



Mission Moments

Jan. Feb. March
2009

Vol. 1

A quarterly newsletter bringing together information from the Vincentian work of all Society of St. Vincent de Paul organizations in Idaho.

Boise Council Members

Ida Fisk, President

Jim Daniels, Vice-President

Bev Peterson, Secretary

Arlene Jellum, Treasurer

Kevin Ankrom, Spiritual Advisor

Jack Crane

Sharon Eisenbeiss

Jack Gilderman

Naomi McWhorter

Margarita Santos

Spiritual Director

Father Jerry Funke

SPECIAL WORKS

Store Committee Chair:

Tom Aden

Patience Assistance:

Arlene Jellum

A Note from Ida, (Ida Fisk is the Boise Council President)

The Beginning: Since this is the first Council newsletter I thought I would begin with a brief history of Society of St. Vincent de Paul. You may be aware that we just celebrated our 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris, France. The society was founded in 1733 by Frederick Ozanam. Frederick was a college student at the Sorbonne in Paris. He met Sister Rosalie Rendue and was impressed by the work she did with the poor and wanted to know what his group of friends could do. They took as their Patron Saint, Vincent de Paul because he was the voice of charity. From this beginning the Society spread around the world to 142 countries.

Our Beginning: Although there is a record in France of our beginning in Boise at St. John's Cathedral in 1946, there was a period of inactivity that followed. A renewal of the Conference occurred in the early 1990's. Currently the District Council has 7 conferences. The conferences are, St. John's Cathedral, Risen Christ, Sacred Heart, Holy Apostles, Our Lady of Guadalupe (Nampa), Our Lady of the Rosary, and St. Mark's.

Our Works: One of the works of the Council is Patient Assistance. Patient Assistance was originally titled Free Med. This work provides medicine through a prescription drug program that serves 700 Clients a year. Patient Assistance has secured 2 million dollars in the past year for our Treasure Valley area clients including those in of Boise, Nampa, Caldwell and Idaho City and towns in between. This program is available to anyone with a low income and no insurance. There is no cost to the client.

The Council also has an annual Thanksgiving drive. Last year the conferences under the leadership of the Council, provided food boxes for 1900 families. This program is all volunteer. Members of the conferences, community, schools, churches, business and organization donate the food. Conferences works also include Home Visits and three food pantries. Conferences obtain their funding through benefactors, fundraising and assistance from the stores.

Future Works: The Council recently purchased a building for a Center. The Center will house a Client Choice Food Pantry, Dining room and Class Rooms. Major efforts are starting toward fundraising. The Center will be handicapped accessible.

Although these are our current works, we watch for other opportunities to serve the poor and keep in mind the Society states:

"No work of charity is foreign to St. Vincent's"

Next Issue: Special Works



Sacred Heart Conference recently hosted a very informative evening of Continuing Education.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART!

Sacred Heart President Sharon Eisenbeiss contributed this article to share an overview the evening.

Approximately 50 Vincentians in the Boise-Nampa area attended a Continuing Education gathering on the evening of January 26th sponsored by the Sacred Heart SVdP Conference. Response sheets were distributed to those present with the results showing their desire to have more classes in the future, at least each quarter, with the different conferences taking their turn to sponsor these classes. Many suggestions for presenters for future classes were also listed. Questions and discussion followed. It was very informative and nice having this time with Vincentians from other conferences.

Marlene Puckett, Administrator & Director of Washington Group Foundation Inc, was our first presenter. Washington Group is a nonprofit organization granting financial assistance to individuals demonstrating appropriate need. SVdP members, through their home visits, assist applicants in this process if they determine it is an appropriate fit. Applicants must have a letter of referral from someone like a Vincentian and the applicant must show a desire to achieve self-sufficiency or to be able to recover from their crisis situation if they receive this assistance. Applications, information and directions are available through your SVdP Conference President.

Roy Lacey, Idaho Food Bank CEO and VP of Operations was our second presenter. IFB is a private non-profit organization. They get their food and money from private persons and companies. No State of Idaho funds are received by IFB.

Last year IFB distributed roughly 6,000,000 pounds of food to hungry Idahoans. This food is distributed in cases to 217 local Food Pantries around the state, and given in single units throughout the Food Banks. IFB works closely with Sacred Heart Food Bank and many others in this area.

A special, touching program IFB offers is the Backpack Program. This program distributes weekend backpacks filled with food to over 1,000 school children. Money for this program runs out in May 2009. Whitney School is one school that participates in this Backpack Program.

SVdP Conferences have been realizing an increase in the need through their food banks and their home visit requests, so the presentations were a good way to stay current, to network and be as best prepared as we can for the uncertain and increasing needs that will be facing us.

Merger News

The District Council and the St. Vincent de Paul Store Board have voted to merge their non-profit corporations. This is being accomplished by a transfer of the Store's assets to the District Council. Once all of the assets are transferred the Store corporation will be dissolved and the Store Board will become a Special Works Committee of the District Council. It is anticipated that all of the assets will be transferred no later than the end of the first quarter.

This consolidation is taking place in order to enhance and further the mission of St. Vincent de Paul. The District Council believes that acting and speaking as a single entity helps the community at large have a better understanding of the Society's goals and enhance our fund development activities.

*Submitted by: Tom Aden
Store Committee Chair*

WESTERN REGION CONVENTION

Wednesday – Sunday

June 24-June 28, 2009

Everett, Washington

Plan Ahead!

The Envelope Please....

The attached envelope is our attempt to do two things:

1. Provide for the mailing costs of our quarterly newsletter.
2. Help generate funds for the general operating expenses of the current Council office.

Please, can you help?

Spring Dinner & Social



**Friday, April 24th
@6:00 p.m.**

**St. John's
Cathedral 775 N. 8th
Street**

Catered by Goodwoods. Tickets this year are only \$20.00. Mary Flynn and her committee have been working hard to give us a great evening of fellowship.

There will be Dessert and Fun packages silently auctioned. Plus, once again the Get-away weekend!

Contact your Conference President for tickets or Pat Brkljacich @ 888-2489 or patbrkljacich@cableone.net

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS
BENEDICT XVI
FOR LENT 2009**

**"He fasted for forty days and forty nights,
and afterwards he was hungry" (Mt 4,1-2)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

At the beginning of Lent, which constitutes an itinerary of more intense spiritual training, the Liturgy sets before us again three penitential practices that are very dear to the biblical and Christian tradition – prayer, almsgiving, fasting – to prepare us to better celebrate Easter and thus experience God's power that, as we shall hear in the Paschal Vigil, "dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy, casts out hatred, brings us peace and humbles earthly pride" (Paschal Præconium). For this year's Lenten Message, I wish to focus my reflections especially on the value and meaning of fasting....

He concludes his message with:

Dear brothers and sisters, it is good to see how the ultimate goal of fasting is to help each one of us, as the Servant of God Pope John Paul II wrote, to make the complete gift of self to God (cf. Encyclical Veritatis splendor, 21). May every family and Christian community use well this time of Lent, therefore, in order to cast aside all that distracts the spirit and grow in whatever nourishes the soul, moving it to love of God and neighbor. I am thinking especially of a greater commitment to prayer, lectio divina, recourse to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and active participation in the Eucharist, especially the Holy Sunday Mass. With this interior disposition, let us enter the penitential spirit of Lent. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Causa nostrae laetitiae, accompany and support us in the effort to free our heart from slavery to sin, making it evermore a "living tabernacle of God." With these wishes, while assuring every believer and ecclesial community of my prayer for a fruitful Lenten journey, I cordially impart to all of you my Apostolic Blessing.

(The above excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI and the full text are available at www.usccb.org.)



Lord God Corner



Following the Russian Revolution beginning in 1917, there was a repression and persecution of the faith. Many were sent to Siberia, brought under suspicion and even martyred for their faith. When a group of North Dakotans entered Russia after the cold years, they still found the faith alive. The group was trapped in Russia longer than expected during a minor coup. They ended up visiting the people in their homes. They noticed that the homes had designed a special corner or shelf with objects of faith displayed such as a Crucifix, Icon, Bible or Rosaries on it. It was referred to as the Lord God Corner. Grandmothers kept the faith alive. In cases where no Priests were available, the families baptized their own children.

Let us keep our faith alive.

We dedicate this corner to the Lord.

If you have any special prayers or inspirations, please share them with us at BRAE433@aol.com. Or PH: 884-8783.

Lenten Regulations – 2009

ASH WEDNESDAY , February 25, 2009, and
GOOD FRIDAY, April 10, 2009, are days of
fast and abstinence.

FRIDAYS OF LENT are also days of abstinence.

FASTING is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

ABSTINENCE is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.