



# U.P. VINCENTIAN

NEWSLETTER MARQUETTE DIOCESE COUNCIL, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

WINTER 2011

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## ~ *President's Address* ~

### GREETINGS TO EVERYONE AT SVdP

As I begin my 6th and final year as your Diocesan Council President, I have come to realize how quickly the past 5 years have gone by. It seems the same for this year as 2011 is quickly coming to an end. This may be a good time for all of us to look back and review our past year at SVdP.

Your Diocesan Council has set strengthening our conferences as our #1 goal this year. With that goal in mind these are some questions to help us in our reviews:

- What were your **successes** last year?
- What were your **challenges**?
- What do you need to change and work on this year?
- Did we grow **spiritually**? Did we attend our SVdP retreat this year? Did we attend our SVdP feast day Masses? Did we pray together at SVdP?
- Did we become better **friends** with each other? Did we have some enjoyment at our meetings and work? Did we use patience and humor with each other? Did we help each other through difficult times? Did we have any meals, picnics and appreciation dinners together or did we just work?
- Did we increase our **understanding** of SVdP and its mission? Did we attend our Mini Convention and Regional meeting to help us learn more about SVdP? Did we complete our Ozanam Orientation? Do we study the Rule and Manual? Did we review all 6 of the Serving in Hope modules?
- Did you lose or gain members? Note - I will soon be sending each conference a guide to help you in your recruiting efforts.

Our SVdP Thrift Stores were very successful this past year. With God's help, let's carry over the same successes to our conferences.

To quote our SVdP Prayer for Renewal – "A live organization often changes the way things are done to do things better; a dying organization doesn't need to change a thing."

*God Bless,  
Roger Pepin*

## — CALENDER OF EVENTS —

Dec. 12	DCM Meeting at St. Peter Cathedral 10:30 a.m. EST
Feb. 22-26	Invitation for Renewal, Indianapolis
Feb. 7	Blessed Rosalie Rendu
March 15	Saint Louise de Marillac
April 9	DCM Meeting at St. Peter Cathedral 10:30 a.m. EDT
May 31-June 2	North Central Regional Meeting – Joliet, IL
June 11	DCM Meeting at St. Peter Cathedral 10:30 a.m. EST
Aug. 4-5	Mini-Convention and Corporate Communion. Election of new DCM President – Conference presence mandatory.
Aug. 24-26	Annual SVdP Retreat at Marygrove
Aug. 29-Sept. 1	National Council Annual Meeting – Seattle
Sept. 9	Blessed Frederic Ozanam
Sept. 10	DCM Meeting at St. Peter Cathedral 10:30 a.m. EDT
Sept. 27	St. Vincent de Paul
Dec. 10	DCM Meeting at St. Peter Cathedral 10:30 a.m. EST



## FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK®

Sts. Martha and Mary Conference held their fourth annual Friends of the Poor walk on Friday, September 23, 2011. This year the Conference held the walk in conjunction with the Main Street Calumet's Farmers' and Artisans' Market, as Tom Tikkanen, the Executive Director and associate member of Sts. Martha and Mary Conference, offered to help plan and advertise the event. Local businesses supplied the tents, snacks and beverages for the public while the Conference provided information about their activities in the communities.



The route started at Agassiz Park and went about one mile right through the main downtown street in Calumet. Some walkers carried jars and solicited donations from onlookers as they walked, which proved to be successful.

Those who couldn't join in the walk supported the cause by pledging funds to the walkers. Coverage of the event was provided by the Daily Mining Gazette, WLUC, WNMU and many local radio stations, with Julie Kent, Sts. Martha and Mary Conference President, doing a number of radio interviews.



The 38 walkers raised \$3,265.44 to assist people in the local areas with food, rent, utilities and other necessities. Keweenaw and Houghton Counties have led the state in counties with the largest number of people who have lost their unemployment. Sts. Martha and Mary Conference consists of members from five local Catholic parishes/missions and other faith communities in the area.

*Nancy Sherk  
Sts. Martha and Mary Conference*

# CONFERENCE BEST PRACTICES

The following ideas are being used by various Conferences and might be something you'd like to try in your own community.

Sts. Martha and Mary Conference in Calumet developed the following form to track their work in the communities they serve. These records make it easier to complete the annual report and to share with parishes and other organizations the type and amount of work they do. It also helps in completing the annual report. If you're interested in doing this for your conference, contact David King at 906-337-3454 or email him at dkb82474@sbcglobal.net.

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY** **Contacts / Visits / Services**

Sts. Martha & Mary Conference CVS # \_\_\_\_\_ Subject Joe Sicksopal Date: 10/15/10

Home Visit  Jobs Obtained  Food  Legal  People Helped

Prison Visit  Referrals  Furniture  Medical  2 Hours Spent

Hospital Visit  Travel Aid  Clothing  Dental  1 Miles Driven

Eldercare Visit  Spiritual Aid / Sac.  Other  Other  8 Value Given

Other Visit  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Only \_\_\_\_\_

List members or number present. Get hrs. for each & miles driven. DK & BK drove together 8 mi., visited for 1/2 hour, gave 2 food & 2 gas cards (\$20 ea).

David King RECORDERS NAME DETAILS continue on the other side

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY** **Contacts / Visits / Services**

Sts. Martha & Mary Conference CVS # \_\_\_\_\_ Subject Havin A. Roughlin Date: 10/18/10

Home Visit  Jobs Obtained  Food  Legal  5 People Helped

Prison Visit  Referrals  Furniture  Medical  3 Hours Spent

Hospital Visit  Travel Aid  Clothing  Dental  20 Miles Driven

Eldercare Visit  Spiritual Aid / Sac.  Other  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other Visit  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Only \_\_\_\_\_

List members or number present. Get hrs. for each & miles driven. { MW 8m/1.5h } Referred him to SA  
{ JK 12m/1.5h } CAA and DHS

Marilyn Winquist RECORDERS NAME DETAILS continue on the other side

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY** **Contacts / Visits / Services**

Sts. Martha & Mary Conference CVS # \_\_\_\_\_ Subject Spiritual Meeting Date: 11/2/10

Home Visit  Jobs Obtained  Food  Legal \_\_\_\_\_ People Helped

Prison Visit  Referrals  Furniture  Medical  24 Hours Spent

Hospital Visit  Travel Aid  Clothing  Dental  142 Miles Driven

Eldercare Visit  Spiritual Aid / Sac.  Other  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Value Given

Other Visit  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Only \_\_\_\_\_

List members or number present. Get hrs. for each & miles driven. Round-trip miles for each car that came are added up  
12 attended, lasted 2 hrs.

Barbara Mae King RECORDERS NAME DETAILS continue on the other side

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When going on a home visit, bring a bag of groceries to give to the family. It breaks the ice and takes away some of the awkwardness when you arrive. If the family is requesting assistance, chances are they could also use some food. Since you may not know the family's dietary restrictions, pick basic items that everyone can eat.

*St. Joseph Conference, Ishpeming*

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St. Thomas SVdP Conference, Escanaba, has created an appointment card which they give to the families who are receiving home visits. It gives the individual or family a reminder of when the home visit will occur and has greatly increased the likelihood that the people will be there when the Vincentians come to visit. It is a more professional way of interacting with the friends in need.

St. Thomas Conference will make a home visit next Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_  
Between 7 and 8 PM. You must be home or you will have to repeat your office visit and redo your paperwork.

*The following article is an email that encourages us to support our local businesses during the upcoming Christmas season. Many of our Vincentians or their families own or work for small businesses that support community efforts to make life better for others. Let's show them our support and by spending our money "in town" for gifts that help them help others.*

## CHRISTMAS 2011 – BIRTH OF A NEW TRADITION



As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods – merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans.

There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes there is! It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper?

- Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber?
- Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.
- Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.
- How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy?
- Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.
- My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think

nothing of plunking down the Benjamin's on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember folks, this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre? Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you REALLY need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of lights, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

You see, Christmas shopping is no longer about draining American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas shopping is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

THIS is the new American Christmas shopping tradition. This is a revolution of caring about each other, and isn't that what Christmas is about?

## TAX-FREE GIFTS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Tax Free Gifts from IRA (Traditional and Roth) Accounts Re-authorized

On Dec. 17, 2010, President Obama signed into law The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. This bill restores the IRA Charitable Rollover for 2010 and permits its use in all of 2011. If you have an IRA, you may want to consider using your IRA to make gifts to **The Society of St Vincent de Paul (name of Conference, District or National Council)**. Here is what you need to know about this legislation:



1. IRA owners now can make "qualified charitable distributions" up to \$100,000 per year from their IRAs. The distributions to charity, which would otherwise be taxable, are excluded from gross income for federal tax purposes under this law.
2. Donors must have reached age 70-½ by the date of contribution to qualify for this exclusion.
3. The charitable gift must be made directly from the IRA trustee/administrator to the charity.
4. Other retirement plans such as 401(k), 403(b), SEPs, and SIMPLE plans AND Charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and other similar gift arrangements are not eligible

For more details, please consult your CPA, tax advisor and/or financial planner.

## PLANNING YOUR ESTATE? CONSIDER SVDP

When making your estate plans, please consider making a charitable donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

A gift by a will to the Society will provide funding for vital programs and services to the poor and those in need throughout your community or the nation. A will is a simple legal document that is an effective tool to ensure your lifetime assets are distributed as you wish. Without a legal document, the court will decide how to disburse your assets.

A will can enable you to:

- Determine how, when, and to whom your assets will be distributed;
- Name the executor who will manage your estate according to your wishes;
- Create trusts for the benefit of your spouse, your children, or others;
- Reduce the burden of federal estate taxes on your survivors; and
- Provide for those charitable organizations to which you are devoted.

A sample of the simple wording for a will would be: "I give, devise and bequeath to the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul (list your Conference, District or National Council)** to benefit the programs of the Society, \_\_\_\_ (percent) of my estate [or, \$ \_\_\_\_], to be used by the Society officers in carrying out the Society's objective and purposes.

**NOTE: We recommend that you consult your attorney or financial planning professional when creating or revising your will.**

# “YOU’RE KIDDING...THEY STOLE HOW MUCH?”

## EMBEZZLEMENT ISSUES

No, this is not the case for any of our Conferences, Districts or stores now but it has been. No one wants to believe that someone they know would steal from a charity, especially St. Vincent de Paul, but it happens.

Just go to Google and do a search for *St. Vincent de Paul and embezzlement* and you’ll see a case from the 1980s when a SVdP employee in New Hampshire embezzled \$104,000 from the Society. In 2010, a former employee pled guilty to embezzling \$324,388 from the Society in Buffalo, NY over a 7 year period. This summer a recent audit at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Traverse City, indicated that the former president and director of the Society embezzled funds for her own benefit. These are three cases that made the news; many of the embezzlements never make it to the paper because the Vincentians don’t report it and are embarrassed that it happened. They are afraid donors will hold it against SVdP that the embezzlement occurred and will no longer support them.

There are a variety of reasons why people embezzle and although we cannot prevent all instances we can make every effort to thwart it. If it does occur, we will take every option available to us by punishing the offender, reporting the crime to law enforcement and getting the stolen money back.

Procedures engagements (a simpler process than an audit) are conducted on the Conferences, Districts, stores and Diocesan Council office on a rotating basis by a CPA firm employed by the DCM. The CPA’s recommendations on the most common findings needing correction are:

- Outgoing checks must be supported by an approved invoice, receipt, or a voucher prepared by the employee/volunteer if a receipt or invoice isn’t available. If a fellow volunteer asks for a reimbursement but doesn’t have a receipt, respond "I wouldn't be doing my job as Treasurer if I didn't insist on receipts from everyone."
- All Conference, District, store and Diocesan Council checks must have two signatures and never be signed in advance. Have 3 or 4 signers on the checking account so 2 people are always available.

- The Conference or District does not receive images of cancelled checks with their bank statements. If you cannot receive the images, check with your bank if it is possible to go online to review the images. Verify the signatures shown on the checks as valid signers on the account.
- Poor box and parish collections must be counted by two, non-related individuals. The donations should be counted and deposited on the same day and not taken home by the treasurer. If the collection is taken at mass, the funds should be kept in a locked location at church and two Vincentians return to the church to count the collection and do the deposit.
- Bank statements must be reconciled monthly and another Vincentian other than the treasurer should be verifying the accuracy of the statement compared to the checkbook balance.
- All Conference records and financial paperwork should be maintained in a locked, fireproof safe at the church or store. None of these records should be kept at an individual’s private residence.

Although these recommendations seem to create more work for the members, they are to be implemented to prevent embezzlement. The Executive Director of the National Council – U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul told the membership that there had been an embezzlement case at a Conference that was over \$50,000. Everyone in the Conference trusted the treasurer who’d held the position for more than 30 years but no one performed any oversight or checked the books. We cannot afford to be lax in our day to day responsibilities which could lead to embezzlement problems. Embezzlement hurts our organization, the donors, the poor and the publicity about the theft affects the entire Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Diocesan Council members and the Executive Director have a fiduciary duty to protect the Society’s assets, to protect the trust our donors have placed in us and insure our ability to provide services to those in need. If we do not do what is necessary, we have failed in our duty to the Society.

## WHERE DO THOSE DONATIONS GO?



When someone makes a donation to the Conference, where does it go? If a funeral notice directs donations to St. Vincent de Paul in lieu of flowers, where does the money go?

Unless the donor specifies where they want their donation to go, the funds go to the Conference's general account to assist the poor. The primary purpose of the funds is to help the poor with their requests. Funds donated in memory of a person go to the parish SVdP Conference where the funeral was held for the deceased. Many parish Conferences are barely getting by so they desperately need the donations to continue their work.

If someone makes a donation to the store, the store transfers the donation to the District. The District will use the funds to assist the poor through food pantries, special projects or by giving the funds to the Conferences to help with rent, utilities, transportation, etc. The stores do not accept donations unless it is for a specific SVdP project. For example, a donation could be designated for the hospital loan closet to purchase medical equipment or to purchase toys for the Christmas giveaway project.

If you're unsure of what to do, email the DCM office at [svdp@upstvincent.org](mailto:svdp@upstvincent.org).

All people making donations of \$250 or more per year must receive a letter from the Conference or District acknowledging their donation(s) for tax purposes. The DCM must be notified of anyone who gives \$5,000 or more per year because it is needed for the 990 filing.

## PAPER DOMINATED CHRISTIANITY

Does that statement ring a bell? At the last National Council – SVdP annual meeting, one of the workshops focused on these words. Apparently this has become a common problem across the country in our Conferences and Districts. We sometimes forget that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a *MINISTRY*, not another social service agency such as the Department of Human Services or a Community Action Board.

*Ministry is the bridge that connects the Gospel to the needs of God's people. Through ministry, we share with others a glimpse of Jesus.*

*The Manual,  
Page 19*

One of the greatest blessings we have as an organization is the wonderful, caring people who become Vincentians to serve the poor. There is an abundance of job skills and knowledge that the volunteers bring to the table as they work to be efficient and good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. However, sometimes that knowledge overrides our ability to be "present" to the person in front of us.

The workshop speaker went on to say that many Vincentians are so busy completing a "senseless mountain of paperwork" that they fail to be truly present to those who come to us for assistance. We have a reminder posted in the Financial Aid Office for our volunteers, "*Listening may be the most loving thing you do today.*" Most people seeking our help want to be heard; to have someone truly listen to them. We can't listen if we are filling out form after form and worrying that someone might be trying to scam us on a gas voucher, the food pantry or other assistance.

Charity is greater than any rule. We don't want to become a social service agency bound by endless rules, regulations and numerous file cabinets to hold the reams of paperwork. We should always help but giving money isn't always helpful. Money is an instrument of charity. Are we sharing a glimpse of Jesus as we meet with the poor? Money is important but love is essential.

*Laurie A. Schmit  
Executive Director*

# FOCUS: OUR LADY OF LOURDES SVDP YOUTH GROUP OMAHA, NE

The following information is from the *Vincentian Youth and Young Adults* newsletter created by Sister Christian Price, ASCJ. She is the National Director of Youth and Young Adults Development for the National Council of the U.S. – SVdP.

In the fall of 2005, 28 Our Lady of Lourdes School students became the first members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society Youth service group at OLL. Since that first invitation to serve, students from grades 5 through 8 each school year have participated in serving and doing projects that benefit many.

The group is based on the same ideals as the Adult SVdP Conference members – to serve those in need and grow spiritually through that service. The Emergency Food Pack is one of their ongoing projects that could be replicated by our Food Distribution Centers (aka food pantries) to help those needing immediate assistance.

## EMERGENCY FOOD PACK PROJECT Service Project by OLL Youth

The Emergency Food Pack Project has been a service project of the SVdP Youth at Our Lady of Lourdes School students for the past few years for the Downtown Omaha SVdP Store and Food Pantry. The project has been a very successful answer to the immediate hunger of clients who come to the SVdP store or food pantry but are unable to receive items at the pantry for various reasons. The recipient receives a gallon-sized Ziploc bag that contains food that can be accessed immediately. Various items are:

- individually packed fruit,
- jello, applesauce
- pop-top cans of soup
- granola bars, nutrition bars
- tuna packs
- Ramen noodles
- candy
- canned meat
- juice boxes
- a spoon



We include anything that is easily eaten without much preparation. The success of our project has been recognized by the coordinator of the food pantry:

*“The Emergency Packs that the OLL Youth Group prepares for the SVdP Pantry's use have proven to be most valuable in our service to the poor. We serve over hundreds each week in our pantry. Some who show up are not eligible to receive food on that particular distribution day for various reasons. If they are hungry we give them a pack and let them know when or how they are eligible for a pantry sack. We do not want anyone to go away hungry. People also show up at our SVdP Office which is blocks away from the pantry. We also have packs there to be given to anyone who is hungry. Also as important as feeding a hungry person, is the value added we receive by having a young person who is filling this pack understand he or she is helping the least among us.”* – **Carol Atherton, Omaha SVdP Pantry Food Coordinator**

Through this project, it is our hope that no hungry person who approaches the SVdP store, food pantry or office, will leave without at least one meal. Students have been excited about this project, because they realize that the bag that they are putting together will soon be in the hands of a person in need - in effect, they are being Christ to others.



## OBITUARIES

### FLOYD WILLIAM KRAUSE

Floyd William Krause, 91, of Escanaba, passed away Oct. 18, 2011, at St. Francis Hospital in Escanaba.

Floyd was born July 6, 1920, in Ford River, Mich. Floyd enlisted in the United States Marine Corp in 1943 and served his country proudly during World War II. He was united in marriage to Virginia Groleau on Nov. 17, 1945, in Escanaba. Floyd was a longtime member of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and was one of the 12 founding members of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference, started in 1966. He remained an active volunteer for the St. Vincent de Paul Society for many years. He also worked as a welder for the Harnischfeger Corporation for 32 years.

Floyd is survived by his wife, Virginia; five sons, one daughter and their families, 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren; two brothers, two sisters and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, and two brothers.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Oct. 24 at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Escanaba with Rev. Fr. Rick Courier officiating. Floyd was laid to rest in the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery.

*Obituary information obtained from the Daily Press in Escanaba – October 20, 2011*

### JEANNE M. BRAY

Jeanne M. Bray, 57, of Escanaba, went home to be with the Lord on September 24, 2011. Jeanne was born in Escanaba and attended Holy

Name High School until its closure, and graduated from Escanaba High School in 1972 after which she attended Bay de Noc Community College. She married Michael J. Bray at St. Anne's Church in Escanaba on June 28, 1975. Jeanne and Michael traveled extensively while Michael was a member of the U.S. Navy. They eventually returned to Escanaba where they made their home.

Jeanne was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who led by example, always putting everyone else's needs ahead of her own. She was a life-long member of St. Anne's Catholic Church and was involved in several ministries. She was a former CCD catechist, a member of the Resurrection Singers, Altrea, the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, and volunteered for various church-related events and fundraisers. Jeanne was a member of St. Joseph and St. Patrick SVdP Conference and managed the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Escanaba the past two years. During Jeanne's time with St. Vincent de Paul, she touched the lives of countless numbers of people who came to St. Vincent's for guidance, aid, and simple conversation. Her generosity and selflessness touched the lives of everyone she came into contact with. Jeanne is survived by her husband, Michael, three sons, a daughter and their families, two granddaughters, her mother and stepfather, several siblings and step-siblings and numerous nieces and nephews. Jeanne was preceded in death by her father, two brothers, mother-in-law and father-in-law.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Anne's Parish with Father Francis de Groot officiating. Jeanne was laid to rest in the Holy Cross Cemetery.

*Obituary information obtained from the Daily Press in Escanaba – September 28, 2011*

### JOSEPH MAHOSKI

Joseph Gregory Mahoski, 91, of 2009 Jackson Avenue, Ishpeming, passed away October 26th at the Brookridge Heights Memory Care Unit where he and Laurabelle resided for the

\_\_\_\_\_ *continued on page 10*

# LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## CREATIVE IDEAS FOR COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT SVdP



The Game Well, a local business in Marquette, has come up with a new way to encourage youth and young adults to help the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry while playing video games. Chris Stanley, owner of The Game Well, has promoted individual charity by allowing gamers who bring five canned goods for the food pantry a chance to “cheat” the game and win. Anyone who plays video games understands how suddenly a game can go down hill with one quick mistake so by donating the canned goods, they have a chance to turn the game around and win. The SVdP food pantry wins and so can the player. The Marquette District SVdP Food Pantry appreciates Chris’ efforts in encouraging his customers to think of others as they enjoy their favorite pastime.



## ST. AGNES AND ST. CECILIA CONFERENCE MERGER

As of November 9, 2011, St. Agnes SVdP Conference of Caspian and St. Cecilia SVdP Conference of Iron River joined together under the St. Cecilia SVdP Conference name. The Vincentians are working together to assist the people in Caspian, Iron River, Stambaugh and Gaastra.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sts. Martha and Mary SVdP Conference, Calumet, for being aggregated on May 31, 2011.

## OBITUARIES *continued from pg. 9*

past five months.

Joe was born in Caledonia, Wisconsin on March 7, 1920. He graduated from Amasa High School, attended Eastern Michigan University and received a bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan College of Education (NMU). He served in the U.S. Army Air Corp in WWII. He managed Selin's Furniture Store in Negaunee and later their store in Ishpeming.

Most recently Joe worked at Household Appliance in Ishpeming.

Joe was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church where he once served on the Church Council as its president and where he enjoyed singing in the choir. He was very active and volunteered much of his time with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul including service as the Diocesan Council of Marquette - SVdP President. He was a char-

ter member of the Ishpeming Kiwanis Club and past board member at the Ishpeming Credit Union. Joe was active in the Ishpeming community.

Joe is survived by his wife Laurabelle (Ponchaud) Mahoski who he married on January 3, 1946; three children and their families including 10 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, two sisters, a brother-in-law along with many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated October 31st at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ishpeming, with Rev. Fr. James Challancin officiating.

Memorial considerations may be directed to the St. Joseph SVdP Conference in Ishpeming or St. Joseph Catholic Church Choir in memory of Joe.

*Obituary information obtained from the Mining Journal – October 29, 2011*



## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Once again it is time for SVdP to thank and give our best wishes to the outgoing District and Conference Presidents and to welcome those now filling the position of President at District or Conference levels.

The DCM and all Vincentians extend our heartfelt appreciation to the members who have provided servant leadership in their roles as District and Conference Presidents. We appreciate your efforts to work with and for others through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Thank you to Jim Dompier for his six years of service as President of the Copper Country District Council. Tom Vichich, Hancock, has been elected the new Copper Country District President.

Thanks also to Bob Peters for serving three years as President of the Iron Mountain District Council. Roger Krebsbach, Iron Mountain, has been elected the new Iron Mountain District President.

Roger Krebsbach has resigned as the Spiritual Advisor of the Diocesan Council of Marquette – SVdP and Renée Deroche has graciously accepted the position again.

Changes at the Conference levels are:  
St. Louis the King: Chuck Hillier has replaced Mike Gschwind  
St. Augustine: Liz Hangas has replaced Maryann Wolf  
St. Thomas: Robert Caron has replaced Adelore Gerou

You have been good and faithful servants and fine examples of servant leadership for all Vincentians. Thank you!

## OZANAM ORIENTATION AND SPIRITUAL ADVISOR TRAINING

Fourteen Vincentians took advantage of the workshops offered at the October mini-convention to increase their knowledge of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Congratulations to the following members for successfully completing the Ozanam Orientation or Spiritual Advisor training.

### OZANAM ORIENTATION ATTENDEES:

- Rose Ann Carne – St. Cecilia Conference
- Jane Clover – Our Lady of the Snows Conference
- Elizabeth Merchberger – Our Lady of the Snows Conference
- Michele Gagnon – Church of the Resurrection Conference
- Lucy Dewitt – St. Peter Conference
- Tom DeVilbiss – St. Louis the King Conference
- Julie Bishop – St. Joseph and St. Patrick Conference
- Peter Longtine – St. John Conference

### SPIRITUAL ADVISORS:

- John Hyde – St. Michael Conference
- Michael Schneck – St. Michael Conference
- Sandy Petersen – St. Peter Conference
- Pete LaChance – St. Rita Conference
- Mike Gschwind – St. Louis the King Conference
- Dave Adamson – St. Cecilia Conference



**Diocesan Council of Marquette, MI**

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

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**SPIRITUAL  
ADVISOR  
FAREWELL**

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served you as the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor. As all of you are aware, there

is much need in our Vincentian family, and I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me in a new direction, so with much prayer I have accepted a new position as the District President of Iron Mountain. I leave knowing that our new Spiritual Advisor will do a wonderful job for all of us, so I welcome back Renée Deroche.

*In His Love,  
Roger Krebsbach*

**ST. VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY**  
**Diocesan Council of Marquette, Michigan**

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*Newsletter Editor - Laurie Schmit*

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*Renée Deroche*

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