

The Diocesan “Pastoral Plan” and Our Society

More than 30 Vincentians attended the annual Council Business Meeting on January 31. The focus was on how this council and the 30 conferences can work with others in their parishes to implement the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. A summary of the Pastoral Plan was presented, and then regional groups met to discuss how their conferences might respond.

Sr. Pat Mitchell, the Director of the Diocesan Office of Parish and Planning, shared that through the Pastoral Plan, the Catholic Church in Santa Clara County is attempting to focus its efforts in a few critical areas. Bishop McGrath gathered information from more than 17,000 parishioners over a two-year period in order to prioritize goals for the ministries within the diocese.

Sr. Pat shared the three areas of ministry which have been identified as the critical pastoral issues in the San Jose Diocese: Lay Leadership, Youth and Young Adults, and the Social Justice Teaching of the Catholic Church.

Recruiting, developing and supporting lay leaders are seen as necessary components in meeting the changing needs of our Church. Sr. Pat mentioned that Vincentians are seen as a big part of this. Collaboration among laity, religious and clergy will be fostered and supported. A planned and organized system to attract the most qualified people will be developed, with emphasis on building skills and systems.

Attracting and engaging youth and young adults in the life and leadership of the Church has also been identified as a priority. The necessary financial and staffing resources will be allocated, with meaningful and highly visible roles for youth and young adults established in churches within the diocese. Young people will be involved in dialogue and partnership to develop new forms of ministry.

The Catholic Church of Santa Clara County will help all Catholics to live out Catholic Social Justice teaching in areas such as immigration, labor, housing, and the dignity of human life. Opportunities will be provided for direct action and advocacy as solutions are sought for the critical economic issues such as housing, immigration, and just compensation.

In order to fully support the Church’s participation in the mission of Christ, the diocese plans to undertake aggressive action to:

- Organize parishes in new ways,
- Better share existing resources,
- Increase ministerial leadership, and
- Enhance the ability to communicate effectively between and among the Diocese and parishes.

Questions may be addressed to Sr. Pat Mitchell, SFCC at 408-983-0143 or via e-mail at: MitchellP@dsj.org.

The Mission of the San Jose Diocese is to “seek to inspire the people of this Valley to live the values taught by Jesus Christ, inspiring them to integrity and action.”



*Above: Conference attendees discuss the Pastoral Plan.
Below: Sr. Pat Mitchell presents the diocesan mission.*

1st Quarter, 2004 ■ Standing Together



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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Vincentians and Friends:

People like you provide a lifeline and a last defense for the thousands in need who come to St. Vincent de Paul throughout the year. Your generosity and kindness exemplify the Gospel call of love your neighbor.

With the opening of our new facility—and its bright promise—also came the economic reality of 2003. The Valley has lost more jobs than any County in the nation since the Great Depression and San Jose, in particular, has lost more jobs than the entire State of California over the last two years. The economic reality of the Valley has forced the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to cut back our service hours. In fact, a number of our donors have also lost their jobs and have had to cut back on their donations.

The poor and the marginalized are the first to suffer in an economic downturn and are the last to recover. We probably have not seen the bottom of the government cutbacks yet, and the alternatives proposed in Washington and Sacramento are inadequate to meet the need of those struggling. However, your continued support will help minimize service reductions and help us restore some of our critical assistance to our neighbors in need.

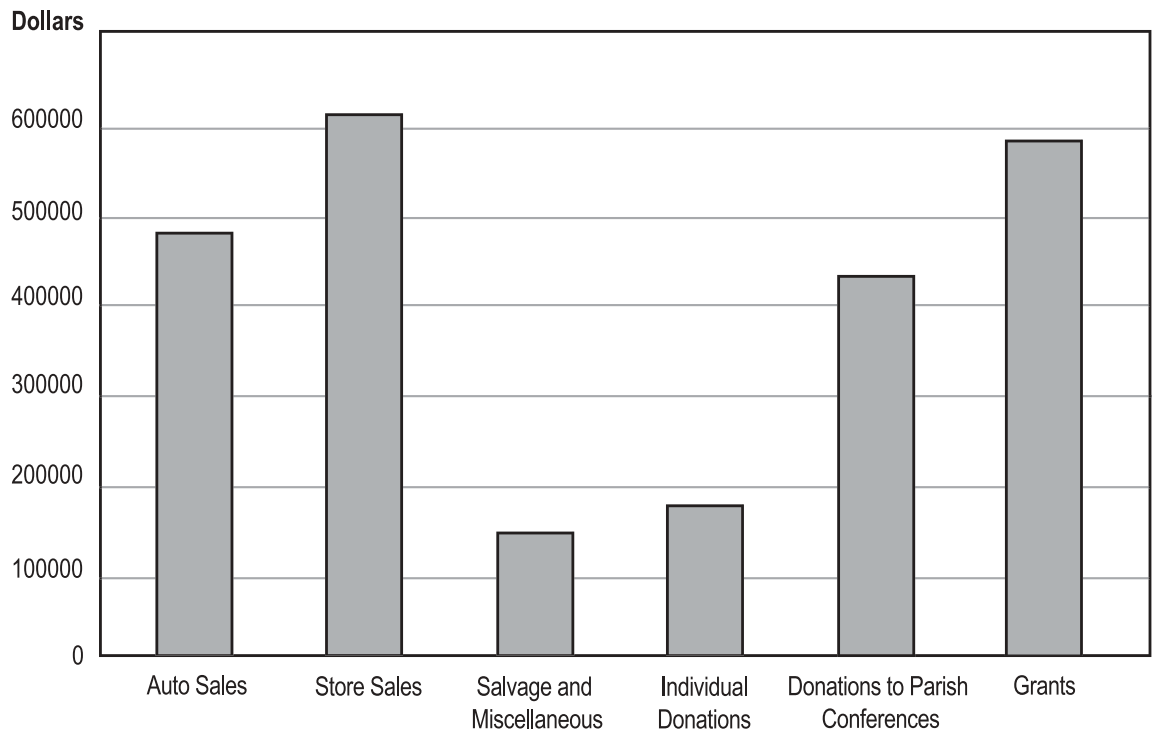
You have my heartfelt gratitude for the gifts you have given us. God bless you and keep you for the concern you show to the poor.

Thanks, Steve Pehanich



Despite the economy, with careful budgeting and your support we were able to move into a new building in June, 2003.

St. Vincent de Paul Income for 2003



Thrift Store News



The new San Jose store at 749 Story Road. Board members left to right: Kevin Krave, John Emmett and John Rinaldi.

Sales from your donations to our thrift stores accounted for 25% of our income last year. If you have items you would like to donate you may drop them off at one of our three stores (see back for phone and location.) We will gladly receive donations in the San Jose or Gilroy stores Tuesday-Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm or in

the Mountain View store Monday-Sunday 9:00am-3:00pm. We recommend calling before you arrive to make sure that someone will be available. If you have items too large to deliver, please call 408-298-7290, extension 10 to make arrangements for pick-up.



“We should love the poor with peculiar affection, beholding in them the very person of Christ, and showing them the same consideration that He did.”

St. Vincent de Paul



Making Donations Even Easier

Electronic Fund Transfers

You can now make donating easier and faster, saving trips to the post office or the bank! Sign up for EFT (electronic fund transfer) and have funds sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Society directly from your checking account. The donation is transferred directly from your bank to our bank.

On-line donations can now be made to St. Vincent de Paul on ParishPay. This is an on-line donation site now used by many groups in the San Jose diocese; all information you provide is fully protected.

To enter either a one-time donation or a pledge, go to our website at www.svdp.org/santaclara and click on “on-line donations.” Then click on “ParishPay.” Follow the guided questions to have your

contribution come from either your checking account or credit card. Or Kathie Sheehy can process your EFT or credit card donations by calling 408-298-7290, extension 17.

Digital Stock Transfers

Either an Electronic (Digital) Stock Transfer or a stock transfer through your own broker can be made to St. Vincent de Paul; the Digital Stock Transfer (DTC) number is 0235. Questions can be answered by Francine Herbner at RBC Dain Rauscher; her phone number is 408-947-3327.



Thanks for all of your contributions in 2003!

Top Hat Society: \$10,000 +

Yvonne Hebert
Joseph Tolfree
Wakerly Family Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Robert Bettencourt
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We couldn't have made it without you!

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St. Mary's Church, Los Gatos, Society of SVdP

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Peninsula Community Foundation

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Valley Foundation

Wells Fargo Foundation

Government Grants

\$2000-\$150,000

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Santa Clara County Social Services

Community Development Block Grants

City of Los Altos

City of Palo Alto

City of Santa Clara

City of San Jose

We apologize for any omissions or errors.


Please allow us to correct our records by contacting Kathie Sheehy via phone: 408-298-7290, extension 17
e-mail: ksheehy@svdp.org
or fax: 408-993-0885. Thank you!

Thank YOU



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
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www.svdp.org/santaclara
 408-298-7290, Ext. 17

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Andrew Tait, Manager
 1141 So. First Street (So. of Keyes)
 (408) 971-9648

Thrift Stores

Mountain View Store

Virginia Caldeira, Manager
 2044-A Old Middlefield Way
 Mountain View, CA 94043
 (650) 903-0438

Gilroy Store

Grace Ward, Manager
 7680 Monterey St.
 Gilroy, CA 95020
 (408) 842-5524

San José Store

Stardette Hartley, Manager
 749 Story Road @ Remillard
 San José, CA 95122
 (408) 993-9500



2004 Calendar

- March 10** Board of Directors' Quarterly Meeting
6:00pm-9:00pm
- March 11** Ribbon Cutting for Kelley Park CRC
11:00am-3:00pm
- April 3** Easter Bonnets & Baskets 10:00am-2:00pm
- April 23** Founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- April 24** Council: Ozanam School
TBD Council Meetings
- May 8** Regional Planning Groups
- June 9** Board of Directors' Quarterly Meeting
6:00pm-9:00pm
- June 23-27** Western Region Meeting, Eugene, OR
- July 17** Summer Social-Location TBA