



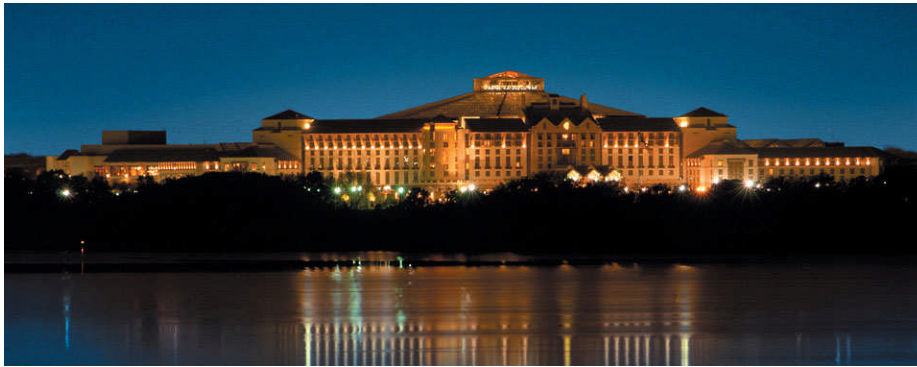
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PALM BEACH DIOCESAN COUNCIL

September 2011

VOLUME 3 NO. 1

(561) 697-9699 www.svd-palmbeach.org

The Society of St Vincent de Paul National Meeting August 31st to September 3, 2011 At the Gaylord Texan Resort, Dallas, Texas



Our 2011 Annual Meeting, hosted by the Diocesan Council of Dallas, drew Vincentians from throughout the United States to celebrate and work on behalf of the Society and those we serve. It was exciting to see hundreds of Vincentians gather for this meeting united in prayer and action. We had much to share and learn from each other. The Diocesan Council of Dallas prepared a wonderful meeting with wide-ranging topics that will help us develop and grow. We renewed our Vincentian vocation in the liturgies, workshops, meetings and celebrations.

The theme of our meeting was "Open Your Heart to Change the World," emphasizing our ongoing mission to seek and find the forgotten and bring them Christ's love. In our gathering, we found Our Lord in meetings, celebrations and services. This was an opportunity for Vincentians to renew our friendships and rekindle the spirit of our founder, Blessed Frederic.

Amidst today's challenges, Vincentian volunteers across the country have responded time and again with their time and talent, to grow in our Vincentian vocation of love and service.

Throughout the meeting, we heard member's ideas, hopes and concerns for our Society and those we are privileged to serve. We enjoyed the fellowship with other Vincentians, and our stay in the Dallas area. We also heard from Sheila Gilbert our newly elected President and Joe Flannigan our former President. The keynote speaker was Philip DeVol, an author and expert on poverty issues, and Bishop John M. Quinn our National Spiritual Advisor.

Dozens of workshops were available for members and guests, a few of which are listed below:

Working with the media

Disaster case management

Payday loan alternatives

Running a successful thrift store

How to help those with mental illness

Practical approach to social justice

NEW 2011/12 CALENDAR

COUNCIL MEETINGS

THURSDAY OCTOBER 13, 2011
THURSDAY JANUARY 12, 2012
THURSDAY APRIL 12, 2012
THURSDAY JULY 12, 2012
THURSDAY OCTOBER 13, 2012

OZANAM ORIENTATIONS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8, 2011
SATURDAY OCTOBER 8, 2012

FESTAL (MASS & DINNER)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

FESTAL – SEPTEMBER 21, 2011



In keeping with a long standing tradition of the Society in Palm Beach County, the District Council held a Festal which is defined as a celebration. We celebrate with a Mass followed by dinner. Father Brian Lehnert, our District Council Spiritual Advisor, concelebrating with Father Kevin Nelson of Holy Spirit Parish and assisted by Deacon Al Payne offered Mass at St. Therese de Lisieux in their new church. The Mass and dinner were attended by over fifty-five members and volunteers from most of the active SVDP Conferences.



Georgia Ulseth & Doris Souza



Vern & Betty Schenk



Leonard Sojka & the St. Jude Contingent



Fathers Brian & Kevin with Deacon Al



Ed and Doris Souza



Richard & Elaine Persek



Deacon Al and Carol Payne



Tom Hodgson & St. Thomas More Members

In addition to partaking in great food and drink, we gathered to present awards to those Conferences which met the requirements of the “Standards of Excellence” Program. After an extensive review and interview process of all Conferences facilitated by our Vice-President for Membership, Stan Pervenecki, eight Conferences were determined to be meeting all of the minimum requirements for a St. Vincent de Paul Conference. The Conferences honored were:

*Holy Name of Jesus Holy Spirit St. Jude Mary Immaculate
St. Paul of the Cross St. Thomas More St. Therese de Lisieux St. Peter*

We also were privileged to honor those volunteers who answer our intake phones from 10AM to 4PM five days a week. They are the first contact with the Society. They listen to and try to resolve client problems and determine the best way to service their needs. They refer them to available services in the county and they record the basic information which is forwarded for follow-up to the appropriate Conference. They handle over 1,100 calls per month. We appreciate them for their patience and constant dedicated service to the poor. Our Intake Volunteers include:

*Dawn Bortman Bruce Cohen Winifred Cohen Julie Corbin
Gayatha Grigsby George Heisel Carol Payne Deacon Al Payne
Sharon Vowles Christy Prichard Susan Hill Mary Donahue
Marie O’Brian Donald Warren Pat Blood*



ANNUAL NUMBERS FINALIZED

The National has published the final financial numbers for the 2010 fiscal year. Nationally the Society is composed of 3,769 Conferences with 172,861 members. And the Society provided \$593,932,658 in service to the poor.

The numbers for our Diocesan Council of Palm Beach include all four Councils; Martin, St. Lucie, Vero and Palm Beach.

Conferences Reporting: 27	Number of Members: 459	
Service Hours: 118,054	Home Visits: 7,757	Prison Visits: 766
Hospital Visits: 487	Eldercare Visits: 1,121	Referrals: 4,551
Traveler Aid: 856	Spiritual Aid: 6,620	Other Services: 4,500

People Served: 141,987

Expenditures in Service to the Poor:	\$1,471,943.00
In Kind Food, Clothing and Furniture:	\$ 250,902.00
In Kind Professional Services:	\$ 6,441.00
Est. Value of Service Hours:	\$2,521,633.00

Total Value of Vincentian Services: \$ 4,250,919.00

SHORT NOTES

WESTGATE THRIFT STORE - At the October 13th Board of Director's Meeting, the Board will be asked to consider reopening the Westgate Thrift Store to be staffed by volunteers. The suggestion would be to open the store for clothing only. They also may consider distributing food from that location. Tell your Conference President what you think of the idea so he/she can bring it to the Director's meeting.

VOICE OF THE POOR - The District Council is looking for volunteers to help organize a VOP program. In the spirit of Christian love and justice, the Voice of the Poor Committee upholds Catholic values by researching, validating, documenting, advocating, and promulgating issues related to the condition of the poor and disenfranchised for the purpose of helping Vincentians to live their faith by acting knowledgeably and credibly as a unified body speaking with one voice for the purpose of building up the Kingdom of God. For more information contact Richard at 561-304-3057 or service@svdp-palmbeach.org

MEMBERSHIP - The District Council is forming a group of members to work with Stan Pervenecki. This group will work on ways to increase membership in the Conferences by making the Society better known in our church communities and by providing assistance to Conferences in running recruitment programs in local churches. Adding new members will invigorate the Conferences and enable them to expand their services to the poor. If you would like to know more, please contact Stan at (561) 791-3153 or service@svdp-palmbeach.org.

INTAKE – Openings are available for Intake Volunteers 10AM to 4PM any day. Contact Betty Schenk at (561) 683-6570 or service@svdp-palmbeach.org