



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

ST. JOHN CONFERENCE, ENCINITAS, CA 92024

Advent Brings Christmas Baskets

By Teresa Roberts

The most important moment in the history of the world, the birth of Jesus, took place in the cold shadows of a manger with no one willing to help with Joseph and Mary's obvious need for shelter. So, every Christmas we find our greatest gift, Jesus, among the poor, and we have a chance to do better.

Knowing that Jesus said whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for Him, St. John Parish started what is now a long-standing tradition of distributing Christmas baskets to people who have few resources to celebrate. Each of these baskets is an expression of God's love for the recipients, which last year alone included 165 families.

How can you be a part of such a joyous project? Starting the First Sunday of Advent, the entire parish and Saint John School participate by filling bags with nonperishable food and educational toys and bringing them to the church or the parish office by Dec. 15. St. Vincent de Paul Conference members reinforce boxes, and the Altar Society helps decorate them, along with the Mini Vinnies who also help distribute the boxes (as well as home-baked cookies) to families on the Saturday before Christmas.

Saint John School students also prepare donation bags, make cards, help with moving and organizing food, and bring all the donations from the storage pods to the parish hall to begin filling up the baskets the day before distribution.



Mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

See the Face of Christ in the Poor

By Annie Zimmer

How many times have we heard that Jesus loves the poor?

When I attended an information meeting about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul some years ago, I remember clearly hearing the following words: "Vincentians look to see the face of Christ in the poor." I was intrigued and spent the days following thinking about those words. I told myself that I would climb mountains and walk long, dusty trails to actually see the face of Christ. It all made sense. Christ lives alongside of and within the poor.

Their needs are simple and true, and their suffering takes on the wounds of Christ. Are you curious about seeing the face of Christ? Are you willing to put your hands into the wounds of Christ?

In the words of St. Vincent, "Faith without charity has no meaning. Since we know not how to love him otherwise, we will love him in your people."

Walk with us.

Bl. Frederic's Mosaic in D.C. National Shrine!

From SVdP National Council

On Sunday, January 26, 2020, we will celebrate the dedication and installation of a mosaic of our founder, Bl. Frederic Ozanam, in the Vincentian Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Mass will be celebrated at noon by SVdP National Episcopal Advisor, Bishop Donald Hying of Madison, Wisconsin. A reception follows at Catholic University of America.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is the largest Roman Catholic Church in North America. Located on the Catholic University of America campus in Washington, D.C., it is home to more than 80 chapels that honor Mary, the Mother of God. One of those chapels is dedicated to those who committed their lives to serving the poor, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will recognize Blessed Frederic Ozanam in this Vincentian Chapel by dedicating a mosaic to honor him and the works he was inspired to do by his predecessors, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam was one of the first to receive a Miraculous Medal after it was approved by the Catholic Church in 1832.

2019 FOP Walk Statistics

By Sandra Watson

St. John parishioners and friends: you rock! Fr. Jim, thank you for your amazing support. And thank you, dear God, for the breath that gives us life.

Not only did we draw 160 walkers to the 2019 event on September 21, but we topped our goal of \$8,000.

We had generous online pledges of more than \$4,450 and on-site donations of \$3,590 on walk day.

Our sponsors donated these items:

Bracelets - from Karla Mulry Fine Art.

Publicity - from Minute Man Press of Encinitas.

Lunch - from Isabelle Brien's French Pastry Cafe.

Financial support - from RSF Financial.

Thanks to Vincentians and to Mini Vinnies for the service you provided, and to the donors for the love in each dollar we received.

You make it possible to reach out to Christ in the poor!

