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- Voice of the Poor: Warren Wright
- VOICE & Website: Charles Kielkopf
- 2010 Friends of the Poor Walk: Dennis Hanzel
- Publicity: Marilyn Dougherty

**Secretary, Pat Summers**

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**Send news items and articles for The VOICE to Charles Kielkopf [kielkopf.1@osu.edu](mailto:kielkopf.1@osu.edu) or to the Diocesan office.**

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**Location:** Whitehall Community Park, 402 N. Hamilton Road

All pledges are earmarked for the Council or Conference that the walker chooses. Your funds will be used to help the poor in our own community. Whatever you select, all of the money you raise through the Friends of the Poor® Walk will go directly to help the poor. There are no administrative fees. Get details on how to sign up for the walk from your Conference Representative to the Friends of the Poor Walk.

**For Questions and information on being a sponsor Contact:** Dennis Hanzel, 2010 Walk Chairman at (614) 307-8536

### Report on Top Hat Ceremony

Darrell Bragg, of the St. Francis de Sales Conference, was presented with the 2010 Top Hat Award by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul during our annual award dinner at St. Francis DeSales High School on April 24.



Visit: a page on our Web site for a full report and links to photos of this event

[www.vincentianvoice.org/events.html](http://www.vincentianvoice.org/events.html)

The other nominees for the 2010 Top Hat Award were recognized for their contributions to the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. These nominees were: Kathryn Cornett (Sts. Augustine/Gabriel), Paula Dauteuil (St. Elizabeth), Marilyn Dougherty (St. Andrew), Kathy Duhigg (St. Andrew), Tyna Fox ( St. Mary, Bremen), Gene Gabalski (St. Michael), Marge Hendey (St. Edward the Confessor, Granville), Dale Keeler (St. Leonard, Heath),

Robert Keuchler (Sts. Augustine/Gabriel) and Jane Sotak (St. Andrew).

### Notes from Conferences

On Monday, May 24 the **Immaculate Conception Conference** held its third annual commissioning and re-commitment ceremony. in Immaculate Conception Church At this ceremony new Vincentians are officially recognized as Vincentians.

Conferences interested in having a similar ceremony can find a more complete description and the texts used at:

<http://www.vincentianvoice.org/conferences/iccommitment.html>

Don Vocca, from the **Church of Ascension, Conference** reports Divine Providence operating through a Vincentian visit.

One of our home interviewers (Don Litterini) made a call regarding assistance to pay a disconnected electric bill. When he arrived at the home he heard a generator running and could smell the overpowering fumes. He asked the teen age son what was going on, he replied “they didn't want the neighbors to know that the power was turned off so they ran the generator inside the house.”

Don told him to shut down the generator immediately and open all windows and doors to air out the house. Don also found out the father was lying on the bed with a severe headache. The house was aired out and the father was ok.

“We were not sent to this house to help pay a bill, we were sent to save two lives.”

### Remember in your prayers

Roberta Emrich, wife of Ralph Emrich long time volunteer and leader at St. Lawrence Haven


Larry Latham, St. James the Less

attend several very meaningful workshops.

This year it will be held in New Orleans (a great location) from September 7th to 11th. If you have any interest at all please contact me and I can fill you in with more details.

[wbsparks@columbus.rr.com](mailto:wbsparks@columbus.rr.com).

Also see [www.svdpusa.net/meeting](http://www.svdpusa.net/meeting) for more information

 *Mark Your Calendar! Save these dates!*

**August 6, 7** Mideast Regional Meeting, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

**August 22**, Day of Recollection, St. Therese's Retreat Center, Facilitator Sheila Gilbert, Spiritual Director and National Secretary, The Society of St. Vincent De Paul,

**September 7 – 11**, National Meeting, New Orleans

**September 25**, Friends of the Poor Walk, Whitehall Park,

### The Vincentian Vocation

To help recruiting and to understand the Vincentian vocation, we asked Vincentians to tell their stories on why they became Vincentians.

In this issue our 2010 Top Hat Honoree, Darrell Bragg, sketches out how he became a Vincentian after converting to Catholicism.

“Seven years ago through many prayers of my wife Sandy, I opened myself to the idea of becoming Catholic after reading a book about the early Church fathers and having my eyes opened to the Catholic faith. As I read many more books about Catholicism and watched many shows on EWTN I soon learned the fact that every single issue I had against the Catholic Church was in truth 180 degrees the opposite of what I had been taught through my early years.”

“As I went through RCIA and studied the scripture it became so clear that the bible repeatedly said over and over and in many different ways to "feed my sheep". Soon after officially coming into the Church Sandy and I went to a SVdP meeting at Newark's St.

Francis Church to learn what it was about. It was there that I met Wade and Marcella Hammond and Wade's brother Bill and his wife Genoa. Their passion for helping the poor was eye opening and took hold of Sandy and me. Before long Sandy and I were both making home visits, reading the manual and working in other ways with the SVdP way of building your own spirituality by working with the poor.”

### Voice of Poor,

The Voice of the Poor Committee met in early June at St. Cecilia Church. Jerry Freewalt of the Diocese of Columbus Office of Social Concerns addressed members about effective methods of advocacy. Over the next year, members of the committee will focus on legislative advocacy on issues effecting the poor. Letter writing and visits to representatives and Senators will be performed.

Leroy Hushak, a BREAD member from St. Thomas More Newman Center, presented the work of the BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity). The committee will investigate an opportunity to become a part of BREAD, an ecumenical organization that performs direct action for social justice concerns in the Columbus area.

It would be great to have an interested representative for the committee from each conference. . The next VOP committee meeting will be on September 18, 2010 at St. Andrew's Church. Contact Warren Wright [warren@heartland-petroleum.com](mailto:warren@heartland-petroleum.com) or 614-402-2734 if you are interested in joining the Voice of the Poor team.

### Friends of the Poor Walk

It is time to get ready for the second annual Society of St. Vincent de Paul **Friends of the Poor® Walk**.

**Date:** September, 25, 2010

**Registration Begins:** 8:45 am

**Walk Begins:** 9:30 am (We will finish in plenty of time to watch or attend the Ohio State game.)



# The Voice

*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter*

Columbus Diocese

July 2010

Volume 30, Issue 3

## President's Message

**Bill Sparks**

During the past couple of months I have emailed conference presidents about several topics. Sometimes the information does not get through to all the Vincentians. Thankfully, the VOICE provides the opportunity to write directly to all of you.



1. **Our Annual Day of Recollection** will be held August 22nd at St. Theresa's Retreat Center here in Columbus. It will begin at 10 am with coffee and donuts beforehand. Our facilitator will be Sheila Gilbert, the National Secretary of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She is also a spiritual advisor who had put on a number of spiritual programs for various Vincentian meetings and gatherings. I can personally attest that she is very good as she put on a day of recollection for a program that Warren Wright and I attended a couple of years ago. The \$15 registration fee is for the cost of the meal. The day will end with Mass at 2PM. Spouses are definitely welcome. You won't be sorry if you can attend. Call Pat Summers in the office with your reservations (614-2211-3554 or [psummers@colsdio.org](mailto:psummers@colsdio.org) by August 16.

2. The September 25 **Friends of the Poor Walk** is for all Vincentians and non-Vincentians alike. Seek out ways you can help and participate. See Peggy Reiser's article in this issue for more details.

3. At your meetings, discuss having a **clothing drive**. We recently submitted a grant request to the Catholic Foundation to provide various items for our Clothing Distribution Center.

Unfortunately we were not successful so we are in desperate need of underwear and sox which we purchase instead of providing used.

We also need blankets, sheets, and towels which aren't donated in nearly enough quantities to meet the need due to the number of people we serve from the shelters. Think seriously about having a drive for these items or donate funds for us to do the buying of these items. It would be very much appreciated-- and needed. Coordinate plans with Heather Swiger at the Clothing Distribution Center (614-241-2569 or [hswiger@colsdio.org](mailto:hswiger@colsdio.org)).

4. Don't forget about regional and national meetings.

a. The **Mideast Region Meeting** is Saturday, August 7th in Fort Wayne. There is registration and reception Friday night, the 6th with the meeting beginning at 9AM Saturday morning, ending with a banquet the same evening at 7PM. They have a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn on Paul Shaffer Dr. for \$109 per night. **Go to [www.svdpmideast.blogspot.com](http://www.svdpmideast.blogspot.com) to register and for further information.** This is a good opportunity to learn about the broader St. Vincent de Paul Society and commingle and collaborate with fellow Vincentians from our Mideast Region. Please consider attending

b. The **Annual SVDP Meeting** in New Orleans is another great opportunity to meet Vincentians from around the country, learn a lot about what is going on within SVDP, and