



THE VINCENTIAN

Society of St Vincent de Paul

April 2011

Central Council of St Petersburg Diocese

President's Corner

It's been over ten years since 'the Vincentian' has been published. The new issue will have a few changes, it will no longer be printed and mailed out to the members. The cost of printing and mailing makes it very expensive and with that new fangled thing called e-mail and the website it makes it easier to do in the latest technology and saves us a bunch of money. This translates into more funds for the poor. I want to keep the cost of the Central Council as low as feasible.

The aim of 'The Vincentian' will be to inform the members what is going on in the Society of St Vincent de Paul and to help the members grow as Vincentians. I will work at publishing it 4 times a year. The advantage of doing it digitally is I can do it in color.

To do this, I will need the help of all our 915 members in St Petersburg Diocese. If you have articles, pictures, a new president or a member that has passed on to the Lord send the info to me. You get the picture, or rather, I would like the pictures and information. This newsletter is for you. Please e-mail me the information and pictures at mropert@svdpccsp.org or you can snail mail it to me at Society of St Vincent de Paul, 4556 S Manhattan Ave, Suite A, Tampa, FL 33611-2332. The office phone number is 813-831-5100 and the fax is 813-831-5105.

If you are reading this online then you know that we have a new website. In case you are not reading this online the address is svdpccsp.org and to log on to the members site you have to say a little prayer. The logon name is **bleddfrederic** and the password is **prayforus**. This is all lower case and no spaces in the words. HAPPY EASTER.

My prayers are with you,
Marvin Ropert, President

Training the Trainers Workshop



Front row: Nancy Jones, West Hillsborough District; Marvin Ropert, President and trainer. Second row: Elaine Leger, Hernando Citrus District; Pat Dwyer, Pasco District; Louise Brown, Jim Campbell & Mary Lou Kelly, Upper Pinellas District. Back row: Norm Derocher, West Hillsborough District; Evelyn Dodd, Pasco District and Joe Brown, Upper Pinellas District. Terri Ropert attended and took the picture.

A Formator Training workshop was held at the Central Council office in Tampa on February 22nd. The workshop covered topics on understanding the tools, guidelines and an overview of the Society.

Other items discussed were the history, spirituality, The Rule, accountability, home visits and extension of the Society.

The ten members who attended are better equipped to put on an Ozanam Orientation in their Districts.

Whose SVDP Member's Feast Day is April 28th? To find the answer go to the members page and click on the calendar.

UP AND COMING**April**

6th-9th	National Mid-year meeting	St Louis
12th	Central Council meeting, 11:00	Tampa
24th	Ozanam Sunday	

May

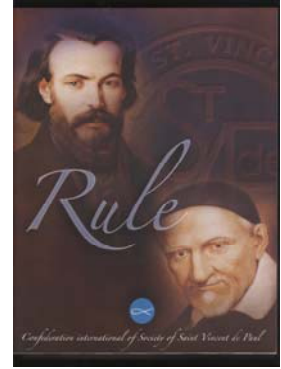
17th	Central Council meeting, 11:00	Spring Hill
20th-23rd	Southeast Regional meeting	Miami

June

21st	Central Council meeting, 11:00	Tampa
23rd	SVDP Founded 1833	Paris
23rd	Blessed Frederic Ozanam's Birth 1813	

Aug 31 – Sep 3

National Meeting	Dallas, TX
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In his address to the National Council Annual meeting on August 31, 2006, The Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, CM said: "In the end, of course, it isn't the Rule that brings us closer to Christ. It's the poor, and it's God's action in our lives. Grace. But the Rule keeps drawing our attention to it. It's like a road map—a Way. This Rule is a source of inspiration, and a spiritual director of sorts. It exists to keep your heart on track."

You are encouraged to read the Rule and meditate on it.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY****April Conference Anniversaries**

1st	St Anthony of Padua	2003
6th	St Michael/ Archangel, Clw.	1983
22nd	St Paul, St Petersburg	1932
30th	St Michael/ Archangel, Hudson	1986

May Conference Anniversaries

28th	Holy Family	1967
30th	St Mary Lady of Sorrow	2006
31st	St Judy Cathedral	1954
31st	St Anne, Ridge Manor	1988

June Conference Anniversaries

17th	St Lawrence	1968
30th	St Vincent de Paul	1982
30th	St John Vianny	1968

OZANAM SUNDAY

Sunday April 24th is Ozanam Sunday. This is a good time for the Conference members to attend Mass as a group and have breakfast afterwards.

This is also a good time for your Conference members to reaffirm your commitment to helping the poor. You can download this from www.svdpusa.org. See the Vincentian Celebrations or phone the Central Council office at 813-831-5100 for a copy.

THE CONFERENCE WORK WE DO

Despite the fact that one of the essential objectives of the Society is to be the face of Christ to the poor, we still like to know how much work we do and that we are not the only member out there helping. So here are a few facts about the work of our Conferences in the St Petersburg Diocese from this past year.

Our 915 members worked over 189,000 hours and drove almost 280,000 miles helping those in need. We have another 770 associate members helping and over 1,600 contributing members supporting us, plus the multitude of people who slip a few dollars in the poor box or drop off a few bags of food for our pantries.

About that food, our parish conferences gave out 807,000 pounds to feed 113,649 people.

One thing that distinguishes us from most other groups is that we visit the people we help. We visited 11,382 homes; 534 prison visits, helping and praying with 5,800 prisoners; 808 hospital visits seeing 2,000 persons. We saw 4,647 elderly and made 5,767 other visits. In all we made 19,613 visits and helped 59,361 people.

The Conferences raised \$2,723,805 dollars of which 3.9% came from the members another \$226,226 from fund raising proceeds, with the 'Friends of the Poor Walk' contributing the largest single amount. Our parishioners are the most generous, contributing \$1,692,870 through the Church and poor box collections.

Now for all of those visits we made, miles we drove, phone calls we made, we spent \$2,385,488 helping 'those we serve'.

We helped our foreign twins with another \$10,250. This should be higher, we have less than 25% of our Conferences doing foreign twinning. The \$300 plus a year you would send them is more money than a Conference in a third world would raise in a few months. They do so much more with the money then we can and they do it the same way we do with home visits and they to have to work with what they have.

In all, our Conferences spent \$2,610,259 dollars with only 2.75% in Conference expenses. All the work we did this past year was good. **BUT.**



CHARITY

**Must never look to the past,
But always to the future,
Because the number of its past works
Is still very small
And the present and future miseries
That it must alleviate are infinite.**

Bl. Frederic Ozanam



The CALLING

Many people join the Society because they 'just' want to help a few people or they think that 'just for the grace of God, there go I'. Some joined when the pastor asked them to and there are so many more reasons people work in the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Without us knowing it, the real reason we are all members, is that we heard the voice of God calling us and we said yes.

Blessed Frederic and his friends heard the voice of God when another student asked "What are you doing to help the poor" and they answered "Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord?"

Most of our members have answered the call to help with the Conference work and for this we are most thankful, but when asked to be an Conference officer, to be on a Council or to serve on a committee, they say NO.

Many Conferences and Councils have a hard time finding people to be officers or to work on committees.

True, much of this work is not the face to face work with the poor and a lot of it does not have any G F I's but it just as important and indirectly helps a lot of people.

If a few people hadn't said "here I am Lord" we would not be operating two dining rooms in the Diocese or our councils pantries.

Not all of yeses results in large special works. Sometimes it's a small thing like collecting long sleeves shirts for the migrant workers or maybe to be a Conference or Council President. As with the poor, this calling is always in need.

REFLECTION:

Am I willing to serve as an officer or on a committee when asked? Do I think of it as the voice of God calling me, and I answer, "Yes, here I am Lord," or do I say "No, not me, not at this time." Am I willing to handle a few less cases in order to do the work of an officer or work on a committee? Will I answer this call and say, "HERE I AM LORD, IS IT I LORD?"

AGGREGATION

John Manson, President of Prince of Peace Conference and Mary Lee, E.H. District Council President standing in for Camelia Riggins, President, St Stephen Conference received their Certificates of Aggregation from Marvin Ropert, Central Council President.



COUNCIL RECEIVES LETTER OF INSTITUTION

Elaine Leger received the "Letter of Institution" for the Hernando Citrus District Council. The District was founded in 1989 and has 6 Conferences.

Their Thrift Store opened in 1999 and is the only all volunteer Thrift Store in the Diocese. The funds generated by the store helps the Conferences, and pays for the operation of their large pantry.

They also purchased a duplex house to house families in need.

Last year the pantry gave out over 600,000 pounds of food.

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Who is Pier Giorgio Frassati?

The first person to answer the following questions will receive a SVDP coffee mug.

1. Who is he?
2. What city did he die in?
3. What was the year of his death?

E-mail the answer to mropert@svdpccsp.org

