

# The Vincentian



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



SPECIAL EDITION: 2019 PROVINCE REPORT

## TOUCHING HEARTS. REBUILDING LIVES.

**YOUR SUPPORT OF THE WALKING WITH THE POOR CAMPAIGN  
ENLIVENS REBUILD CENTER IN NEW ORLEANS**

Your generosity directly impacts the poor who come to the Rebuild Center at St. Joseph Parish in New Orleans. For nearly two decades, the Center has been a source of hope for many in the community, including Juston, whose life was changed by the care he received.

Then, Juston came to the Rebuild Center at St. Joseph Church. He received services that helped restore his health and empowered him to find a career. More importantly, he found the love and compassion of Jesus in the volunteers and other clients at the Center.

Juston became homeless at a young age. He never thought it could happen to him. He was unemployed and living on the streets. Every day was a struggle to survive. On cold nights, he would drape a blanket over his tent and light candles for warmth. He avoided homeless shelters, afraid that someone would steal his legal documentation or belongings. He was losing hope that he could turn his life around.

*"I was homeless for four years... I stayed under the Ponchartrain Expressway. On cold nights, I covered my tent with a blanket and burned candles inside to stay warm. When I went to the Rebuild Center, everything changed."*

The Rebuild Center at St. Joseph Church provides a safe environment, resources and support for the homeless, the unemployed, the sick, suffering and vulnerable.

Juston is only one of the hundreds of people who visit the Rebuild Center each year, looking for a fresh start. And your support makes all of this possible.

Rooted in the charism of St. Vincent, the Rebuild Center is dedicated to providing a safe environment, resources and support for the homeless, the unemployed, the sick, suffering and vulnerable. It is a place where people in need are treated with respect and dignity, where they can receive the care and services they require.

(SEE REBUILD CENTER,  
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## REBUILD CENTER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Your support helps provide nourishment, personal hygiene and basic medical care for guests. Your generosity also helps the Center provide legal services, financial assistance, career guidance and computer access.

*Your support helps provide nourishment, personal hygiene and basic medical care for guests.*

Thanks in part to your support, a seed was planted and partnerships have been cultivated, resulting in a collaborative effort among agencies to expand ministry to the poor and homeless. As a supporter of the Vincentians, you partner with us in the work of touching hearts and rebuilding lives – at the Rebuild Center and throughout the Western Province.



## DEAR FRIENDS,

The September issue of “The Vincentian” highlights the many ways the priests, brothers, and collaborators of the Congregation of the Mission impact the lives of the poor, both through direct service and by effecting changes to those systems that create poverty to begin with.

During our Bicentennial year, we began our *Walking with the Poor* grant program, which continues now, distributing \$100,000 annually to direct service programs in which our priests and brothers are involved. In these pages you’ll read about the results of this program, made possible through the generosity of collaborators like you.

*Thank you for your ongoing support of our shared Vincentian mission - you are making a difference!*

We also want to tell you about our new priests! This past May we celebrated two new priests in Kenya and one in the United States. Their training is largely due to the contributions made by our donors over many, many years.

The ministries we are able to offer to the Church, following Christ evangelizing the poor, would not be possible without our collaborators, who for decades and decades have been our partners in mission.

Thank you!

*Fr. Ray*

Fr. Ray Van Dorpe, C.M.  
Provincial Superior

# 150

Priests and Brothers serving throughout the United States and the Region of Kenya

# 5,000

active subscribers to the “God Minute” app

# 100

parish missions preached across the U.S.

# Spreading the gospel...

## MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

## REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

### GOD MINUTE PODCAST



Vincentians are finding new ways to use digital platforms to share the Gospel with the next generation of disciples. The Vincentian’s online presence continues to grow under the leadership of Fr. Ron Hoyer, C.M., who recently launched an app and podcast focused on bringing God’s presence into people’s everyday lives.

The app, God Moments, is centered around the idea of encouraging people to take time – even a few minutes – for daily prayer. “We try to overcome people’s concerns that they don’t have time for prayer or that they are unsure of how to pray,” Fr. Ron suggests. “The God Moments app invites you, through a notification on your phone, to take a moment to pray three times a day – to give God your time and attention.”

The app has already attracted more than 5,000 active users. In addition, Fr. Ron recently launched God Minute – a prayer podcast based on a simplified version of the Divine Office of the Church. “Many good people – myself included – struggle to give God time in prayer,” says Fr. Ron. We’re able to meet this need, this desire, to draw people into the holy while still being immersed in their lives.”



## ASSOCIATION OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

### A PLACE OF INSPIRATION AND PEACE

A milestone year, 2018 marked the successful completion of a \$6 million capital campaign for the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. The sacrificial support of members of

the Association of the Miraculous Medal made possible extensive renovations of the shrine and campus. Improvements include an updated rosary walk, new statues and sacred art, restorations for the original cabin church and grotto, and updates to the Shrine.

*The sacrificial support of members of the Association of the Miraculous Medal made possible extensive renovations of the shrine and campus.*

More than 2,000 donations were received from AMM members in every state and from across the world. If you have contributed in any way, financially or through your prayerful support, you have our eternal appreciation and prayers for the intercession of our Blessed Mother for the graces you seek through her Son, Jesus.



## Planting Seeds for the Future

Thanks to your ongoing support, the Church continues to flourish in East Africa. Progress in the Region of Kenya includes building two new wells, establishing a training program for locals learning to farm the land, ongoing parish work and outreach to the poor.

*Progress in the Region of Kenya includes building two new wells, establishing a training program for locals learning to farm the land, ongoing parish work and outreach to the poor.*

Here is just one example of a life changed by your support:

Grace first visited DePaul Centre in 2016. A single mother of two, she was living with her alcoholic mother in the slums of Kawangware. She was unable to provide for her children or afford their tuition. Close to despair, she turned to the Vincentians for help.

She received counseling and spiritual guidance, a modest home and furnishings, and a little help to start a small business of her own. Grace now runs a small stand selling handbags and clothing. She is self-sufficient and no longer needs the support of the Vincentians.

Your generosity is planting seeds of hope that will flourish in Kenya for generations to come. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to those we serve in East Africa.



# SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN PRISON AND BEYOND

WITH YOUR HELP, FORMER INMATES TRANSITION TO A STABLE LIFE

Women in prison and during re-entry are among the most neglected members of our society – the very people Vincentians are called to serve. This past year, grants from the *Walking with the Poor* Ministry Fund have been awarded to help provide a mentoring program for women transitioning out of prison.

With your support, this new collaboration with the Center for Spirituality at Work helps to respond to the pressing needs of this population by fostering the development of decision-making and life skills. Originally established by Fr. Gary Mueller, C.M., Fr. Bob Schwane, C.M., and Fr. Mark Pranaitis, C.M., this work has flourished under the leadership of Dr. Vie Thorgen, executive director, and Fr. Tom Nelson, C.M., program spiritual director.

*This work of the Vincentians, their lay collaborators and supporters like you is planting seeds of hope in the hearts of the women who are served.*

Volunteer mentors receive training and ongoing support in their important coaching role with women who are incarcerated or have been recently released. The program encourages personal responsibility, stronger families, social engagement and leadership development.

Mentors and former offenders work together on public education programs and advocacy efforts. The impact of this program is demonstrated by the 92% of graduates who have re-entered the community successfully, as gainfully employed and contributing members of society.

This work of the Vincentians, their lay collaborators and supporters like you is planting seeds of hope in the hearts of the women who are served. Your generosity reaches the margins of our society – the lonely, the forgotten and the vulnerable. Like St. Vincent, we meet people where they are and serve with compassion those in need of God’s love.



Serving immigrants...

## MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE MIGRANT COMMUNITY

PASTORAL MIGRATORIA PROGRAM EXPANDS WITH YOUR SUPPORT

With your support, Vincentian priests and brothers, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Chicago, are now involved with the *Pastoral Migratoria* initiative that is expanding across the nation. This program reaches people in the immigrant community, sharing Christ’s love and tenderness with those who may need it most.

The goal of the *Pastoral Migratoria* initiative is to “empower immigrants toward their formation and integration as members of society and people of faith in the one family of God.” With this goal in mind, Vincentians and their lay collaborators at Sacred Heart in Patterson, California, are reaching out to the immigrant community in new ways.

With a \$1 million grant from the Western Province and the Franz Foundation, the program is now expanding to new cities and communities across the country. This immigration ministry serves as a national model to support undocumented and documented immigrants and promote Christ’s desire for communion.

As Vincentians, we strive to create a society where every person is welcomed, valued and celebrated as Christ’s son or daughter. The *Pastoral Migratoria* program is one way to empower leaders among immigrant communities of faith and make this vision a reality.



### Celebrating Our New Priests

This past year, we celebrated the ordination of three new Vincentian priests and two transitional deacons. The ordinations, which took place in Chicago, Illinois, and Nairobi, Kenya, were the culmination of years of prayer, study, formation and pastoral service. They also were a reflection of the prayerful support of the many donors and friends who helped these men along their journey.

Your financial support helps cover the cost of education and formation, providing textbooks and prayer books, meals and housing, retreats and service opportunities. Your generosity impacts the lives of not only our new deacons and priests, but also those they will serve and encounter in their ministry for years to come. Thank you!

172  
incarcerated women  
learn life and career skills

49,000  
people fed at soup  
kitchens each year

10,000  
people received clean  
water in Kenya



Feeding the hungry...



# 2019 PROVINCIAL REPORT



\$1,687,851

Annual Development Projects

\$556,635

Bequests

\$56,335

Walking with the Poor Campaign

TOTAL:  
\$2,300,821

## SCATTERED LIKE SEEDS

Our work of serving the poor often seems like a small offering in the face of overwhelming need. But what might seem insignificant has the power of a seed, sown and cultivated, that explodes into new life and grows into something unimaginable.

*“The Father of the Poor scatters you throughout the world like seeds that sprout in arid land, like a balm of consolation for the wounded, like a fire of charity to warm so many hearts cooled by abandonment and hardened by rejection.”*

— Pope Francis to all who live the Vincentian charism on the occasion of the commemoration of St. Vincent de Paul, September 27, 2017

One life changed, one child educated, one new priest ordained . . . each gift blossoms into lives that touch many other lives, changing hearts forever. In 2019, our donors and friends have planted seeds of hope throughout the Western Province. Your support has allowed us to expand our mission, as we reach out in new ways to those most in need.

As we celebrate all we have accomplished together this past year, we renew our dedication to the work of St. Vincent – walking with the poor, the abandoned and the vulnerable.

## GIFT ALLOCATIONS

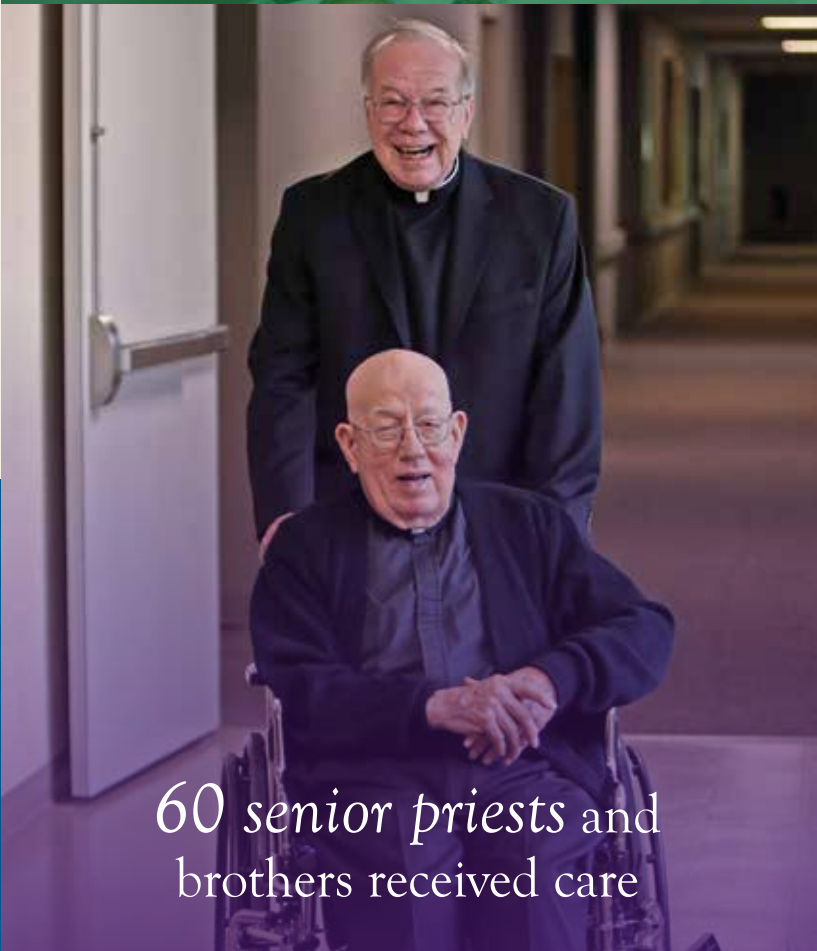
Kenya Mission	\$665,495
International Outreach to the Poor	\$549,050
Service to the Poor, Young People and Evangelization	\$497,521
Education and Formation of Priests and Brothers	\$473,152
Care for Seniors	\$115,603
Total Allocations	\$2,300,821



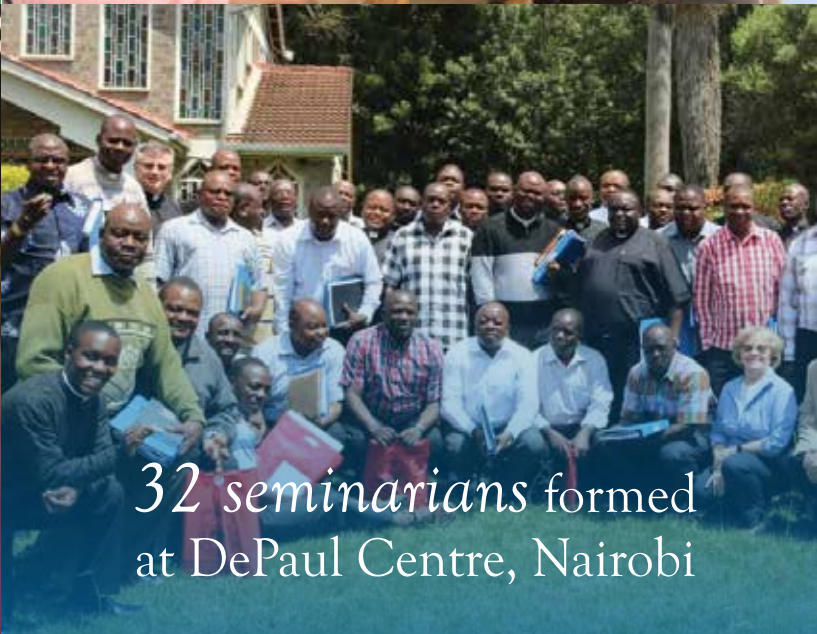
5,000 prisoners reached through Catholic Home Study



26 parishes served



60 senior priests and brothers received care



32 seminarians formed at DePaul Centre, Nairobi





# THANK YOU

Your generosity has made a difference! Gifts made by our Associates of the Little Company between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019, are listed below. Our Vincentian priests and brothers will remember you in their prayers throughout the year. Thank you to all of our Walking with the Poor campaign donors who continue to make payments on their generous pledges and are not listed in this Annual Report.



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The McCadden-McQuirk  
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The Julia Stearns Dockweiler  
Charitable Foundation

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Those listed below have made  
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Reverend Donald Lund  
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John Philpot Estate  
Dallas Richter Estate  
Shell Trading  
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Operating Co.  
Reverend Jules Yallaly, C.M.



## JOE KELLEY

For more than 53 years  
as a land developer, Joe  
Kelley has used his vision  
and leadership to create  
places for people to live

and work. And he built a legacy of  
service and generosity along the way.  
Dedicated to helping the poor, Joe  
credits his deep faith in Jesus and  
his Vincentian spirit for much of his  
success in life.

"I can't get St. Vincent out of my  
bones," Joe says. "Like Vincent, I'm  
committed to serving the homeless,  
the starving and the very poor. It  
makes you feel good to do what you  
can for people in need. St. Vincent  
taught us how to care for the poor,"  
he explains. "He was so focused on  
serving those on the margins – God's  
people. The best way we can serve  
Christ is to serve the least among us.  
It is good for the soul."



## JEFF AND MELINDA BURDS

When Jeff and Melinda  
first heard about the  
Vincentians years ago,  
they knew immediately

they wanted to get involved. Longtime  
supporters of the Western Province,  
the couple has reached out to the poor  
through a variety of Vincentian  
ministries and outreach efforts,  
including a leadership gift to the  
*Walking with the Poor* Campaign.

"We were so impressed by the way  
the Vincentians reach out to the poor,"  
Melinda explains. "It is not simply a  
handout – they really try to change  
things at the grassroots level, to lift  
families out of poverty. When you find  
something that means so much to you,  
you support it wholeheartedly," Jeff  
adds. "We have seen firsthand how  
the Vincentians use donations to have  
the greatest impact on the people  
they serve."



**CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION  
WESTERN PROVINCE**

13663 Rider Trail North  
Earth City, MO 63045

Learn more about the Congregation of the Mission Western Province,  
join us in prayer and offer your support. Visit us online at [vincentian.org](http://vincentian.org).

**YOU'RE INVITED:  
GLOBAL SLEEP-OUT TO  
END HOMELESSNESS**

On December 7, 2019, the Institute for Global Homelessness, Depaul International and members of the worldwide Vincentian Family will join together to host a global sleep-out to alleviate homelessness around the world. More than 50,000 people in more than 50 cities will sleep on the streets to raise funds to help the poor. For more information or to register for a sleep-out in your city, visit [bigsleepout.com](http://bigsleepout.com).

**GLOBAL SLEEP-OUT**

December 7, 2019  
[bigsleepout.com](http://bigsleepout.com)

