.

Congratulations, Joe and thank you for your dedication and years of service to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Auto Donation Program

Charles Blank is asking that we all help our Auto Donation program by including frequent appeals in your parish bulletin for parishioners to donate their spare cars to SVDP.

Use wording similar to the Texas Catholic: Tax deductible, running or not, free towing....call 214 630.0044. (This number is for Charity Motors.)

This program has raised \$76,000 net of expenses since its inception in 1999.

PLEASE HELP PUBLICIZE THIS MAJOR FUND RAISER

"Help Us Help The Needy.

Donate your Car

- *Tax Deductible*
- *Free towing*
- *Running or non-running.*

Vox Pauper continued from page 1

nearly 40 years later, poverty has not been eliminated; indeed, by many accounts, it has only grown worse. Why? The possible answers are too complex to outline here.

But perhaps one simple answer is that advocates for the poor and needy seek ultimate solutions from the wrong sources. Jesus counseled his disciples: "So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all." Matthew 6:31-2. God knows what the poor need. Better than any politician, editor, or community leader.

What better person, then, to lobby but God Himself. So, go to Him. Often! Lobby Him in the morning, in the afternoon, and at night. Lobby Him at your conference meetings and during

home visits with your clients. Lobby Him and Him Alone, as St. Louis de Montfort might say. He requires from you no campaign contribution or political favor. Moreover, He will answer your petitions. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7; see also the parable of the persistent widow at Luke 18:1-8.

The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Sometimes the poor cannot, or will not, cry out to the Lord of their own volition. You must cry out for them. You must be their advocate before the only Legislator that really matters. Could you be any more effective? Or authentic? May the graces from the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary come down into your souls.

Serving In Hope—Module II— Our Vincentian Spirituality

Serving in Hope Module II is now available to be ordered from the National Office.

The six sessions included in this video-assisted resource for the spiritual formation of the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are as follows:

- Vincentian Charism
- Jesus, Evangelizer and Servant of the Poor
- Contemplatives in Action
- Journey together to Holiness

- Sacraments and Vincentian Feasts
- Mary in Vincentian Spirituality.

Serving in Hope consists of a 5-minute Introductory Video, and a 3-minute Video Introduction for each of the six Sessions in the Module together with the Formation Guide Booklet.

Order copies for your Conference from the National Office.

Module II Video.....\$4.00 (one per Conference)

Formation Guides.....\$1.25 (one per member)

SVDP Thrift Store Update

Plans are to open our SVDP Thrift Store, located in northwest Dallas, in 2004.

Fundraising commenced in May 2003; early results are encouraging, over \$180,000 pledged.

Fourteen parishes in the Diocese have agreed to participate in collecting goods for our store.

Pickups are approximately twice a month. Call 214.358.0900 to arrange large-item pickups.

We will be hosting a VOUCHER DAY in our warehouse for all Vincentian clients., who will be given vouchers to obtain goods at no cost. For more information call Donna Tarter 214.739.2094.

Volunteers are need to help organize and sort goods at our warehouse, that has generously been donated for our use indefinitely. Many volunteers are needed in the coming weeks as we prepare for our first VOUCHER DAY. If interested, please call Donna Tarter 214.739.2094.

Legal Counsel

In addition to helping us revised our bylaws to reflect our new Diocesan Council structure, Jeff Turner has agreed to serve as Legal Counsel for the Diocesan Council.

Jeff is NOT available to help Conferences with legal issues or to answer legal questions.

Jeff IS available if you need a good attorney to represent you. Call Jeff at 214.823.8600 to discuss your needs and his fees.

Volunteers Needed at Ladies of Charity Thrift Store

Charities Home Center can no longer provide free clothing to those referred to them by SVDP Conferences or parishes other than St. Patrick.

SVDP has plenty of clothes in our warehouse, but currently lacks distribution capability.

The Ladies of Charity Thrift Store at 2710 Samuel Blvd. is willing to fill this void, and distribute clothing to those referred by SVDP Conferences or by Charities Home Center.

The Ladies are in need of SVDP volunteers at their store. This offers us a wonderful opportunity to reestablish a relationship with this branch of the Vincentian family. St. Vincent himself founded the Ladies of Charity in 1617!

What is needed is one or two volunteers to handle phone duties from 9:30 am until noon on Thursdays.

Also 2 volunteers are needed for store duty on the 3rd Saturday of each month and 2 volunteers for the 4th Saturday of each month.

Call 214.821.5713 to volunteer.



The Joe Lang Room
St. Vincent Center
3826 Gilbert
Dallas, Texas 75219

Phone: 214 528-7837

"Living God's Love face to face"

Mission Statement

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

As a reflection of the whole family of God, Members, who are known as Vincentians, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group, and economic level. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule.

Organized locally Vincentians witness God's love by embrac-

Pray for a Miracle for Joe Lang

At our National Conference in Atlanta, all Vincentians were asked to pray that Blessed Frederic Ozanam will intercede on behalf of Joe Lang, to restore his eye sight.

Prayer cards were distributed to Vincentians throughout the nation, as well as to the Vincentians from other countries who attended the Annual Meeting.

Here is the prayer:

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, great apostle of Our Lord Jesus and St. Vincent de Paul, founder of our Society, pray for us. We implore your intercession for our brethren and fellow Vincentian, Joseph H. Lang, Jr. that God may heal him of his serious sickness. We are animated with confidence that your prayers in his behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Blessed Frederic, hear our prayers and obtain our petition. Lord we pray that Blessed Frederic will be canonized by the church.

Add Prayers to your Home Visits

Home Visit Prayer Suggestions

Immediately before the Home Visit, the two case workers can say this prayer together:

Lord Jesus, inspire us as you inspired St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic to show our love and concern for this family (person) in need.

Immediately before concluding the visit, the case workers and the person(s) visited can say this prayer together:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the opportunity to assist _____ in her (his) time of need. Strengthen and guide us all each day. Give us an awareness of your presence in our lives.

Help _____ to walk the path with you that will lead to the resolution of her (his) present needs and concerns, Amen.