



Society of  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**SACRAMENTO**  
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025





# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PAT BOSWORTH, SACRAMENTO COUNCIL

Dear Neighbors, Vincentians, Donors and Friends,



I would like to thank all of you for your support to the Society. From donations to volunteering to prayers, the community thrives because of your contribution to the Society. Another huge thank you to all those donors and volunteers at our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit for the Poor! Especially for our Fund A Need! It was a huge night of support and wonderful time together celebrating 70 years of incredible work and generosity.



**Next year will be our 20th Annual Benefit for the Poor & a new Benefit coordinating team is forming now! We are looking for volunteers who can help make our Benefit a success, including a new coordinator! We need all hands on deck! Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to help for next year.**

As always, a few of our current and present happenings will be showcased in this newsletter. I did want to highlight and mention a few things: we have a few new conferences forming in Sacramento & one in Fort Jones closing. Exodus Project is hiring and all Vincentians are invited to our Vincentian Day of Spirituality on Aug. 16th. Lastly, we also will have many Walk for the Poor fundraisers at different conferences in Sept/Oct. Keep an eye on our website's event page for more information.

I thank you all for your love and support as I took on the President hat for a temporary amount of time. Please pray for the new president.

A colorful poster for the "Vincentian Day of Spirituality" event. The title is "Vincentian Day of Spirituality" with the subtitle "Hearts On Fire". The date is "AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 | 8AM - 1:00PM". The location is "OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH - 5057 COTTAGE WAY, CARMICHAEL". The poster features photos of Bishop Rey Bersabal and Fr. Michael Kiernan. It also mentions a guest speaker Rita Spillane and a QR code for registration. The text "SAVE THE DATE" and "FREE" are in red. "LUNCH INCLUDED" is in red. "REGISTER HERE:" is in black. The website "SVDP-SACRAMENTO.ORG/EVENTS" is at the bottom. A note says "Mass will be livestreamed - Registration Ends Aug. 11th".

## UPCOMING VINCENTIAN EVENTS:

Walk for the Poor - Fundraisers all around the diocese - [Click Here](#)  
Sept. 9th - Feast Day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam - Founder  
Sept 27th - Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul - Patron

DONATE



# CHARITY AND JUSTICE

FR. MICHAEL KIERNAN, COUNCIL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We hear so much nowadays about the poor, with many complaining about them on our streets and no easy solutions to assist them. Pope Leo XIV says that the poor can be witnesses and a strong and steadfast hope - precisely because they embody it in the midst of uncertainty, poverty, instability and marginalization. They cannot rely on the security of power and possessions; on the contrary, they are at their mercy and often are victims of them. Their hope must necessarily be sought elsewhere.

How are we to meet their hope? The way to is by charity, here and now in concrete circumstances as we do in St. Vincent de Paul. Charity is not just a promise; it is a present reality to be embraced with joy and responsibility. Charity engages us and guides our decisions towards the common good. Charity, in fact, “is the greatest social commandment” as stated by the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Charity is not the whole answer however as there are structural causes to poverty that must in justice be addressed and eliminated. And each of us is called to offer new signs of hope that would be a witness to Christian charity and justice, just as many saints have done over the centuries in reaching out to the most vulnerable and marginalized. Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools.

It would be easy to become hardened and resigned as each day we encounter poor or impoverished people. Indeed, we ourselves may have less than before and are losing what once seemed secure: a home, sufficient food for each day, access let us keep in mind the words of the Holy Father! Speaking to Bishops this past week, Pope Leo XIV said: “I urge you not to turn your gaze from the poor. They are at the center of the Gospel and are the privileged recipients of the proclamation of the Good News.” Always take care to show “concrete solicitude towards the littlest ones.”

In these challenges and opportunities, let us continue to pray to Increase in Christ and entrust ourselves to Mary Most Holy, to help us in the beautiful work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society!

Fr. Michael



# SOUTH SACRAMENTO/ ELK GROVE

DISTRICT

St. Peter/All Hallows - St. Anthony  
Good Shepherd - Holy Spirit  
Immaculate Conception  
St. Charles - St. Joseph

## HOT FOOD SERVED, NEW VOLUNTEERS & A LUAU

MILDRID WONG, PRESIDENT, ST. JOSEPH



We serve over 300 lunches on the 3rd Friday of every month at Loaves and Fishes. Our parochial vicar, Fr. Bibin (in blue apron) had his first time serving lunch and meeting our Loaves and Fishes guests and staff with us. Our Conference has been serving lunch here for more than 30 years.

The Parish Annual Luau Dinner is an event on 6/27 that our Conference supports by selling dinner tickets after every mass on the weekends. This event allows us to provide in-kind services to the parish.

Our St. Joseph Elk Grove parish held a Ministry Fair on 6/7-8 which was well attended by our parishioners. We had 7 people sign up to join our SVDP St. Joseph Conference!





# PLACER/YUBA/ SUTTER/BUTTE DISTRICT

St. Joseph Lincoln - Roseville - Sacred Heart  
St. Joseph Marysville - St. Teresa  
St. Isidore - Our Divine Savior

## 42ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

DON FRASER, PRESIDENT, ROSEVILLE

We're excited to host our 42nd Annual Fundraising Dinner on Saturday, September 27th from 6:00–10:00 p.m. at Orchard Creek Lodge in Lincoln. This year's event will feature a special keynote by Father Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, the world's largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program. His message of compassion & community transformation will leave you inspired.

The evening will be co-hosted by Kellie DeMarco, former TV anchor & media strategist, along with our dynamic auctioneer Freddie Silveria. Guests will enjoy a delicious dinner, silent & live auctions, & the opportunity to make a lasting impact in our community. For more information please visit our website at [St. Vincent De Paul Roseville](http://St. Vincent De Paul Roseville).



## Help Us Help Others by [Joining Us!](#)

We need volunteers! Opportunities include:

- Joining a [local parish conference](#) & participating in their activities. Including spirituality, food pantries, home visits, holiday programs & much more.
- Volunteering at the [Thrift Store](#). Help with the many store activities; including sorting donations, hanging clothes, & helping customers.
- Becoming a mentor to returning citizens from jail through our [Exodus Project](#) in the Sacramento Area/County or Solano County.

*Do you have a story to contribute? Please email us at: [media@svdp-sacramento.org](mailto:media@svdp-sacramento.org).*

***Join our Quarterly Newsletter [here](#).***



# NORTH STATE

DISTRICT

Holy Family - St. Anthony  
St. Joseph - Sacred Heart  
St. Thomas More - St. Francis

## FOOD DRIVE, RENEWAL & GROWTH

GAYLA RICKS, PRESIDENT, ST. JOSEPH REDDING

**Renewal of the Vincentian Promise:** On April 27th, Ozanam Sunday, we attended Mass together as a conference & after mass renewed our Vincentian Promise of service to each other & to those in need. Like many other conferences do, we choose this Sunday annually as the day we renew our promise.



**First Communion Food Drive:** We were blessed on May 4th by a 2nd grader at St. Joseph Elementary. Colette hosted a food drive for her first communion project & donated the food to our pantry. Thank you, Colette, the Vincentian Spirit is in your heart!



**Growing the Conference:** We are hoping to have Sacred Heart/St. Anne (Anderson & Cottonwood) represented in our conference soon. Several parishioners have been attending meetings & completing the steps to become members. With the support of their parish & priest we hope to see this become a reality by summers end.

**Ozanam Orientation:** On Sat., June 28th, our Conference hosted an Ozanam Orientation for the North State District.

“By far this is the most Vincentians we’ve had at one time -38! We had a wonderful experience with the North State district. I’ve learned so much about the district way up north, they are our last line of defense! I am grateful that the leaders are sharing SVdP to our neighbors.” - *Sonja, Diocesan Council Formation Chair*





## SOMETIMES IT TAKES A VILLAGE

VIRGINIA LOEFFLER, PRESIDENT, ST. MARY/SACRED HEART

St. Mary/Sacred Heart Conference received a call from an apartment manager asking for help for a tenant. Her husband was in the hospital deathly ill and her work did not provide time off with pay. Her husband was extremely anxious and being by his side provided support and comfort. The manager, in her compassion, had not issued an eviction notice even though the tenant owed \$3,151.26.

As a manager, she acknowledged this was beyond her job description. She was helping her as a friend and called while taking lunch in a park on her personal phone. We asked that the tenant call & request assistance personally. The tenant called & became a Neighbor!

After the home visit, it was disclosed that she had two issues: a shut off notice from SMUD & past due rent. Our Conference was able to keep the lights on. We solved the rent issue by requesting twinning. The response from Yolo/Metro Conferences was overwhelming. Five conferences responded & contributed a total of \$2,500. We were saddened when we heard her husband passed away. But, we rejoiced thinking of all who helped by caring for one of our Neighbors.

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## NEW CONFERENCE AT ST. FRANCIS

SONJA CRAIGHTON, PRESIDENT, YOLO/METRO DISTRICT



Here is the St. Francis Conference on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> launching their first food distribution event.

While they are just starting and settling into being a conference they will be focusing just on food distribution.

Stay tuned or donate to their NEW conference [here](#).



# SUMMER SNACK PROGRAM FOR STRAPPED FAMILIES & SHREDDING FOR SHELTER

MICHAEL MUNN, PRESIDENT, ST. DOMINIC

- 1) Our Summer Snack Program provides additional kid friendly food items when we deliver groceries to financially strapped families from June - August.
- 2) St. Dominic's School held an Easter Food Drive to help restock our SVdP Pantry.
- 3) We held our 3rd annual "Shredding for Shelter" event.
- 4) We published a Neighbor's story in our newsletter and the parish bulletin, about how SVdP saved her family, so that our supporters understand how their contributions have such a wonderful impact - see story below.



When we asked one of our Neighbors if we could share her story about how our support helped her after her husband & major bread winner just walked out the door & abandoned them, here's what this single mom of three teenage children wrote:

"St. Vincent de Paul has helped me in more than just a couple ways. Getting assistance with certain much needed groceries that my family needs twice a month has been a major stress reliever. They also come through for me in higher demand times such as holidays when the kids are home from school & expense is a bit higher than usual. The grocery drop off delivery is an unbelievable gift to receive from them as well. Utilities, move in costs & their listening ears during hard times is great to have. All of the ways that they help is life saving.

Every person associated with St. Vincent is very caring, great listeners & very professional. They call back immediately & genuinely love to help. They've been a big part in helping me raise my children to the adult age they are now. I'm very grateful & lucky to be on the list of families that obtain their amazing help! Honestly, I felt myself falling into a deep depression & giving up until they came to my rescue multiple times. Now I'm a stronger, more confident person, ready to take on single mom situations better than before. Thank you so much St. Vincent de Paul"

# SACRAMENTO EAST

DISTRICT

Divine Savior - St. Mel - St. Lawrence  
Our Lady of the Assumption- St. Ignatius  
Presentation - St. John the Baptist  
Holy Trinity - St. John Vianney  
St. Katherine Drexel - St. John the Evangelist

## A RAFFLE WITHIN A RAFFLE

BARBARA MAGPUSAO, PRESIDENT, ST. KATHARINE DREXEL

We host a raffle for those who purchase Hawaii Raffle tickets at our Parish, so they not only get a chance to win the Hawaii trip but also other prizes. It always adds a bit to the raffle when we can offer local prizes. Our local winners were our own Vincentians!



Congratulations to Joanne & Gary Sims - 3 days/2 nights Lake Tahoe Getaway & Shirley Corsaletti - 1 year 3 bottle membership to Drytown Cellars.

A special thank you to our donors, Al Bierce & Drytown Cellars.

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## BIG DAY OF GIVING SUCCESS

VIVIAN MACASPAC, PRESIDENT, ST. IGNATIUS

On May 1st, St. Ignatius Loyola Conference participated in the Big Day of Giving for the first time. We were amazed as we received over \$7,000 for our conference! This will allow us to assist about 30 households with rent or utilities this summer. We are grateful to the many donors that responded so generously to our fundraising campaign.

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## STOLEN CHECKS, NEIGHBORS HELPING & THANKS

FRANK LANZA, PRESIDENT, DIVINE SAVIOR ORANGEVALE

**Cooperative Approach to Avoid Eviction:** Earlier this year we received a call for help from a caregiver to a disabled neighbor who resides in one of several mobile home parks located in Orangevale. The neighbor's SSI checks had been stolen for several months by his designated payee, leading to an impending eviction. Several friends of the neighbor pooled their financial resources to help but were unable to pay the full amount due. Our conference helped by contributing the remainder, as well as helping the neighbor navigate the process to designate a new trustworthy payee for his future SSI payments.

**Pay It Forward:** Our telephone hotline recently received a voicemail message from a neighbor who had received help a few weeks prior: "I am calling with gratitude and to let you know that I will pay it forward."





## Butte & Tehama

**SVdP Case Managers & Volunteers providing short & long term emergency relief to households in Butte & Tehama Counties affected by fires.**



## **Grants, Cookoffs, Connections, Support & More!**

SIMONA GALLEGOS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

SVdP received \$45,000 in grant funding to open a Park Fire Program. We received \$25,000 from United Methodist Committee on Relief & \$20,000 from SVdP National Disaster Services. The Disaster Case Management Program rolled out on March 16, 2025. The program funds 1 case manager for approximately 6 months. Since the program began, case management has connected four households to \$31,264 in gap funding needs. Some of the assistance received went to deposits for housing, tools to help survivors get back to work, & power poles to help survivors that had been living on their property without access to electricity. The Park Fire case manager has 19 households that they are currently working with.

The Disaster team also teamed up with the Cohasset Community Association to add a Resource Fair to their annual Chili Cookoff in April. Cohasset was the most impacted community in the Park Fire and has many uninsured homeowners who lost their homes. SVdP organized the resource fair and collaborated with local businesses to get raffle prizes donated for the event. Resource organizations present included Butte Fire Safe Council, Team Rubicon, Valley Contractors Exchange, & Butte County Planning Division. Most importantly, survivors were able to gather as a Community listening to music & tasting chili made by friends & neighbors. The event raised \$1,600 for the Community Association, which offers valuable support to the community—with its food pantry & local fire safe council, among other things.

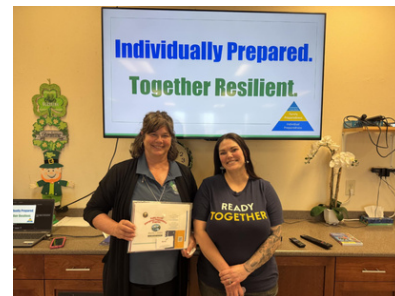
The Disaster team also continues its involvement in the Park Fire Longterm Recovery Group, as the chair of the Disaster Case Management Committee. Per the request of the Long-Term Recovery Group headed by United Way, I agreed to support the Park Fire Community in this roll pro bono. In this role, SVdP maintains the waitlist for those needing case management, assigning cases to partner agencies as capacity allows. As the agency maintains the waitlist, which has gone from 60-plus households to 33, the team regularly checks in with those waiting to be assigned to a Case Manager to address immediate needs. The role also sees SVdP working with case managers from other agencies to offer resources, training, & other guidance to help with the case management process. Current funding should see the program last through Sept. 2025.



## LISTOS

### SVdP disaster preparedness program

## Lately with Listos!



Listos was awarded a grant to operate a new cycle of the Listos Program that will run from June 2025 - Dec. 2026. The current Listos grant, in which SVdP is a subgrantee under Catholic Charities, has run dates of June 2024 - Dec. 2025. The new \$250,000 grant sees SVdP partnering directly with the California Office of Emergency Services as a Listos partner. The program aims to get valuable disaster preparedness information to certain populations, including geographically isolated households, seniors, people with disabilities, the unhoused and non-English speakers.

Since June 2024, Outreach Specialists have reached 2,802 individuals in Sacramento, 447 in Amador County, 545 in El Dorado County and 522 in Placer County.

#### Recent activities includes:

- In Sac., staff have been providing training to 55+ housing communities in Sacramento & recently presented to the SALAM Islamic Center, where information was delivered via interpreter in Dari. Additionally, after listening sessions with the unhoused community in Sacramento staff learned individuals were not accessing cooling centers due to transportation barriers—to address the need the team accessed bus passes to distribute through Sacramento Regional Transit.
- In Amador County, outreach staff attended the Homeless Resource Fair hosted by Cal Voices, a peer support & advocacy group focused on helping individuals & families with mental health challenges. At the event, Outreach Staff provided information specifically for unhoused individuals & distributed items like tarps, water bottles & first aid kits.
- In Placer & El Dorado counties, staff have been active in delivering hands-on presentations to Boys and Girls Clubs. Youth get to practice packing a go bag & stay box & are provided helpful tools to start having disaster preparedness conversations with their families. Additionally, in El Dorado County, staff have been working in partnership with the county's Office of Emergency Services to reach those in geographically isolated communities.
- Moving into the summer months, staff are focused on sharing information on wildfires, wildfire smoke, and extreme heat.



## THRIFT STORE VALUABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

**Lanni B. from St. Mary's in Sacramento reflects on great customer service & products at the SVdP Thrift store at 2275 Watt Ave, Sacramento.**

I went to the thrift store for a neighbor. We had bought a bed set and had arranged delivery for this week. He forgot he really needed a dresser, and we had the finances to accommodate this additional request. Jessie went out of her way to bring a dresser out from the back room that was PERFECT- and Melissa, Eva and Luis made the process to add it to the delivery of the mattress SO EASY that again I was struck at the fact that this store has wonderful people to help any customer! Thank you, Thrift Store, for all you do to help our neighbors in need.

**Conquering Homelessness:** The St. Mary/Sacred Heart Conference recently assisted a neighbor who had suffered a difficult divorce. As a result, she was homeless and lived in her car for three years. Through sheer resilience, she managed to stay employed and save money to rent a duplex. She needed everything from household items to furniture. She was sleeping on the floor using a blowup bed, which caused backaches. She had no other furniture. Through God's providence, we came upon a house being cleared to sell. All the furniture was going to the dump. The worker men were kind to load the furniture in a team member's car and haul and unload the excess in her garage.

The car was packed solid and two truck trips were required to deliver a couch and furniture. But, we had no dresser. So we scoured websites like Nextdoor, Facebook marketplace, and buy nothing sites. No luck. Finally, a visit to the SVdP Store and there was a beautiful dresser with mirror. Cost was approximately \$48.



We worked together to transport and move all these items into the duplex, making our neighbor very happy!

When St. Vincent said we show our faith through the strength of our arms, and the sweat on our brows, he wasn't kidding! The photo shows a hot and sweaty team, who has truly encountered the face of Christ as a follower of St. Vincent de Paul.

# VOICE FOR THE POOR IN SERVICE DAY FOR HOMELESS

DOT O'CONNOR, BOARD MEMBER, VOICE FOR THE POOR



The picture on the left is of a group of representatives of non-profit organizations with a special bond and love for those experiencing homelessness.

The group met on May 13th, 2025 to address the gaps in services to the unhoused. We continue the partnership among Catholic Charities of Sacramento, California Catholic Conference, & SVdP to raise awareness & to advocate for our unhoused neighbors. This effort is one result of a group of Vincentians who were very concerned about our unhoused in inclement weather on the streets, which was followed by the work to debut the documentary "Americans with No Address" & the movie "No Address" both of which depict the issues faced by both the unhoused & non-profit & government organizations who work tirelessly to help.

Our goal, guided by our Vincentian Rule, is to raise awareness of the needs facing the unhoused and the problems faced by organizations helping them. Section 7.5 of The Rule states, "A voice for the voiceless--The Society helps the poor and disadvantaged speak for themselves. When they cannot, the Society must speak on behalf of those who are ignored."

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## HOMELESS EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A Homeless Connect Event is Aug 9<sup>th</sup> at Sac State Alumni Center from 9am-3pm. At the event our homeless guests gather, meet with local & state agencies to receive services, food, music, & community. The DMV will be providing ID cards, there will be medical, dental, & optical services provided, mobile showers, new clothes, underwear & socks, and the opportunity to get a haircut. SVdP will be tabling to distribute food gift cards & protein bars—and most importantly, to share warmth & encouragement with those in need. **We need volunteers to help at our table during the event!** - Every act of service counts—join us in uplifting our community.

- Shifts are available every hour from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM (1-hour slots)
- Two volunteers are needed to work each hour in pairs for a total of 14. Please contact Dot O'Connor at [doconnor@svdp-sacramento.org](mailto:doconnor@svdp-sacramento.org) to volunteer. Flyer with details here.



# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

## KYLIE WAS HOMELESS BUT NOW SHE IS HOUSED THANKS TO SVDP

### TRANSITION TO PERMANENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS



Congratulations to Kylie on securing her new apartment. She wants to thank the people who helped her along the way. With determination, she saved \$500 to put down as a holding deposit. Transition to Permanent Housing Solutions (TPHS) covered the rest of the security deposit and the rent.

She works the midnight shift and had been sleeping in her car. SVdP found her and gave her the good news that the balance of the rent was covered and she could get her keys. She was so happy; this moment and that smile is a reminder of the generosity of SVdP's sponsors and donors who helped make it happen.

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## FORMATION TEAM UPDATES

The Sacramento Diocesan Council Formation team has added presenters to the Sacramento Diocesan team. Welcome to Kent Meyers from St. Ignatius, Gloria Wong from St. Joseph & Xitlalic Barajas from Our Lady Of Guadalupe!

Lastly, Sonja Craighton was commissioned as Formator for the West Region and our Sacramento Council Chair. Pictures below are from the Orientation on June 7<sup>th</sup> at St. John Vianney. If you need an Ozanam Orientation we have openings for the rest of the year and can come to you!

