

The Vincentian



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



WE HAVE A NEW PROVINCIAL

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he Congregation of the Mission Western Province has elected Fr. Pat McDevitt, C.M. who will begin serving as Provincial Superior on July 1, 2020.



Fr. Patrick McDevitt, C.M.

Fr. Pat grew up on the south side of Chicago in a delightful Irish home with his younger sister Tracy. Neither of his parents attended college but encouraged their children to pursue their education, work hard and always be kind and polite. “Our parents were very positive people, saw the good in others and taught me to laugh and enjoy life”, said Fr. Pat.

As a 7th grade student at St. Daniel the Prophet, Fr. Pat was impressed with the very personable and dynamic priest at his parish who had a passion for social justice. The Vincentians served at his grandmother’s parish and he soon became interested in their work with the poor. He entered the Vincentian High School Seminary at Lemont where he began the long and fruitful life among

the wonderful Vincentian priests and brothers.

Fr. Pat was ordained to the priesthood in 1986, earning his Master of Divinity degree, and began his service as a parish priest at St. Vincent’s parish in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He later went to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis first as the College Dean of Students and then as the College Director of Formation. Later he earned his MS in Counseling and his Ph.D from Loyola University in Baltimore. Since 1999 he has held several positions in the Western Province fostering leadership and community development, served on the faculty of DePaul University and more recently as president of All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland and Rector and Superior of DePaul Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Comings and goings. I have often reflected on the people who come and go in our lives. More often than not, they are blessings from God. Some are a blessing that last only a short while, whereas others are blessings for a lifetime. Sometimes the blessing is apparent from the moment you meet or after a short period of time.

With other people, we discover the blessing only in hindsight. People come and go, and that is simply a fact of life.

Comings and goings. On the front page of this newsletter, you are introduced to Fr. Pat McDevitt, C.M., the incoming Provincial of the Western Province. He was elected by our confreres in March and will take office in July. You will get to know him well in the coming years. His coming, of course, means that I must go! I have served two terms as Provincial and cannot be re-elected. I will take some time for myself, and then see what God has in store for me next!

As I write this, we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has affected all of us in many ways, but I am especially mindful of people who are poor, homeless, and without any safety net. Like you, I am aware of people who have lost their employment, perhaps permanently, because of this virus.

I have said it many times in this column, but I will say it one more time: THANK YOU for the generous support you give to the Western Province!

My confreres are on the front lines in many places, especially in our parishes, helping people with food and whatever assistance they can afford. But as you may know, our parishes are hurting too! The lack of Sunday Masses means that collections are down but bills must be paid. If you can, please remember to support your parish so that the parish staff can serve you and others.

I have said it many times in this column, but I will say it one more time: THANK YOU for the generous support you give to the Western Province! You, our friends and collaborators, are the reason why we Vincentians, in large part, are able to continue the mission given to us by St. Vincent de Paul. God bless you!

Fraternally,

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

WE HAVE A NEW PROVINCIAL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Fr. Pat reflects on the many challenges and abundant graces in society and the Church. “I hope to bring people together for renewal of our mission and with a deep devotion to our charism. Now more than ever with the realities of our numbers and the age of our community, we seek to work with others for systemic change.”

Fr. Pat invites all to continue the mission of the Vincentians, to be down-to-earth, approachable, collaborative and enthusiastic as we accompany the poor. “I began this new ministry with great hope and confidence in Divine Providence – trusting that God will lead us and show us the way.”

“In the footsteps of St. Vincent may I be afire with love for those with whom I live, edifying others by the exercise of love.

Due to the worldwide COVID-19 virus the installation ceremony and celebration will be delayed. Future plans will be announced soon.



8000 MILES FROM HOME

Thirteen children, 50 milk cows, 500 gallons of milk every 36 hours. This was Jeff Frenzel's world growing up on a dairy farm in Bemidji, Minnesota, 8,124 miles from Kenya, Africa. Jeff feels blessed to have parents who instilled in him a work ethic, a willingness to sacrifice for others, in a family that cultivated his Catholic faith.

"We learned more from our parents than anything you could learn in a religion class," Jeff says with a smile.

Several years ago, when Jeff's sister Carla returned after her year of serving the mission in Kenya, she shared her experience with Jeff. As luck would have it – or destined by providence – Jeff decided to make a visit to Kenya. He participated in the DePaul Woodworking program run by Brother Jim Donlevy, C.M. This program gives men a means to earn a living. In Kenya that's \$4 a day!

"It was an eye-opening experience. People live in lean-to buildings. A simple concrete structure with a metal roof and dirt floor. A one-room house smaller than some bathrooms I've seen in America," Jeff said. Jeff owns a small electrical contracting business in Minnesota. He describes the beauty and inviting landscape of this small town as a striking contrast to the poverty and filth in the Kibera slum.

"You can't really understand poverty until you smell it," he added. "You can watch it on TV, read about it in a brochure, but when you walk down an alley way and experience the stench of sewage, you can only imagine the desperate conditions people live in."

Those who have visited our mission in Kenya are universally stunned by the living conditions people endure. What they also comment on is the joyfulness of the people, in spite of the poverty. The strength of

the faith, the devotion in families to each other, and the community spirit of those ready to share the little they have is remarkable.

Jeff's family decided to make Brother Jim's woodworking program in Kenya part of their annual tithing to the Church.

When he was in Kenya he got to know a few of the men who feel so blessed to have learned a skill. It is like the old adage . . . give a man a fish and he eats for a day. . . teach him to fish and he eats for a lifetime.

"When I went to Kenya I thought I would be able to help. In fact, the visit helped me better prioritize things in my life. I was reminded of how blessed I am and how grateful I should be." Jeff said. And he added one more thing, "when you give to the Kenya mission you can be sure your money will be used wisely. I have seen it!"



Jeff, back row, second from right.

International Global Homelessness Update



Fr. Guillermo Campuzano, C.M.

Following two years of advocacy efforts with the Vincentian Family and the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness we achieved a significant milestone. In February the United Nations Commission on Social Development met to debate the Priority Theme "Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness" and issued the first UN resolution on homelessness in more than 30 years.

Ordinations Postponed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the deaconate ordination of Scott Jakubowski, C.M. in Chicago, and the priesthood ordinations of Julius Maina, C.M. and Mike Mogusu, C.M. in East Africa have been indefinitely postponed. Please pray that they will soon be able to receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

PARISHES RISE TO THE MOMENT

Over the past several months, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted lives around the world. Through the mission of the Vincentians, parishes have risen to meet the needs of those they serve in new ways.

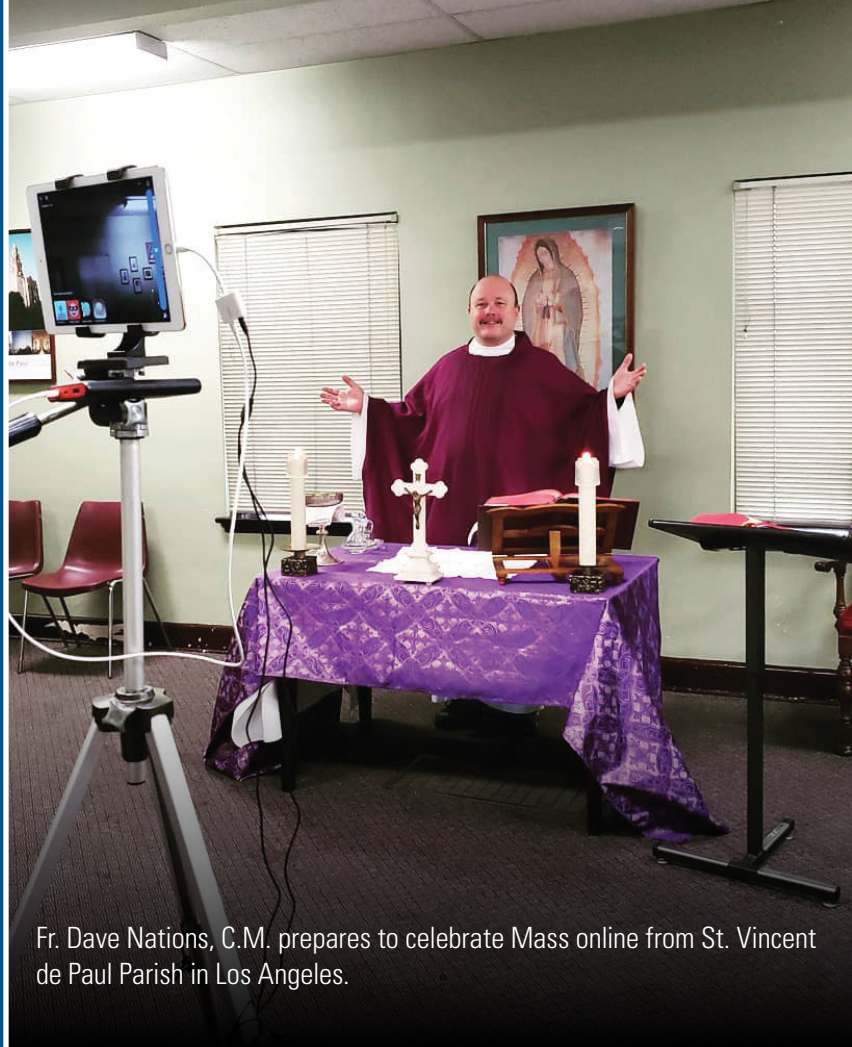
Masses moved online, and kept parishioners connected through prayer. At the Vincentian soup kitchen in Chicago, volunteers were asked to stay home, and the confreres living at DePaul Vincentian Residence stepped in. In St. Louis, volunteers stayed home, but joined in prayer for all those affected. St. Catherine Laboure parish worked with the local food pantry to ensure they were still able to serve clients.

Food pantries have been especially busy during this time. In New Orleans, Fr. Tom Stehlik C.M. and the Rebuild Center has collaborated with the NOPD homeless unit and with other agencies to serve more than 200 meals daily. Fr. Kevin Fausz, C.M., pastor of 3 parishes in the San Antonio area, says that they are presently serving 150-175 needy families through their Mobile Pantry Distribution.

At St. Jude in Tuba City, AZ and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Kayenta, AZ, Fr. Jay Jung, C.M. notes that COVID-19 is hitting the Navajo Nation especially hard. Lack of healthcare, adequate living conditions and isolation, along with underlying medical conditions has amplified the danger. Please visit *The Navajo Times* website to learn more about the impact on the community.

In Giathugu, Kenya, Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M., of St. Vincent DePaul Church shared that more than 400 families in need are having difficulties getting food and other necessities. The parish is reaching out to them with food baskets of dry goods and vegetables, grown in the parish garden, and encouraging families to share and support each other.

Through the pandemic, parishes continue to reach out to the poor and vulnerable who are experiencing increased hardships during this uncertain time.



Fr. Dave Nations, C.M. prepares to celebrate Mass online from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Los Angeles.



Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M., hands out food baskets with vegetables from the parish food garden and dry goods. Parishioners are also helping one another stay connected with necessities.



Fr. Dan Borlik, C.M., helps hand out meals to those in need near the De Paul Vincentian residence in Lincoln Park in Chicago, IL.



Volunteers at St. Catherine Laboure Parish before the outbreak, who are now staying home - praying for those they have served!



Fr. Jay Jung, C.M., with parishioners from St. Jude in Tuba City, AZ, before the pandemic hit the Navajo Nation.



Fr. Kevin Fausz, C.M., confers a blessing before public Masses were canceled. Holy Redeemer parish in San Antonio, TX is serving more than 150 families in need through their food pantry.

At this time we are making a special appeal on behalf of our Vincentian parishes in the Western Province.

Please offer your prayers and, if possible, make a donation directly to a Vincentian parish near you.

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

In prayer and gratitude, we lift up those who have made gifts between January 17, 2020 and April 15, 2020. During this difficult time, all our friends and donors are in the prayers of the Vincentian priests and brothers. We apologize for any names inadvertently omitted or misspelled.

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Margo Buchholz
Jeffery Calabese
Patty Carroll
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APOSTLE OF CHARITY HOME

Dorothy Charbonnet
Annette Church
Anthony Clark (2)
Rigoberto Colon
Covid 19 Prayer Requests
Oliver Delery
David Despot
Trey Doran
Helen Lyons Ebaugh
Lonnie Eiland
Kahterine Norma Ethridge
J.B., Liz and Family
Dan Ferry
Carolyn Fischer
Sister Josephine Flynn, D.C.
Janice Folsom
Jarred Frank
Mary Louise Frank
Marie French
Harold and Renee Frenzel
Richard Gagnon
Joseph Garvey
Mary Geckie
Joan Geiger
Audrey Glore
Coletta Hayes
Tom and Carol Hess
Thomas M. Hess
Michael Higgins
Dan Higgins
Daniel Higgins, Sr.
Tom Hinsdale
Jannah L. Hodges
Alice Huegel
Dennis Imondi
Anne Lankford Jennings
Fawn Jordan
Frederick Jordan, Jr.
Marilyn Kapp
Patricia Kelly
Sister Zoe Killeen, D.C.
Jack Koerner
Helmut Kramer
Kate Kuhn and Family
Gus Lavanos
Colette LeBrun
Bob and Joanne Leck
Mary McAleer LeFebre
Ruben Lopez
Henry Luepke

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Sister Carnice McArdle, D.C.
Rosemary McElroy
Sally McLaughlin
Jeanne McQuade
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Olivia Mohan
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Bede Murray
Mary Murray
Thomas A. Nevins
Sister Colette O'Loughlin, D.C.
Edward O'Shaughnessy
Gene T. Ozuk
Tom Pacey
Wrenley Pavels
Judy Perch
Dan Perkins
Mary Pudowski
Jacqueline Raifery
Jim Rataj
Nancy Reed (2)
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Ron Richter
Ted Rohr
Phyllis Schaeffer
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Elizabeth Stevens
Mrs. Jo Sutterfield
Ed Sweetwood
Bob Tarquinio
Judith Ann Travis
Allan Tull
Margaret Villere
Mary Warnecke
Alberto Weber
Bob Wehmuller
Kurt Weissmuller
Florence Wicevic
Rosemary T. Willard
James Wise
Lois Wolff
Bob Wydeven

In the spring of 2005 ground was broken for the Apostle of Charity Residence in Perryville, Missouri. Today, there are 63 senior Vincentian priests and brothers living in retirement. Many of them have returned to Perryville, MO, with great fondness for the place where they spent their formative years in the seminary. Many of you participated in the dedication ceremony and generously supported the project with your prayers and financial support.

During the Covid-19 outbreak important restrictions have been placed on senior care facilities. This has meant long periods of isolation to protect the residents from the virus. Please keep our beloved senior Vincentians in your prayers and if you know one of them you can send a greeting addressed to him at The Apostle of Charity Residence 1701 W. St. Joseph St. Perryville, MO 63775.



Reverend John Gagnepain, C.M.



**CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION
WESTERN PROVINCE**

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Learn more about the Congregation of the Mission Western Province, join us in prayer and offer your support. Visit us online at vincentian.org.

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- Provide generous support to the Congregation of the Mission (the Vincentians).

*In order to determine your payout percentage rate contact:
Ms. Jeanne Rudolph at jrudolph@vincentian.org or at
314-373-8513. Please note: the American Council of Gift
Annuities are reducing rates for future annuities, depending on age.
Call by July 1, 2020, to ensure the current rate.*