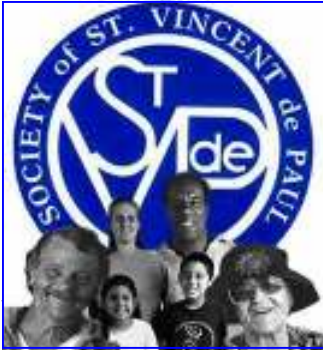


Winter, 2009



# The North Sound Vincentian

**SERVING SNOHOMISH, SKAGIT & WHATCOM COUNTIES**



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**Council Assistance Center Hours**

Monday—Friday 9 AM to 3 PM  
425-355-3504 Ext 3

**Donations Pick ups**

Please call  
425-355-3505 Ext 2

[www.snohomishsaintvincent.org](http://www.snohomishsaintvincent.org)

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT—TOM LINK

It's hard to believe 5 + months have gone by since the Western Region meeting. Like so many of you, when it was over all I could think about was "taking a breather", even to the point I couldn't submit an article to Paul for the Newsletter. In fact it took going to the National meeting to "rejuvenate" me. There obviously is a different effect on people who "work" a conference meeting than the people who "attend". And by the way, we received more compliments on this year's Western Region.

Recently I had the opportunity to go to lunch with four of my fellow Vincentians and John, who is not a Vincentian. This is probably the first time I've done this outside an OO or a Western or National meeting. The occasion was to transfer some funds from an estate to SVdP, and of course we were discussing different aspects of our benefactor's life. The conversation also took on aspects of our lives as individuals, what we do for a living, our work with SVdP, etc. Sometime in the conversation John said that at one time someone said to him "Be careful of the way you act and what you say - you may be the only Bible some people read." His reply was that he didn't want people to read him, but was told, "you don't have a choice" as he couldn't control that aspect of other people's opinions and thoughts.

Toward the end of lunch a gentlemen by the name of Richard Moore came over to our table and asked the questions "which one of you is the minister?"....."are you related?....."what group do you represent?" I think he was surprised that none of us was a minister, but I'm sure he was also a little surprised that we were Catholic and basically our tie to one another was charitable work. He was a man who came to the Lord later in life and was very happy about it. There was some additional comments and he went on his way, and I believe all of us were better for the impromptu conversation.

Here is an example of what we as SVdP members try and do and also try and project: See the face of Christ in our neighbors and project the face of Christ to them. A complete stranger to us, but not to Christ, recognized Christ in our conversation and wanted to know more about us. Are we in a position to say that about the neighbors we help?.....that we leave them with some curiosity to learn more about Christ? I know this isn't always easy, and in some cases probably impossible, but if we are leaving our neighbors with a little knowledge of Christ, or the thought of returning to Christ, then we have done more for them than any "physical" help we may have given them.

Please make sure you take the time to pray before and after each visit. By doing so you are inviting God along on the visit, you are thanking God for joining you, and all prayer helps us grow closer to God. And remember, you may be the only Bible some people ever read!

Yours in Christ, St Vincent and Blessed Frederic,

*Tom Link*

## FROM JIM KEHOE – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## Seeking the Face of Christ

Whenever we visit one of Christ's poor we look for the face of Christ in them. Often His face appears like a beacon in the night, drawing us to Him. Sometimes the beacon is much less obvious.

Do you sometimes wonder what our neighbor sees when you arrive at their home? Do they also see the face of Christ? Or, is the beacon sometimes much less than brilliant?

We understand that when we make a home visit, the person we visit is in a crisis situation. They may not be making good decisions that will enable them to rise above their immediate crisis. Their decisions may be based upon outside influences. Their decisions may be based upon shame. Their decisions may be based upon coercion. Their decisions may be based upon a lack of direction. There are so many reasons why poor decisions can drive someone deeper into poverty.

So, what *IS* our neighbor looking for when we make a home visit? They probably have no idea of what to expect. After all, The Society differs so much from agencies that simply look at a client's Balance Sheet to determine if they will magnanimously offer assistance. And, here we show up looking for the face of Christ! How much more of a difference could there be. How can one of our neighbors even consider what they may encounter with a visit from a Vincentian? I suspect if they knew that we were looking for the face of Christ in them and their family members they might freeze with fear. Or, they may not even answer the door. Would you? Fairly daunting expectation, isn't it?

Really, our neighbor probably does not even know that we seek Christ in our interaction with them. Most likely, our neighbor simply wants us to address this pressing, immediate need. Whether it is help with rent, help with utilities, help with medicine, help with clothing, they really want you to make their current crisis go away. Sometimes we can offer some financial aid to help them through. As you discern how you can help in some way, are you able to present the face of Christ to them? What about those times when there is little in your conference treasury to even offer a small amount of financial assistance? Are you then able to present the face of Christ in some way? Even if our neighbor may be blind to the face of Christ, are we still able to, in some small way, let our neighbor witness the Love that we bring with us?

Seeking the face of Christ in those we serve is often very, very challenging. Allowing our neighbor in need the opportunity to find the face of Christ in us is often much more challenging. How will you prepare for this joyous challenge?

Jim



**Suggested Discernment Prayer for Members, Conferences, and Councils**

Oh Holy Spirit, through the intercession of our Patron St. Vincent de Paul,  
Our Patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and our Founder, Blessed Frederic  
Ozanam, we ask for your discernment and wisdom in this particular need.  
Help us to imitate them through prayer, giving our entire will to God's will,  
and to trust in your Divine Providence as they did. Help us to realize that  
our particular plans are only human and fallible, while yours are Divine and  
perfectly accomplish your will on earth in the time you deem appropriate.  
Remove the scales from our eyes to rightly discern your will for us in our  
works of charity.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen

**VOLUNTEERS  
THEIR WORK IS LOVE MADE VISIBLE**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED - now!**

We have a number of vacancies on the ASSISTANCE LINE schedule. If there is anyone that would like to help out please call Daria on 425-513-6052 This is very rewarding work and we provide full training. We always have very nice snacks and coffee and tea for everyone!!!

**PLEASE CALL!**



## Patriotism, Faith & Charity—One Man's Life

### Raymond F. Strojny, 1918 – 2008

**Editor's note—Ray Strojny was a long-time donor to the Society and multiple charities. On his passing he bequeathed his entire estate to charity, the bulk to the Society.**

Born on September 30, 1918 in Taunton, Massachusetts, Raymond F. Strojny grew up in a devout Catholic family. His Polish parents insured that their son was raised with a strong faith in God and love of country. The eldest child of four siblings, Strojny always remained active in his church, serving as an altar boy, a member of a sodality and providing a spiritual example. He attended parochial school and graduated in 1936 from Monsignor James Coyle High School, in Taunton, Massachusetts.

Upon graduation from high school, Strojny was employed as a clerical helper with the firm of Reed and Barton, where he remained until America's entry into World War II. On February 1942, Strojny was drafted. By July of that year he found himself in route to England in a lead element of the First Infantry Division, "The Big Red 1". In November of the same year, Strojny was wading ashore in North Africa where he saw a year's action fighting against Rommel's 10th Panzer Division. He participated in the assault landing of Sicily and fought his way into Italy. Then he was deployed back to England in preparation for D-Day.

On June 6, 1944, D-Day began. Along with the rest of the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Strojny found himself struggling ashore at Omaha Beach under intense German machine gun and mortar fire. It was here that Strojny displayed remarkable courage, destroying two enemy bunkers while his comrades were cut to pieces around him. His unit was so depleted that he had to temporarily join another unit. For his bravery and courage, Strojny received the Distinguished Service Cross personally presented to him by Gen. Dwight Eisenhower. When Ike asked Ray what part of America he hailed from, Ray replied, "Taunton, Massachusetts, sir." Eisenhower laughed and said, "So, you're a minute man," and they shook hands vigorously.



General Dwight Eisenhower decorating Ray Strojny

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As the war progressed, Sgt. Raymond Strojny was promoted to platoon sergeant. He again distinguished himself for bravery at the Seigfried Line where he destroyed pillboxes that had his unit pinned down. During the Battle of the Bulge, he assisted in the arrest of several German soldiers who were masquerading as GI's and were attempting to gain intelligence information on the American forces.

He spent thirty-two months of combat duty without missing a day's duty even after suffering three separate wounds. Strojny returned home as one of the most highly decorated servicemen. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, Seven Battle Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, the Croix de Geurre from France and the British Military Medal from Great Britain.

When the Belgian front calmed down, Sgt. Strojny was allowed to rotate back to the United States. Upon returning home, Strojny decided to stay in the Army. He traveled often with the military and was stationed at Ft. Lawton, near Seattle Washington. It was here that he met Ellen Black, a dental technician working at the base. They were married on January 14, 1950 and remained inseparable until her death in February, 2005. In 1964, after twenty-two years of military service, Strojny retired as a member of the Dental Corps US Army, Tech Sgt (E7).

Throughout his military career and joyful union with his wife, Strojny always remained a true servant of God. He traveled the world and visited all the Holy Shrines attending daily Mass at the major cathedrals and basilicas throughout the Americas, Europe and the Orient. He enjoyed countless friendships with the clergy whom he consistently supported through his prayers and financial contributions.

In 2005, he donated funds to build a Mission church in Ecuador for the Franciscans and consistently aided the Missions. He purchased a hand-made tabernacle for his home parish of St. Thomas More in Lynnwood Washington, saying "it was the least I could do". In addition, he supplied many needed items for the church and very generously supported charitable causes.

Strojny attended daily Mass and prayed the Rosary three times a day. When asked why, he said the rosary three times a day, he replied, "Pope John Paul does, and he's a much busier man than I am." After being confined to a wheelchair because of a stroke, Ray managed to participate in daily Mass on EWTN.



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Strojny was a very humble man who saw good in all. He lived by a code of honor to his sacred Lord. He never preached but always performed, leaving a legacy of good works and sterling examples in his wake. In his last days, he would always respond that things were “fine” and that there was “no rush” in attending to his needs. He could be cantankerous at times, but never unappreciative. He always kept others in his prayers even if he himself was experiencing pain.

In 2003, Ray Strojny became a member of the Knights of Columbus. When it appeared that the end was near, Strojny was surrounded by his fellow Knights. They kept a vigil at his home and took care of all his needs both spiritual and material. Prayers were said, help with medication was administered, and hospitality was offered to all those coming to pay their respects.

The night before Strojny died, the Knights conducted a bedside ceremonial, bestowing on Strojny the Order’s highest degree, the focus on Patriotism. Weak and tired, Strojny lay on his bed in his living room, appearing unaware of his surroundings. When it became time for bestowing the Fourth Degree, he sat upright, alert and attentive and accepted the honor in proper military fashion. All in attendance were amazed at the transformation. They knew that he was indeed proud of the moment and cherished the patriotic duty of a Sir Knight. Strojny passed away during the night after his exemplification on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008, at peace with all, and with his God. Raymond Strojny was truly a man of God as well as a heroic patriot.



Article submitted by friend John Alexy, pictured here in a white shirt with Ray Strojny and other Knights



**Tribute Program**

**Honor & Remember  
a Loved One**

SVdP's Tribute Program provides a way to make your donation in Honor or in memory of a loved one for any occasion—making it even a more meaningful gift.

Make your monetary gift to SVdP Tribute Program by providing their name and address along with your gift and purpose, whether it be in their loving memory, or as a gift for a special occasion.

The recipient will receive a special card of acknowledgement indicating the giver of the gift and how that gift will benefit the needy of Snohomish County.

**Tribute Benefits**

- Your gifts will:
- Be one given with thought and love.
- Honor and touch your loved one.
- Provide much needed assistance to the vulnerable and needy.
- Tax deductible.
- Support the SVDP Mission of Charity.
- Help to spread the spirit of love and charity.

**Make Your Check Payable to:**

**SVDP Council  
PO Box 2269  
Everett WA 98213**

## Winter Energy Assistance Programs Up and Running

### **SNOHOMISH COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES - ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

The Energy Assistance Program provides one-time per heating season assistance in paying the heat bill for eligible households.

- Helps with all heat fuel types (oil, natural gas, wood, propane, electric).
- Provides grants ranging from \$25-\$1000 (depending on income, household size, type of housing, and heat bill)
- Repairs heating systems

It is not necessary to have a past due balance or be shut-off to get help. Assistance is usually provided between November 15 and April 1. Households with Puget Sound Energy natural gas can be served all year.

For program information, please call 425-388-3880.

### **SKAGIT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY - ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

Energy Assistance is open to make appointments for the 2009-2010 energy season..

Phone lines (360-428-1011) will be open Monday through Friday from 9am-12:30pm and 2pm-4pm.

Walk-In appointments will only be accepted on Tuesday and Thursday from 9am-12:30pm and 2pm-4pm.

Walk-In appointments will not be accepted during any other days or times.

Please call 360-428-1011 with any questions.

### **WHATCOM, ISLAND AND SAN JUAN COUNTIES OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL - ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Helps pay home energy costs for eligible households.

For an energy assistance appointment, call:

(360) 255-2192 (Whatcom County)

(360) 679-6577 or 1-800-317-5427 (Island County)

1-888-586-7293 (San Juan County)

### **Recent Beds for Children Program Grants**

**Biel Trust**

**Everett Rotary Club**

**Evertrust Foundation**

**Frank J. Lewis Foundation**

**Kawabe Memorial Foundation**

**Lucky Seven Foundation**

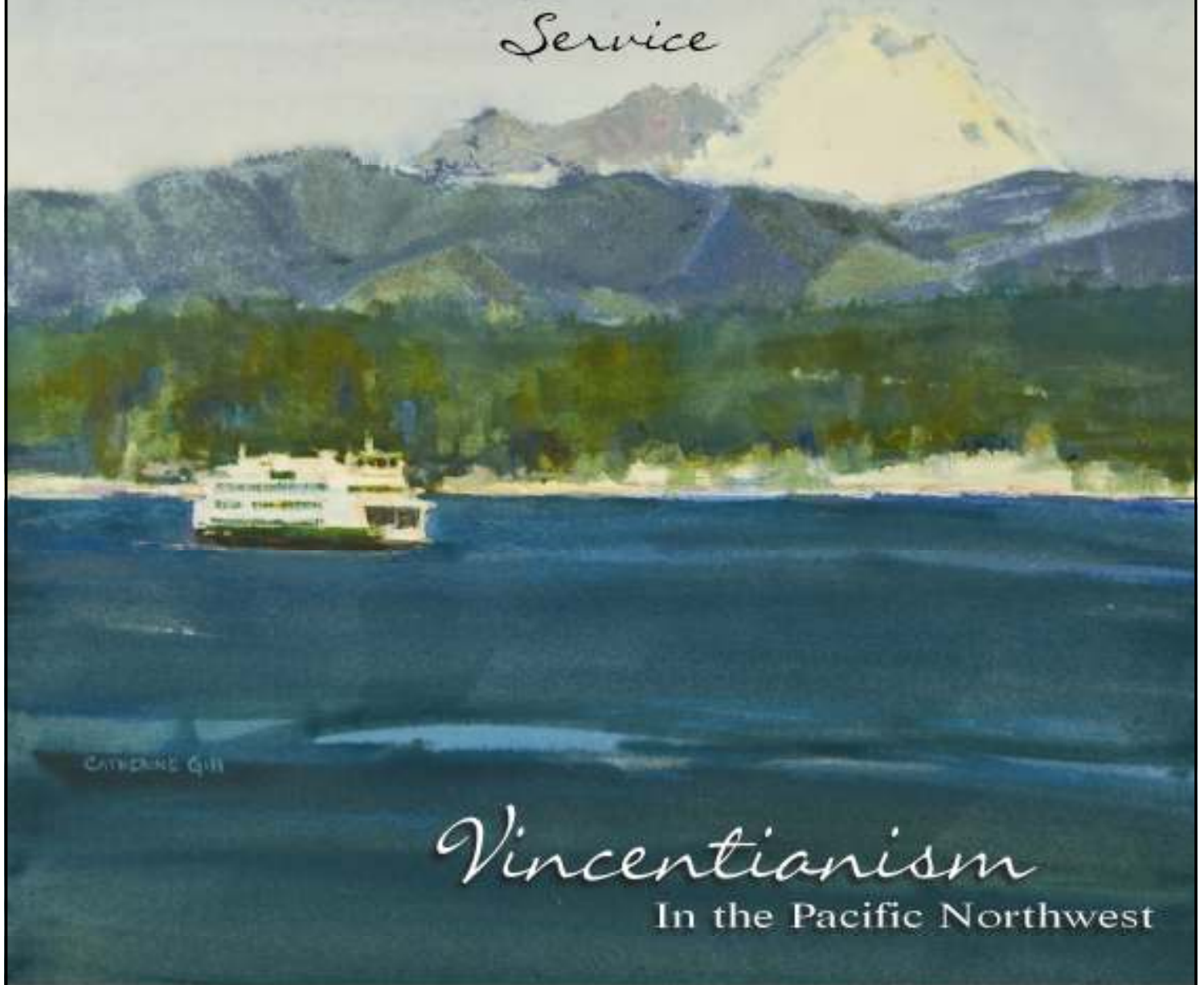
**Nysether Family Foundation**

**We Thank Them For Their Generous Support**

*Spirituality*

*Friendship*

*Service*



*Vincentianism*

In the Pacific Northwest

*2009 Western Regional Conference*

*Everett, Washington*

*June 24-27, 2009*



The North Sound District Council hosted this year's Western Regional Conference in Everett last June. Over 250 attendees from the ten Western states participated in the workshops and functions.



Host Hotel—Holiday Inn—Everett



Welcome Reception



Welcome by Barb White as Tom Link and Sister Rachel Kiefer look on



Reception Strings



Conference Registration Desk



Registration Chairs Frank & Marcia Marchi with Paul Roth



**Conference Opening Session by  
Mort Mortarty**



**Welcome by Everett Mayor  
Ray Stephanson**



**Remarks by National President  
Joe Flanigan**



**National Vice President Terry Wilson**



**Vice President—Western Region**



**National Executive Director  
Roger Playwin**



**Program Chair Mort Mortarty**



**Manuel Rojas of STM introduces Fr. Pedro at Spanish language session**



**Sister Kieran Kneaves**



**Seattle Council President Bob Rohrbach**



**Fr. Pedro Villaroya,  
Western Region Spiritual Advisor**



**Joseph Roberts, President  
Seattle Archdiocesan Council**



**Richard Bray, Seattle Council**



**Brother Augustine Towey  
Keynote Speaker**



**Jim Kehoe,  
North Sound Council Executive Director**



**Sr. Rachel Kiefer, Holy Rosary Conference**



**John Lee, Director  
WA State Dept. of Veterans Affairs**



**Fr. Pedro with Tom Link, President  
North Sound District Council**



**Stores Meeting led by North Sound  
Council Store Managers**



**Brian Roche**



**Hospitality Suite**



**Conference Lunch**



**Salmon Dinner at Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help**



**Ethel Bronson of St. Cecilia Conference  
Introducing Joseph Roberts**



**Mass Celebrated by The Most Reverend Joseph Tyson at Our Lady of Perpetual Help**



**Deacon Phil O'Loane  
North Sound Council Spiritual Advisor**



**Jim Kehoe's Band Provided Liturgy Music**



**Bishop Tyson with Fr. Pedro, Fr. Souvain and  
Deacon Dave Alcorta**



**Closing Banquet Presentation to  
Co-Chair Barb White**



**Rosemarie Marsh**



**Co-Chair Erv Hoglund with Frauna Hoglund and  
Karen Cordell**



**Dinner Entertainment**



**Job Well Done by All!**



**Tommy Kobiashi of Seattle recognized for  
72 years of Vincentian work**

## How The 2009 Western Regional Conference Came About – One Co-Chair's Perspective

By Barbara White

Last year when Jim Kehoe asked if I would Co-Chair the 2009 Western Regional conference with Erv Hoglund, I wasn't overly excited about the prospect. I had a little experience organizing my Company's events, like the annual picnic and Christmas party, but nothing of this magnitude. I hadn't even attended a Regional Conference before, so was pretty clueless on what it entailed. I talked to my friends and family, who thought I was crazy to even consider doing this, and prayed for guidance. I do love a challenge and knew this would be one of the biggest of my life, and as the old adage goes, nothing ventured – nothing gained. Ok, so now I am a Co-Chair, where do we begin? We need a Committee! We would need people to organize the workshops and speakers, registration, publicity, religious events, catering, tours, and finances. Suggestions were made and Volunteer's stepped forward.

From the beginning I knew we had a great Team of dedicated and responsible people who could handle this monumental task. Paul Roth handled the publicity and the program, Mort Moriarty arranged for the Speakers and workshops, Deacon Phil O'Loane handled the religious events, Frank and Marcia Marchi worked on registration, Frauna Hoglund did triple duty of arranging the Hotel Catering, and along with Erv, the Hospitality room and Salmon dinner, Karen Cordell arranged the Boeing tour and Visitor information, and Dan Millet handled the finances. Later we added Brian Roche to set-up the website and on-line registration, Rose Marie Marsh handled the badge holders and souvenir bags, Jim Bloss was our troubleshooter at the Hotel, Rose and Stan Roth handled the flower arrangements and table centerpieces, and Sr. Rachel Kiefer made bookmarks and rosary beads, as well as keep up our stamina at meetings with her baked goods.

To understand all that had to be done to Host this event, we decided to attend the 2008 Western Regional Conference in Boise and take copious notes. I can't answer for the others, but after attending the Boise Conference, I was a bit overwhelmed and wondered if our small committee had what it took to put on such a big event. Again I prayed, wiped out all doubts, and knew we would be successful.

The Team began meeting once a month. We brainstormed what needed to be done, set-up checklists, schedules, and timelines, and got down to work. The first thing we had to do was decide on a Hotel in Snohomish County that could accommodate 250 people, had at least 7 meeting rooms, and close to restaurants and activities for the Attendees and their families. Most of the Hotels were too small to host such a big event. The Holiday Inn Downtown Everett had everything we needed and the price was right. The Hotel Staff were absolutely wonderful and made sure all our needs, and our Guest's needs, were met.

Ok, the next item to tackle – what will be our theme and logo? Believe me, this was more difficult than you may think because you want it to be memorable and everyone had their own idea of what it should be. Mort suggested the Spirituality, Friendship, and Service theme that is prevalent in the Ozanam Orientation and all agreed that it was the perfect theme. Mort also had a friend who was an Artist, Catherine Gill, who made the painting of

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the Northwest scenery for our program, souvenir bags, and T-shirts.

We were on a roll, nothing could stop us now! Ok, we were stopped. We needed to raise some money for the event. Registration fees alone would not cover our costs. Fund raising in this economy was very difficult. Basically, donations and sponsorships came from Vincentians and very few from local businesses. We were very fearful that we wouldn't have enough money to cover our costs, but thanks to all the Vincentians who contributed, we ended up with enough money to pay all the expenses.

Due to the fear of insufficient funding, we did everything as cost effectively as we could. Mort was great in asking the Speakers to obtain funding of their own to come to the Conference, which they did, though we did pay for their Hotel rooms during their stay. Erv and Frauna found a sponsor for the Hospitality room and many donations for the salmon dinner, so costs were minimal there. Rose and Stan worked on a shoestring budget for the flowers and centerpieces and got the trees donated from Lowe's, products from Frito Lay, and items from the Casino's. Frank and Marcia's grandson Eric and his Company screened all the T-shirts for cost. I got coupons to the outlet mall and pads of paper and pens from an Insurance Agent. Mort got Cliff bars and Tom Link supplied bottles of water. When you have very little funding you become innovative and appreciate everyone's contribution.

In January we began meeting twice a month. Everyone had their action items. You had to have a plan and organization or this would never come together. Each Committee Chair reported on their progress each meeting and picked up another set of action items. There were hiccups in the plan but you work through them. Bishop Eusibio was to celebrate our closing Mass and that changed later to Bishop Tyson. Also, our Conference fell during Priest's week at Ocean Shores, so, there were no available Priests to celebrate the weekday Masses. Thankfully Fr. Pedro, our Spiritual Advisor, was amenable to celebrate the weekday Masses for us. There were other issues but, in the end, it all worked out.

There were so many details in organizing this Conference, that I will not mention them all because it would bore you to tears! I do want to mention that this event brought together a group of people, who didn't know each other very well, but who wanted to create the best Western Regional Conference to date. The comments and feedback we have received from the Attendees indicates that we have accomplished that goal. My thanks to a great Committee but even more thanks to the Holy Spirit who guided us every step of the way.

Will I ever volunteer to Chair an event like this again? Not on your life! Only kidding. This has been the most challenging, yet most fulfilling thing I've ever done in my life. I've worked with some wonderful people, made great new friendships, and saw Vincentianism at its best. Thank you for the opportunity to showcase Snohomish County for the 2009 Western Regional Conference, as well as to grow with all of you in Spirituality, Friendship, and Service.



## 2nd Annual National SVdP Friends of the Poor Walk



### FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK – 2009

Nearly 100 North Sound Vincentians, friends and relatives, fellow parishioners and others participated in our recent Friends of the Poor Walk, on Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> (the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul), at Mary Magdalen Parish in Everett. Thanks to many prayers and requests for intercession by St. Vincent de Paul (we believe) the weather again turned out absolutely gorgeous like last year; we had refreshments, event t-shirts, water bottles and drawstring backpacks for all walkers as well as music provided by Jim Kehoe. Our Walk organizers and volunteers arrived early, helped set up, staffed registration

and food tables and then joined in the Walk (many, many thanks to our volunteers without whom these kinds of events just would not happen – God Bless you). Some of our walkers actually walked the entire 5k/3.1 miles advertised for the walk, others walked as far as they could, some Junior walkers were carried; we were of all ages, sizes and dress – but it was clear that we were out for a good time and most of the feedback we received seemed to indicate that indeed a good time was had by all who participated (check out the accompanying pictures of the event). As an aside nearly \$7,000 was raised by walkers thru sponsorships and donations, all of this going directly to those Conferences specified by the walkers, for their use in helping the poor, the needy and the other vulnerable folks we all serve in our ministry.

To put this in perspective, we were one of over 100 Walks that took place all over the U.S. and elsewhere – 10,000 walkers who raised over \$800,000 to aid in the work of the Society. These funds will go directly to help those in need by preventing foreclosure, eviction, utility shutoffs; will provide food; help with transportation and medical bills and will especially help the children of the affected families. Locally there were two other Walks that took place in the Seattle Archdiocesan area – at John F. Kennedy High School in Seattle and Bellermaine Prep in Tacoma; both also successes with good attendance, sponsors, and donations.

Plans are already in the works for next year's Walk. We hope to see all of you there again "and ask you all to bring along some friends"! Together we can bring light and hope to the issues of poverty and the poor – what better cause!

Jim Bloss

### FREE Tax Preparation

Every year in Snohomish County there is \$10 Million in unclaimed Federal Earned Income Tax Credits. For many people this can be the equivalent of 10-25% of their ANNUAL income. Imagine what those we serve could do with this money. Ask every client you talk with if they had any income from wages during 2009. If so, have them call 2-1-1 after January 15, 2010 and ask for the "Free Tax Site" closest to them. 2-1-1 can speak to them in any language.

The sites prepare all basic individual returns, but no business taxes or rental income. Individuals must have a Social Security number or ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) for parents and children. **Maybe you can not help a client with their large PUD or Rent, but tell them about the Free Tax Sites and maybe they can get more than enough money that rightfully belongs to them to pay that bill for themselves.** 2-1-1 can tell them what they need to bring to the site. For brochures that you can leave with clients contact the SVdP Everett office or call United Way of Snohomish County (they have tax sites in Lynnwood, Everett and Monroe) and ask for John Jabroski at 425-374-5552.

## An Invitation to Serve: Step by Step

Is your Conference shrinking or growing? Is your Conference inclusive or exclusive? Do your parishioners feel needed and welcome to serve as full members of our Society, or have they gotten the impression that all we want from them is their donations?

The Rule of our Society is very clear: **3.1 Membership:** The Society is open to all those who seek to live their faith loving and committing themselves to their neighbor in need. We do not seek to be closed and isolated groups. On the contrary: only if we grow is there evidence that we are really giving witness and a witness that inspires love. Failure to attract new members should always be observed as an indication that something is wrong within the Conference.

"...let us always move ahead and keep developing our modest Works; let us hope that every year a new idea springs up in us, a new improvement and let us, thereby, avoid the apathy which is easily contented with what has already been done" (Introduction to the S.S.V.P. Manual 1845)

The Rule and Manual provide many examples of why continued growth and openness to new ideas are essential to the spiritual and institutional health of our Conferences and Councils. Most of us readily acknowledge that our Conferences are aging and that we are not attracting enough younger candidates for membership. Similarly, in spite of the significant increase in the numbers of Hispanic parishioners throughout the Archdiocese, we fail to attract a representative number of Spanish speaking Vincentians. How can we reach out to our neighbors in need if we can't communicate with them or relate to their customs and cultures?

Clearly, we must recruit new Vincentians! We must invite everyone to serve in our Conference of Charity. The very best way to recruit new members into a Conference is for current members to extend a direct, person-to-person invitation to friends or fellow parishioners whom you know and believe would make a good Vincentian based on their personal desire to grow in holiness and serve the community. These personal invitations are often the most successful because the person being recruited already knows the Vincentian doing the recruiting, and they can feel comfortable as they discern their calling to ministry.

But the recruitment method with the best proven record of success is the formal, "Invitation to Serve" program which is available in various forms from the National Council's website or from our own North Sound District Council formation team.

The program is a Step by Step process that begins with a clear recognition of the need for new members by the current members of your Conference. An 'Invitation to Serve' will only succeed if the current Conference members are fully committed to reaching out to new people and making them feel welcome and needed. Next there will need to be some communication and coordination with the Pastor and Parish Office. The Invitation works best when it has the full and enthusiastic support of the Pastor or Parish Administrator. There will need to be coordination with the Parish Office to arrange for a Bulletin Announcement and to schedule a Pulpit Talk which will only take about three or four minutes at all the Masses on a particular weekend.

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*continued*

Along with scheduling the Pulpit Talk and Bulletin Announcements, you will also need to schedule a 90 minute Informational Meeting. This follow up meeting should take place during the week following the Pulpit Talk and should take place at a time and place where all parishioners can attend. It should take place in a parish meeting room and not in a private home. The Society must clearly be a ministry of the parish and not of individual Vincentians. A flyer listing the date, time and location of the Informational Meeting, along with a short introduction to the Society and its mission should be included in the Bulletin and/or handed out by Vincentians as parishioners leave mass following the Pulpit Talk. The idea is to inspire your fellow parishioners to participate in our ministry and to invite them to share the extraordinary experience of serving Christ directly by means of the Home Visit.

The Informational Meeting should include as many active Vincentians as possible so that the new candidates are made to feel welcome and that the Conference is a fully functioning parish ministry. A suggested Informational Meeting Agenda is available from the Council and as is customary in all our meetings, it should include an Opening Prayer, a brief Spiritual Reading and Reflection followed by introductions of Vincentians and guests. A sign-up sheet with full contact information should be made available in order to facilitate further communication with the new candidates. A showing of the video titled "The Society" will normally be used to introduce the Society and provide a quick overview of its national and international scope as well as providing a brief introduction to the history and mission of the Society.

The longest portion of the meeting should be devoted to an introduction of the Home Visit. 'Going to the poor' is the unique charism of our Society. It distinguishes us from other faith based outreach programs. And since the Home Visit is at the core of all that we do, it should be presented in a positive and enthusiastic manner from the very beginning. All candidates for membership in our Society should be encouraged to become Full and Active Members of the Society. As such they should be prepared to attend regularly scheduled meetings, participate actively in the spiritual life of the Conference and make Home Visits to those needing out help. Information about Associate Membership and service exclusively in Special Works such as Food Banks or Thrift Stores should be included in the discussion, but it should be presented as an alternative form of service for those for whom there is some impediment to Full/Active membership.

New Candidates should be reassured that they will have access to a formal period of Formation including opportunities to accompany experienced Vincentians on some Home Visits as well as an opportunity to attend an Ozanam Orientation Formation program which will give them a deeper knowledge of the history, traditions, spirituality, mission and activities of the entire Society.

The Informational Meeting should always include time for Questions & Answers, and this is a chance for all the Vincentians present to lend their voice of support to the new candidates, encouraging them to seriously discern whether they are being called to action as Vincentians. A formal 'Call to Action' can follow the Q&A session simply by asking the new candidates "who would like to make a Home Visit?"

For anyone who takes up the challenge, the Conference should be prepared to appoint an experienced Vincentian to serve as mentor to each perspective candidate as they discern whether they are being called to serve in our Conference of Charity. The new candidates should be invited to attend all regularly scheduled Conference

*Continued next page*

# Compassion & Courage for the Common Good

## AGENDA

**9:00** Arrival and check-in at the Columbia Room

**9:30** Program and legislative briefings on economic justice, housing, health care and the environment

**12:15** Lunch\* and legislative visits

\*Lunch is on your own. A brown bag lunch is suggested.



## Catholic Advocacy Day

**Tuesday**

**Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am—3:00pm  
Olympia, WA**



### Be a Faithful Citizen!

All parish members and staff, parish leadership, and Catholic service and justice organizations are invited to join us to ensure that the Gospel message to care for our brothers and sisters is heard loud and clear in Olympia.

Meet us at the State Capitol (Columbia Room) for our program and a legislative briefing before scheduled appointments with your state legislators.

### To register:

Contact Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center, [ipjc@ipjc.org](mailto:ipjc@ipjc.org) or 206.223.1138

**By January 12th**



**2 FREE chartered buses for registered participants (departing from Seattle & Tacoma)**

first come - first serve



### Catholic Advocacy Day is sponsored by:

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center • Washington State Catholic Conference  
Catholic Community Services • Archdiocese of Seattle • Pierce County Deanery

## Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy High School Conducts Successful Food Drive

In 2008, over 14% of households in the United States were “food insecure,” the highest percent since the Great Depression. Archbishop Murphy High School took note of this startling reality and again responded in generosity during the month of November.

Students, parents, faculty and staff of Archbishop Murphy High School contributed over 15,000 items and nearly \$2,000 to support men, women and children in need who look to St. Vincent de Paul for help. During the four weeks of November, food was gleaned from kitchen cabinets, gathered from neighborhoods of students, and purchased – all to support the less fortunate.



26 sophomores in Homeroom 201 collected money and took the AMHS Wildcat bus to Costco to buy food for the food drive. The students purchased specially requested items for the St. Vincent De Paul. Sophomores also organized “Sport and Spirit Days,” where homeroom classes participated in volleyball, basketball or dodge ball tournaments and other fun activities. An activity participation fee of \$5 contributed to the food drive fund.



Organized by the Campus Ministry Leadership team, this year’s food drive was one of the most successful in Archbishop Murphy’s history. Driven by support from homeroom teachers, parents at home, and compassion for others, the Archbishop Murphy community’s generosity was remarkable.

The North Sound District Council thanks all the students, their parents and staff for their hard work during this food drive. Many suffering families are benefiting from the school’s concern for their needs and outstanding efforts on their behalf.



## What You Can Do to Help a Veteran

By John Lee - Director  
Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs



Have you ever said, “I wish I’d known that sooner”? Most of us have at some time in our lives, but it’s truly unfortunate when our former service people say it after finding out about benefits they didn’t know they had.

Some people assume that veterans automatically receive information from the VA, that there is a ‘list’ and new information is mailed out regularly. Sometimes veterans don’t consider themselves to be veterans because they didn’t serve in a war or go overseas. And some veterans had a bad experience with the VA twenty years ago and are hesitant to try again.

Whatever the reason may be, I’m asking for your help to spread the word that the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs stands ready to serve veterans and their families.

Think of the many people you encounter each week. Now imagine if you asked, “Did you ever serve in the military?” If they or their spouse have, please let me know how I can contact that person. We have a team of Benefits Specialists who can get in touch with that veteran or family and get them connected to the benefits they earned. It’s an incredibly powerful experience to be the one who connects a veteran to the many state and federal benefits available.

Benefits like health care, disability compensation, pension, nursing home care, mental health counseling, and education may be just what that veteran or family needs to make it through these challenging economic times. We also have help available for National Guard or Reservists who are experiencing financial hardships because they served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Washington State is known for its innovative spirit and we’re looking ahead to be sure our services are meeting the needs of veterans and their families. New programs like the Veterans Conservation Corps allow veterans to work through war trauma issues while engaging in habitat restoration projects. Other programs like the Building 9 for Veterans Transitional Housing Program and the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project surround veterans with supportive services empowering the veteran to get past their individual barriers to employment and ultimately get back on their feet again.

Together, with just one little question, we can help our friends and neighbors who proudly served our country. I hope you’ll join me in *Serving Those Who Served*.

You can reach me at [john@dva.wa.gov](mailto:john@dva.wa.gov), 360-725-2152 or visit us online at [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov).

*Editor’s note— Remember to always ask someone you are serving if they have been a member of the Armed Services. If so, and with their permission, it is recommended Vincentians directly contact DVA and provide contact information to a DVA case manager for follow-up.*



*Serving in Hope*

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**The North Sound Vincentian**

**Winter, 2009**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 28: Homeless Point-In-Time Count
- February 9: Catholic Advocacy Day in Olympia
- February 12: Housing and Homeless Advocacy Day in Olympia
- March 13: Annual Treasurers Meeting—Lynnwood store
- March 27: Annual Council Luncheon  
Holy Rosary Parish, Edmonds**
- April 20 - 24: National Midyear Meeting—St. Louis, MO
- June 23 - 26: Western Regional Meeting - Orange, CA
- September 25: Friends of the Poor Walk



### St. Vincent de Paul

*We must love our neighbor as being made in the image of God and as an object of His love.*