

St. Vincent de Paul

Winter 2013

Volume 8, Issue 1

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

Fourth Annual Light the Winter Fires Tapping Success



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Upcoming Events

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
February 9th, 2013
5:15pm - 7:30pm

On Sunday, Oct 21, 2012 we held our annual Light the Winter Fires Dinner Auction at the Rogue Valley Country Club from 4pm-7:30 pm. The Sunday afternoon fundraiser seemed to be a perfect time for our supporters as we had over 224 in attendance and everyone appeared to have a great time. We had some items for a silent auction that did very well, along with an ice breaker of heads or tails that loosen everyone up for our pre-dinner entertainment. This year we had the St Vinny's Tap-a-Tooties dancing to the Broadway favorite "ONE". Led by dancer extraordinaire, Kathy Begley, it was performed to perfection by Maureen Henderson, Pat Dumas, Socorro Hallaway and Tedde Ridley. When Kathy Begley was asked about their experience of dancing she said, "We really enjoyed

The St. Vinny's Tap-a-Tooties wow the audience during 2012 Light the Winter Fires Dinner Auction

being on stage and our practice time was always fun filled." Kathy and Maureen both had prior experience, Kathy as a dancer and Maureen as an actress. The audience was very appreciative of the ladies performance as they showed with their lengthy applause. Thank you again ladies for your hard work and great debut.

We acknowledged Dave Moosman, when Len Hebert presented him with the St Vincent de Paul, Len Hebert, Humanitarian Award for 2012. Medford City Councilman Bob Strosser read a resolution by Mayor Gary Wheeler making October 21, 2012 Dave Moosman Day. Dave received the accolade with humility, a few tears and few words. Thank you Dave for your almost twenty years of endless service to the needy.

Light the Winter Fires... Continued

Another person recognized by St Vincent de Paul with a plaque, was Rich Hansen for his tremendous work in raising funds for our capital campaign starting in 2004 and his ongoing grant writing, which this year alone raised almost \$200,000. Thank you again, Rich.

Everyone must have had a good time because with a very lively Live Auction, coupled with our raffles, silent auction and ice breaker, we exceeded our last year amount of over \$45,000.

Thank you for all those who attended, to all the volunteers who serve the needy day in and day out and especially the wonderful people who met for months to make this event be the success it was again. Here are just a few of those who helped: Garth and Rosemary Harrington, Fran Cox-Davis, Tedde Ridley, Kathy Begley, Len Hebert, Susan Burke, Kay Stormberg, Al Zon, Nick Katsouros and many others who answered the call to help. God Bless You All Always.

St Vincent de Paul National Assembly

This past August 29th - September 1st, I attended the St Vincent de Paul Society National Assembly in Seattle, Washington. I was impressed with the attendance of over 500 Vincentians, mostly council and Diocesan council presidents. We listened to speakers, attended committee meetings and workshops, and had the opportunity to celebrate daily mass. I was uplifted by the positive comments and the obvious desire by all to serve anyway they could. The Vincentian family is very alive, active, and serving Christ by serving all.

One keynote speaker was Sheila Gilbert, our National President, who shared her thoughts on the Assembly theme "Hope In Hard Times: We'll Be

Letter from the President

Hello all you wonderful Vincentians. This year seems to have gone by like a lightning bolt. Look quick because it will be gone. We had another great year in the store thanks to the hard work of the all volunteers working day in and day out. Under the leadership of



Karen McNeilly and John Hoffman along with the cadre of so many others, the collectible sale was through the roof successful as well as other sales days and events. The Christmas season sales seem headed in the same successful direction. A BIG OORAH for all of you.

The kitchen crews have changed some over this year but through it all, under the steady leadership of Len Hebert and Richard Morley, they have fed probably more than 60,000 people. Kudos are due them for their perseverance and "make it happen" attitude for providing such a basic need as food. They also partnered with the Urban Rest Stop to give access to the dining room at 8am to all those who come early to the Urban Rest Stop, where that became an overcrowding problem. The Urban Rest Stop has set new records almost every month in providing the shower and laundry services as well as the camaraderie as only they can. They are now a "Special Work" under the council with T.C. and LeeMyers as well as Bill Holloway and Dave Moosman coordinating this much needed service.

Social Services also seems to have served more people with their "we care" approach. Socorro Holloway along with Phil Horner and Dorothy Groth, has created an atmosphere where volunteers can thrive in their efforts to help prevent homelessness, provide

Letter from the President... continued

medications, clothing, furniture or housewares, even id's or how to pursue help from other agencies. Coupled with the office staff, under Kathy Begley, the needy who come to us, are helped by these wonderful volunteers beyond measure just by being there to answer questions and give direction.

The pantry saw the departure of Charlie and Betty Burgess with their retirement and a party to commemorate their many years of service. All the pantry volunteers have stepped up to meet the challenge that change brings. Bob and Deb Christian are doing the ordering and Tedde Ridley is still coordinating with the Medford Food Project and all the great volunteers keep showing up to do what needs doing so people keep getting their food bags twice monthly as well as emergency food bags. Hats off to them all.

The shelter, now under the capable leadership of Kathy Morgan, just had the retirement of Gloria Ray from the conference. Her husband Glenn will continue to serve and with Dave Moosman, Al Zon and manager Nick Katasouros, families and single women keep getting the help to stay off the streets, if only for thirty days every six months. They almost silently keep helping people at a desperate point in their lives and it is often a difficult thing to do.

The Home Visit conferences at Our Lady of the Mountain, lead by Chici Cutting serving Ashland, Talent areas and the St Augustine lead by Chris Forsythe serving Central Point, Medford and northern Jackson county areas, made a huge difference in the lives of those they visited in their own homes, sometimes even in the streets. Often the feedback from those helped can be very immediate, such as securing housing or providing rent or utility relief, medications, food or even a much needed household repair. When they can help others where they currently are, that is exactly how Bl. Frederic Ozanam and the very first Vincentians

acted. I thank them for their adaptability and persistence. The Treasurer's office, under the excellent and professional guidance of Financial Vice President Mario Las Prova and managed by Treasurer Jim Van Orsow, has produced more comprehensive and solidified procedures and a long term budget plan to help us all. Thank you all for all the support and hard efforts that help all those we serve.

Also, please pray for all our Vincentians who are ill or challenged to perform their avocation, especially, Dee Stormberg, Charlie Burgess, Mary Waller, Sister Barbara Hehr, Joyce Poston, Mary Gulrich and myself as I am recuperating very well from my recent back surgery. May we all have a very Merry Christmas and even a brighter New Year for the needy.

Dennis Mihocko

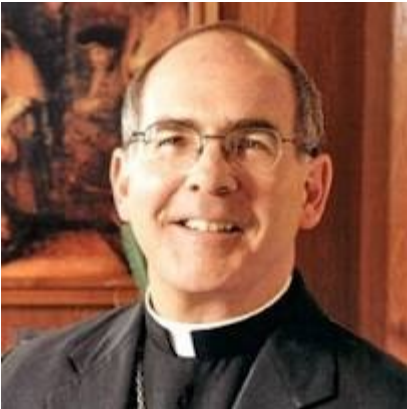
SVDP National Assembly... continued

There". She emphasized "our ongoing mission to seek and find the forgotten and bring them to Christ's love". She stressed the importance of celebrating what we do, working to increase our capacity to serve and praying for the Holy Spirit to guide us in everything".

Another keynote speaker was Seattle Archbishop Peter Sartain who impressed upon us the need for love in all we do, especially in our service to each other, and those we are called to serve. He also spoke of the "Gospel on five fingers: You...Did...It...For...Me". It was a powerful address and provoked much thought and discussion.

The mass I attended was co-celebrated by Archbishop Sartain, as well as numerous Vincentian priests and deacons. The music, the prayers and the warm gathering of Vincentians made for a moving

SVDP National Assembly... continued



Seattle Archbishop Peter Sartain

and encouraging experience for myself, and I believe all who attended.

There was an opportunity to informally discuss, during breaks and at lunch, some of the issues concern-

ing all us Vincentians from all over the country. Demand for services, getting more volunteers, funding for the National and the International Councils, and how to continue serving when we feel empty, are just some of the issues voiced. The feeling of a shared experience was both comforting and encouraging.

I was able to briefly visit the “Urban Rest Stop” in Seattle, after which Dave Moosman has named and patterned our own shower and laundry facility. I took some pictures and spoke a little with a new helper there. The facility is the part of the ground floor of a low income housing apartment building run by the county and the “Urban Rest Stop” is a separate entity allowed to use the space.

Overall, I was impressed by the National Assembly, the information, and the experience it afforded me. I may not attend again but this one was within driving distance and I could not pass up the opportunity. In the future we can work toward making this more accessible for other Vincentians to attend. The message I took from the conference: *We don't have to do it all, just do what we do with love and humility.*

Written by Dennis Mihocko

Charlie and Betty Burgess Retire

The Pantry, Shepherd of the Valley conference, is facing a significant challenge. After seven years in the pantry and five years as President and Vice-president, Charlie and Betty Burgess are retiring to enjoy a little more of their time and of each other. With Charlie having gone through a lengthy illness and still recuperating from the surgery which has him on the road to recovery, they decided it was time for more time together. Their endless energy and tireless hours of hard work have produced a pantry second to none. As Philip Yates, nutrition director at Access, said at Charlie and Betty's retirement party on October 30,

“...the more than 11,000 bags of groceries given out each year makes St Vincent's pantry the largest in the area. Betty and Charlie have been really great to work with and they have always been there working to make the Medford Food Project the success it is.”

Charlie and Betty came to St Vincent's and the Pantry in 2005 at the request of Amy Stevens, Betty's former sister-in-law, who was President of the Conference. When the Pantry moved into its current location from its previous cramped quarters in what is now the front offices, the increased space proved invaluable to meet the increasing demand for food bags. In May of 2007, Charlie and Betty stepped up and became the President and Vice President and with the wonderful pantry volunteers they orchestrated an almost twofold increase in the yearly number of food bags from 6000 to over 11,000 in 5 years.

Charlie and Betty have lived in the area all of the lives. Charlie was born in Yreka in 1928 and graduated high school with Jim Borgnis who later became Betty's first husband. Charles worked at the saw

Charlie and Betty Burgess... continued

mills, a butcher shop, Safeway Foods, had his own ranch for 23 years and worked at Timber Products at the same time.

Betty was born and raised in Medford and when Amy Stevens married Betty's brother, they became sisters-in-law. Betty went to Yreka to babysit her brother and Amy's children, which led to her introduction to Jim Borgnis, Charlie's fishing and basketball buddy. Betty and Jim married and settled in Yreka. They also became good friends with Charlie and his wife Lorraine. Jim worked for the city of Yreka and Betty was assistant dietician at Siskiyou General Hospital. In 1992, Betty's husband Jim and Charlie's wife Lorraine both died within six months of each other. It seems the years of friendship and the shared loss of spouses and friends drew Betty and Charlie together and over a year later, Betty and Charlie were married. Between them they have 10 children, 9 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

In 2005, they decided to move to Medford, where after a few months, Betty's former sister-in-law, Amy Stevens, coaxed them into joining the pantry conference, of which she was President. And that is how Betty and Charlie came to be so active in the pantry. With Betty's work experience in a hospital kitchen and Charlie's experience with Safeway, a butcher shop and lumber warehousing, they were naturals for the calling. Together with the extraordinary help of volunteers like Marge Mare, Ron and Lou Spinis, Bob, Deb and Jasmine Christian, Dave and Carolyn Dorman, Mike Neimeyer, Kathleen Sayer, Rich and Donna Thelan, Bob and Irene Vaughn, Tedde Ridley, Beth Hunter, Louise Brandes, Jim Betschart, Mary Young and Kathy Mohr, Betty and Charlie ran an



Betty and Charlie Burgess receiving well-deserved awards from SVDP President Dennis Mihocko

amazing pantry service as well as picking up at a moment's notice produce, and other food donations and items from retailers for the store and auctions. Betty's wonderful skill at decorating and creating gift baskets is something we will be very hard pressed to replace.

We have several new volunteers helping in the Pantry but the past 5 years will be a time to remember fondly. It was love in motion to see how well the give-away days were organized and flowed. Nothing is perfect and just as a few sour notes does not ruin a fine symphony, neither did a few problems affect the results of hard working and Christ motivated volunteers.

Betty and Charlie labored long and hard to provide for those in need and their works of kindness will not be forgotten. We gave each of them a plaque at their retirement party October 30 to commemorate their excellent service to St Vincent de Paul and those we serve. It was not adequate to express all our love and gratitude but it will be a reminder to them that there was a time when we shared ourselves with each other. Thank you good and faithful servants.

Glenn and Gloria Ray

“Let’s fall in love, why shouldn’t we fall in love? Our hearts are made of it, let’s take a chance. Why be afraid of it?” - Frank Sinatra

It was early 1945. WWII was in its final throes, when Glenn Ray, a country boy from Oregon reared around logging camps in the isolated eastern part of the state, met the beautiful Italian girl from the Bronx.

The couple would eventually become founding members of St. Vincent de Paul in Medford. Helping out in the dining room in the old rectory, starting the budding food bank, voting to lease the building where the office and dining room are now located, creating the men’s shelter in an old garage and working in the new Urban Rest Stop.

Gloria, is retiring from the St. Anthony shelter conference where she served as secretary for many years. Glenn will stay on. Their journey to the Society was a long one, their work with the poor spanning more than 30 years, but the charitable spirit has been there since the beginning.

During the war, Glenn was the head engineer on a PT boat, that was a mere 80 feet long and 20 feet wide, packed with enough ammo and artillery to blow up a submarine. He was assigned to New York City for a couple of months, and ended up being the best man at a wedding, when the first best man had to ship out.

“I didn’t know anyone there, except for the bride and groom,” Glenn says. Everyone was speaking Italian and I was lost.” Until Gloria walked over to the table and started talking to him. They clicked. They danced. They tried saying goodbye. They headed to the subway five times, but kept going back to the party.

Gloria, 19, came from a strict Italian family and had never dated. She had tons of friends and had been student body president of her high school (which was larger than the town she and Glenn ended up in.)

While Glenn was fighting and sweating in the South Pacific, Gloria was working for the prestigious Bank of Manhattan Company dressed in tailor-made uniforms and dealing with the elite of New York City. She also was supporting her elderly parents

She spent her time going to Frank Sinatra concerts and enjoying the city. Glenn grew up in the woods, felling trees, driving cat, and eating meals in the camp tent. “I joined the Navy to get out of the mud.”

They married April 18, 1945. It was a whirlwind romance.

“I didn’t ask her to marry me, I told her she was going to,” Glenn says. Gloria agreed, but Glenn had to become Catholic before they could wed. He did.

The newlyweds took the train across the states to live on Glenn’s family ranch in Lakeview.

“It was a shock,” Gloria said. She actually saw the night sky for the first time, minus the lights of Manhattan. She also saw cows, pigs and other animals up close and not in a zoo.

There was no inside plumbing (only chamber pots and an outhouse). But the biggest surprise was that Gloria was pregnant, something she had discovered when she suffered morning sickness on the train ride.

They moved Gloria’s folks to Lakeview, and eventually got there own little house on the ranch. “But I would still day dream about Sinatra and the city,” she says.

They traveled many roads together. Glenn, his brother and his dad leased 2,000 acres to farm. But it was never profitable. Then they built a sawmill, but couldn’t compete with the larger mills, and went broke. By this time, they had three children - Cherie, Kathy and Dion. They were heavily in debt, but not without hope. “Prayer was important. The Lord has worked in our lives tremendously,” Gloria says.

In 1955, The couple moved to Humboldt County and Gloria worked her way up to Chief Operations Officer. Glenn got a job pulling Green Chain at Cal Pacific Lumber and ended up as the millwright. They paid off all their debts. In 1979, the mills closed, and at age 57, Glenn was unemployed.



Glenn and Gloria

SVDP Volunteer Annual Picnic

The St. Vincent de Paul Volunteer Annual Picnic is Back!

Rekindling the annual St. Vincent de Paul Volunteer picnic was a hit! God blessed us with a beautiful day to get all of our hard-working volunteers together for fellowship and fun.

We began with a great, tasty potluck lunch.

St. Vincent's has lots of fantastic chefs. (The frog-eyed salad was excellent!) Thank you to St. Vincent's for providing the good fried chicken and jojos, the drinks and desserts. Yummy!

During lunch we enjoyed a game testing our historical chops; we asked questions about St. Vincent de Paul's life. (We've got some real history buffs at St. Vincent's.) Then it was on to a couple of fun games (nothing physical as I promised) – a purse and pocket treasure hunt and the infamous matchbox game. Lots of beautiful prizes left the park with happy volunteers.

And of course, what is a St. Vincent's picnic gathering without bingo and raffle tickets?! Lots of food, fellowship, and fun; Thank you to all the volunteers (about 90-100) who came and made the event special!

A special thank you to the “event crew” for all of your efforts: Dennis and “The Truck”, Joshua Johnson (St. Vincent's very own human forklift), Aaron Caldwell, Beth Lowenbough, Joannie Chun, Deanne Lewis.

Without you the picnic would not have happened.

Love Ya All,

Sista Di (A.K.A. Diane Johnson)



“The Crew” L to R: Joannie Chun, Josh Johnson, Beth Lowenbough, and Diane Johnson. Not shown: Aaron Caldwell and Deanne Lewis

Glenn and Gloria Ray... continued

His folks had become caretakers of property in Sam's Valley, and the owner offered to sell a parcel of land and the house to Glenn and Gloria. When Glenn's folks died, he decided to remodel the home for himself and his *bride*. Gloria stayed working in Arcata for a couple of years during the remodel. In 1982, Glenn “fired Gloria from her job” and she joined him in Oregon. He said: “I will work, but I will work for love not wages.” And the volunteering began.

During those years, they helped found SVDP, became Third Order Franciscans, volunteered each year at orphanages in Mexico. Gloria started Las Amiga's, women who helped the poor and even managed to build a high school in Baja.

Today they live in that same house in Sam's Valley and have been married for 67 years. Their love of the Lord has been the glue that kept them together. And who can describe their life better than Mr. Sinatra?

*“I've lived a life that's full
I traveled each and ev'ry highway”*

Written by Kathy Morgan

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SVDP Hours

Office & Social Services

541-772-3828

Monday–Friday, 10 - 2

Thrift Store

541-779-3648

Monday–Saturday, 10 - 4

Dining Room

Monday–Saturday, 11 - 1

Pantry

Last two Fridays of each month, 10 - 1

La Clinica

Medical - 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1-6pm,
warehouse in rear parking lot

Dental - Every Thursday, 1-6pm,
warehouse in rear parking lot

Dental Van

Call office for hours, 541-772-3828, ext 6

Large furniture pickup

Call store to schedule, first floor only

Full Color Newsletter

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Email stvincentmedford@gmail.com for full color newsletter as a pdf file in your email instead of being sent by snail mail. Please put "SVDP newsletter" in the email subject line and include your full name(s). You'll receive it days before it arrives by mail, and save printing and shipping costs to SVDP.

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