



June 2006

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## Our Mission

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international lay organization that serves persons in need. Organized locally through its network of parish Conferences, St. Vincent de Paul helps people, while leading its members to grow spiritually through service.

Founded in France in 1833, the Society has been assisting Central Texans since 1960. Following in the footsteps of the Society's founder, Frédéric Ozanam, and patron St. Vincent de Paul, members of the Society have brought the loving presence of Christ into the homes of thousands of individuals and families.

Vincentians are collaborators in every sense of the word, working side-by-side with ministries, agencies, and organizations to comfort the lonely and abandoned, shelter the homeless, and feed the hungry. By providing assistance for basic needs, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has become a safety-net in communities, thus becoming the largest volunteer driven, non-governmental source of assistance throughout Central Texas.

## Message from the President

Brother and Sister Vincentians,

As you know, our ministry continues to see challenges. Conferences are receiving more requests from areas outside of parish boundaries. These needs are often large and our resources are limited. For this reason I ask you to do three things:

- ◆ Keep these families in your prayers
- ◆ Let your district know about these requests
- ◆ Advocate for the families' needs

Advocacy takes time; however, where there is a need we must find a way to do our small part. In much of the Central Texas area, you can call 2-1-1 for additional community resources, or contact other faith-based organizations.

The reason for letting the districts know about the requests is to allow them an opportunity to contact the parishes, and propose the possible establishment of a St. Vincent de Paul Conference in that parish.

On a related matter, we are also beginning to see requests from families where undocumented wage earners are being deported, leaving family members behind without financial resources. We should continue to serve these families, as presently there are no directives from our national SVdP office or the Bishop's office to do otherwise.

Please continue to pray for the success of our Vehicle Donation Program, The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores, our 2007 National Meeting Committee, H.O.P.E. Woodworks, and the other special projects of the Society.

I hope to see members from every conference at the South Central Regional Meeting in San Antonio from June 30 - July 1, 2006. Your Conference Presidents should have all of the registration information.

Thanks for all you do in His name!

Randall Delgado  
President



*"Someone in your neighborhood is being helped by St. Vincent de Paul"*

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### Thrift Stores

#### Austin

512.442.5652

#### Bryan/College Station

979.775.CARE

#### Temple

254.773.7591

### Vehicle Donation Program

512.912.7575

1.888.317.7575

svdpcars@sbcglobal.net

### Diocesan Council Office

PO Box 9070

Austin, TX 78766

Office: 512.251.6995

Fax: 512.252.1117

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svdpaustincouncil@sbcglobal.net

Web Page

<http://www.ssvdp.org>

## Threads For Hope Begins in July

This year's **Threads for Hope** blue jean collection drive is coming to a parish near you in July! Start cleaning out those closets & make plans now to donate your gently used jeans to a great cause – The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVdP) Thrift Stores!

**Threads for Hope** is designed to collect new and gently – used blue jeans for the thrift stores, as well as serve as an outlet to spread the word about the good works of SSVdP in the parishes and the communities of the Austin Diocese.

Has your Conference gotten involved with **Threads for Hope** yet? There are many ways Conferences can get involved to make a difference in our community through this project. Make sure to ask your Conference President for details, or email to **svdpaustincouncil@sbcglobal.net** for an information packet.

Blue jean collection has already begun at the Seton Healthcare Network, and jeans will be continuously collected throughout the month of July at many local parishes. To locate your nearest collection point, please call (512) 251 – 6995.



## National Meeting Update

The planning stages for the 2007 National Meeting being held in Austin, TX are well under way, and ahead of schedule. The theme and logo for this important Vincentian gathering, as featured in this article, have been selected, and were chosen to reflect our call to the Vincentian Mission, as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and as a part of the larger Vincentian family.



The logo is Christ – centered, mirroring the importance and centrality of Christ in our work with the poor and our daily lives. The four smaller crosses around the central cross represent the original Vincentian family – Vincent, Louise, Frédéric, and Rosalie.

The mosaic tile in the background represents the members of the Society. Each piece is beautifully unique.

Not registered for the 2006 meeting yet? Visit the Indianapolis SSVdP website at: [www.svdpindy.org](http://www.svdpindy.org) for more information.

The Austin Council remains excited about the fantastic opportunity to host this gathering of Vincentians, and as the Summer of 2007 draws closer, there will be infinite opportunities for local Vincentians to get involved. Stay tuned for more details to come!

*“Someone in your neighborhood is being helped by St. Vincent de Paul”*

## Parish Conferences

### ***Austin Central District***

Holy Cross-Austin  
Sacred Heart-Austin  
Sacred Heart-Elgin  
Santa Julia-Austin  
St. Austin-Austin  
St. Joseph-Manor  
St. Louis-Austin  
St. Mary's Cathedral-Austin  
St. Theresa ~ Austin

### ***Austin North District***

Holy Cross-Bertram  
St. Albert the Great-Austin  
St. Christopher-Austin  
St. Elizabeth-Pflugerville  
St. Margaret Mary-Leander  
St. Mary, Our Lady of the  
Lake-Lago Vista  
St. Thomas More-Austin  
St. William-Round Rock

### ***Austin South District***

Queen of Angels-Briarcliff  
San Francisco Javier-Austin  
St. Catherine of Siena-Austin  
St. Ignatius/San Jose-Austin  
St. John Neumann-Austin  
St. Paul-Austin

### ***Southern District***

Santa Cruz-Buda  
St. Anthony-Kyle  
St. John the Evangelist  
~Luling  
St. John the Evangelist  
~San Marcos  
St. Mary-Wimberley  
St. Mary of the Visitation  
~Lockhart

### ***Temple District***

Bryan/College Station  
Holy Family-Copperas Cove  
Santa Rosa-Andice  
St. Helen-Georgetown  
St. Joseph-Killeen  
St. Mary's ~ Brenham

The Society of St. Vincent  
de Paul is a Catholic lay  
organization serving  
children, the homeless, and  
families throughout the  
Diocese of Austin.

## Latest Encyclical Highlights Our Mission

***Contributed by Sr. Joanne Vasa, D.C.***

We are all keenly aware that from its very beginnings, the ministry of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been strongly connected with the mission of the Catholic Church. The recent encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, by Pope Benedict XVI, however, highlights the role of the Society as a charitable organization that provides both physical and spiritual nourishment to those who are most in need. In reading the text, one would almost think that the Pope is speaking directly to us! I'd like to invite you to read these quotations and take a few moments to reflect upon what they say to us....



***"Those who work for the Church's charitable organizations must be distinguished by the fact that they do not merely meet the needs of the moment, but they dedicate themselves to others with heartfelt concern, enabling them to experience the richness of their humanity. ...These charity workers need a 'formation of the heart'; they need to be led to that encounter with God in Christ which awakens their love and opens their spirits to others." (Paragraph 31a)***

How are you attending to your own "formation of the heart" in your local conference? Do you take the time to pray together for the people you serve? Do you allow their stories to touch your heart? The needs of the poor can become overwhelming if we do not remain focused upon the fact that our mission is to be awakened to that "encounter with God in Christ."

***"With regard to the personnel who carry out the Church's charitable activity on the practical level... more than anything, they must be persons moved by Christ's love, persons whose hearts Christ has conquered with his love, awakening within them a love of neighbor. The criterion inspiring their activity should be Saint Paul's statement in the Second Letter to the Corinthians: "the love of Christ urges us on." (Paragraph 33)***

Before we go on our next home visit, how would it be different if we consciously remembered that we are "urged" by the love of Christ in our hearts? While we know this is our call, it is tempting to become so wrapped up in the physical needs of the person that we forget our call to give and receive the presence of God in these encounters. The Pope goes to the heart of the matter when he challenges us to be "persons moved by Christ's love." We will only be moved by this love if we remember that it is our driving force and the source of our energy.

The Pope speaks to the entire Church in this encyclical, but let's be affirmed by the fact that he chose the topic of CHARITY for his very first encyclical. May we take this opportunity to be truly formed in the heart by the love of Christ!

*"Someone in your neighborhood is being helped by St. Vincent de Paul"*

## New Diocesan Council Office is Commissioned

In March, many area Vincentians gathered at the SSVdP Diocesan Council Office, for an office blessing ceremony and an open house. The event was well-attended, and it was a great opportunity to join together in Vincentian fellowship for a wonderful cause.

Our Council Spiritual Advisor Sr. Joanne Vasa, D.C. led us in prayer for the office and its staff, and she performed a special blessing over each space of the office, commissioning each space for its specific use for the Society.

Below: Council President R. Delgado Visits during the open house with A. Martinez, R. Motl, and L. Danze. Right: Diocesan Council Office door.



Below: R. Motl, M. Pazzaglini, L. Danze, R. Delgado, & K. Klanika participate in the blessing ceremony led by Sr. Joanne Vasa, D.C. (center).

Right: Sr. Joanne Vasa, D.C. poses with Vehicle Donation Manager Ronda Motl & Executive Director Heather Tarman.



*Photos courtesy of Lloyd Motl*

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## General Assembly In Review

On Saturday, May 6, Approximately 75 Vincentians gathered in spirituality and fellowship for the General Assembly, held at Santa Cruz Parish in Buda, TX.

This year's meeting featured an update on the plans for the 2007 National Meeting being held in Austin, a "State of the Society" address by Council President Randall Delgado, and an informative presentation about our Council's Disaster Relief Program.

The highlight of the assembly was the Vincentian Spirituality presentation, led by Council Spiritual Advisor Sr. Joanne Vasa, D.C.

Sr. Vasa gave a wonderful reflection on the Pope's latest encyclical, and our Vincentian

Spirituality. This led to small group sharing of our faith and our Vincentian mission.

There was great food provided by NemeC Catering, an SSVdP favorite, and a good time was had by all.

We would like to offer a special thank you to the Santa Cruz Parish Community for hosting the assembly, especially Fr. Brian McMaster, who celebrated the mass, and pastor Msgr. Joseph Deane. Thanks also to Santa Cruz Business Administrator Robert Johnson.

We offer additional thanks to the Santa Cruz Conference for their assistance in facilitating the meeting, and Southern District Co-Presidents Barbara Kimbel and Cecilia Schmidt.

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# Prayer Wheels Turning for Vehicle Donation Program

**Contributed by Ronda Motl, Vehicle Donation Program Manager**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVdP) Diocesan Council of Austin Vehicle Donation Program (VDP) recently shifted gears and expanded its operation to the SSVdP Diocesan Council of Dallas.

We have a signed contract, effective June 1, to manage the VDP within the boundaries of the Council of Dallas. Terms of the contract allow both SSVdP Councils to benefit monetarily from the VDP. The VDP is a nationally recognized program used by many charitable non-profit organizations and a valuable source of funds to our Council's on-going efforts.

When initially contemplating the expansion of the VDP throughout the state of Texas, which our dealer license legally allows, we prayerfully considered the benefits, drawbacks, and ramifications of such an expansion. We concluded it would best achieve those fundamental principles of the SSVdP of fellowship and service if we invited SSVdP Councils of Texas to partner with us in the VDP expansion. Our aim is to build solidarity with our brother and sister Vincentians throughout Texas, as well as continue to serve Christ by reaching out to all of our needy Texas neighbors.

We anticipate a fruitful relationship with the Council of Dallas, which has a Catholic population of approximately 890,000. Our evidence that God continues to bless the work of the Society and to answer prayer is that we are in VDP management contract negotiations with the SSVdP Diocesan Council of Fort Worth, and we are in preliminary VDP management contract review with the SSVdP Archdiocesan Council of San Antonio. Please join us in continual prayer as we petition for a successful VDP expansion to all Society of St. Vincent de Paul Councils of Texas.

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## Donate That Vehicle!

Did you know that the Vehicle Donation Program accepts Most running and non-running vehicles, including cars, trucks, vans, recreational vehicles, and boats?

To find out more about donating your vehicle to help the Society continue its mission to minister to those most in need in our community, contact Ronda at 512.912.7575 in Austin metro, or 1.888.317.7837 outside of Austin (email: [svdpcars@sbcglobal.net](mailto:svdpcars@sbcglobal.net)).

Donate Your Vehicle



All donors will need to be in possession of the vehicle's valid negotiable title (from any state), in the name of the donor. Please call with title in hand.

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## Plan to Plan Ahead

Friends of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul who may wish to consider making the Diocesan Council part of their will or estate plans are encouraged to explore the possibilities. Planned giving can offer unique benefits to the donors, as well as to the recipient organization, and some options allow donors to enjoy tax benefits deriving from such a gift immediately.

Fore more information on how you can make a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, contact the Diocesan Council office at 512.251.6995.

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## *Around the Council – News From the Conferences*

### Rest In Peace

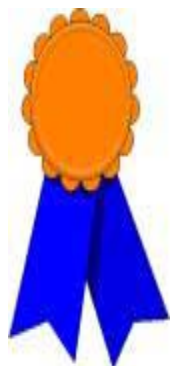
Our condolences and prayers are with the family of St. Paul's Conference President **Brigid Larson**, whose brother Paul Lee went to rest with our Lord Jesus on Good Friday.

*Ecclesiastes 3:2 ~ There is a time for everything...*

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### Congratulations!

At the Mid-Year Meeting in St. Louis, MO Regional Chairman Ralph Hassel announced that **Bob Lindstrom** of the Austin Council had been appointed as the Regional Twinning Representative for the South Central Region of the Society. Bob is an outstanding choice for this important role, and we offer Bob our congratulations and thanks for taking on this additional responsibility for the Society. Bob is the President of the Sacred Heart Conference in Elgin, the President of the Austin Central District, and the Diocesan Council Twinning Coordinator.



The Society was very pleased to learn recently that St. Christopher Conference President **Mike Moyer** has been chosen to receive the Lumen Gentium (Light of the World) Award from our most honorable and reverend Bishop Gregory Aymond. Bishop Aymond will formally present the award to Mike and the other recipients of this honor, on June 7 in Temple, TX. This is a wonderful honor to Mike, and a beautiful recognition of all of his service in Christ, especially his work with the Society. Congratulations Mike, and thank you for all you do for Christ and for the Society!

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### Thank you

The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocesan Council of Austin, would like to offer their heartfelt appreciation to the following donors and sponsors:

#### **Anchor - Ventana Glass**

#### **Katharine Batiste**

If you would like to make a financial contribution to the Diocesan Council, please mail your check or money order made payable to SSVdP Diocesan Council of Austin to:

SSVdP  
PO Box 9070  
Austin, TX 78766

Or donate securely online at:

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

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## Conference Spotlight

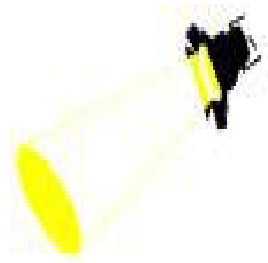
**Featured Conference:** Holy Family Conference, Copperas Cove

**Conference President:** Margaret Marshall

**Conference Was Established:** June 1996

**Current Number of Members:** 28 (17 Active, 11 Associate)

**Pastor:** Fr. James Robertson



**Services & Special Works Provided by the Conference to the Community:** Holy Family has a food pantry that operates 4 days per week, and serves over 200 families a month. Holy Family also participates in a Thanksgiving basket project with several other community organizations. In the Fall, Holy Family sponsors a Coat Drive for needy children.

**A Memorable Story from the Holy Family Conference:** Adreé Basnett is a founding member of the Holy Family Conference. She is originally from France, and has 12 grandchildren and 13 great – grandchildren. She has a heart of gold, and works tirelessly with the clients of the Holy Family Conference. A shy, 3-year old little girl Jane and her father used to come to the Conference’s food pantry. The family was from Puerto Rico, and both Jane and her father had limited English usage; however, Jane & Adreé formed an instant friendship. Adreé always had hugs and special presents for Jane, and Jane always looked forward to coming to the pantry to see her friend. Through her work in the SSVdP food pantry, Adreé was able to encourage Jane’s father to return to the Church, and he eventually enrolled Jane in Catechism classes. Jane’s family returned to Puerto Rico, and when they first moved, Jane would call Adreé and cry because she missed her friend so much. Jane is now 9 years old, and since returning to Puerto Rico, she has made her first Holy Communion. She still keeps in touch with Adreé and recently phoned on Mother’s Day to tell her how much she loves her. What began as a Vincentian reaching out to a shy little girl has turned into a loving friendship that has lasted six years and counting. Adreé has truly given Jane the priceless gifts of love, respect, and dignity, which will most likely stay with her throughout her life and which she will hopefully one day pass on to others.

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## Please Join Us in Prayer For...

Ralph & Linda Hassell (Ft. Worth Council)  
Jan Urban – Allen  
The Successful Expansion of the VDP  
The Pastors of our SSVdP Conference Parishes  
Our Bishop, Pope, and other church leaders  
The 2007 National Meeting Planning  
The family of Paul Lee, brother of Brigid Larson



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## Your Information Goes Here

We want to include information about your Conference in the next issue of the *Herald*. The “Conference News” section, is designed to feature Vincentian news, such as births (child, grandchild, etc), marriages, anniversaries, retirements, awards, and special honors, as well as condolences and special prayer requests.

If you would like to submit information to this column, please email the details to Heather at [svdpaustincouncil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:svdpaustincouncil@sbcglobal.net).

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## Home Repair Program

The Home Repair Program, a ministry of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, provides needed home repairs for those financially or physically unable to make their homes habitable. This program applies to only those who own their home and live within the Austin Diocese. The services available include exterior weatherproofing, minor roofing, plumbing, carpentry, electrical and heating repairs. Society members, community volunteers and licensed contractors perform all repairs at no cost to the homeowner.



The Home Repair Program is in need of capable and willing volunteers to assist with this important ministry. For more information, to volunteer, or to refer a homeowner to the program, contact the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at (512) 264 - 3968.

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## Voice of the Poor Committee

The Voice of the Poor (VOTP) Committee meets every other third Tuesday of the Month at the Austin Diocesan Council Office at 7 p.m. Our next meeting is July 18. All Vincentians are welcomed. The Voice of the Poor meets to discuss social policy, working with other interfaith organizations, and legislation affecting the poor. We seek to bring social change for those alienated, forgotten, and unable to speak for themselves. We are a non-partisan group who base our philosophy upon the social teachings of the Catholic Church. Contact John Sauer at TYR911@hotmail.com, or (512) 251-7569 for more information.



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## Save the Dates

Date(s)	Event	Location
June 12	Diocesan Council Meeting	Diocesan Council Office, Austin
June 30 – July 1	South Central Regional Meeting	San Antonio
July 1 – July 31	Threads for Hope	Throughout the Austin Diocese
July 18	Voice of the Poor Meeting	Diocesan Council Office, Austin
Aug. 8	Diocesan Council Meeting	Diocesan Council Office, Austin
Aug. 30 – Sept. 3	2006 National Meeting	Indianapolis
Sept. 23	2006 Feast Day Celebration	St. Theresa Parish, Austin

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## Tune In

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocesan Council of Austin supports the mission of Relevant Radio, and invites all Vincentians to tune in regularly. Be sure to listen in & hear our Society announcement on the air, made possible by our sponsor, [Anchor – Ventana Glass](#).



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