

# The Vincentian

2020 PROVINCE REPORT

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION WESTERN PROVINCE

## “Walking with the Poor”

*Your generosity serves women and children*

“I just wanted to take time to say thank you so much ... finally I can say I am happy and feel truly feel blessed ... I just broke down and started crying ... thinking ... if you only knew what me and my daughter have been through and how you have come and saved us ...” Jasmine, age 22

As a youngster, Jasmine was homeless. She gave birth to Dora in her late teens and struggled to keep a roof over their heads.

Thanks in part to a grant of \$24,000 from the Congregation of the Mission, Hotel Hope Chalet in New Orleans was able to welcome Jasmine and Dora into a safe and secure environment. There, staff and volunteers offered the compassionate care and support they needed along the road back to self-sufficiency.

Father Louis Arceneaux, C.M. spiritual advisor at the shelter, says with gratitude, “You have provided our ministry the opportunity to serve our community’s most vulnerable women and children. Your grant is providing for food, transportation, clothing, and the costs of running a shelter. It is also helping move 13 families into their permanent home, meeting moving expenses and utility deposits or unpaid past bills.”

Volunteer Monique Robert adds, “This is home for these young women and children who need love and respect. They appreciate the smallest gestures of kindness toward them or their children.”

*From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, the Congregation of the Mission awarded a total of \$100,000 for “Walking with the Poor” projects to six ministries. In addition to Hotel Hope Chalet and Vincentian Marian Youth stories profiled in this newsletter, the following were supported:*

**Dallas Area Interfaith Organization**  
to host medical fairs and assist immigrants with citizenship

**St. Jude Parish, Tuba City**  
to subsidize parish missions at Navajo and Hopi Nations reservations

**Vincent Gray Academy, East St. Louis,** to help at-risk young men and women earn a high school diploma

**St. Vincent’s Food Pantry,** to open a parish-based food pantry in San Antonio

**DePaul College Prep High School Scholarships/DePaul USA,** assisting students from families living in deep poverty

LET US  love  
in deed & in truth.





## Preparing Tomorrow's Priests

*Your support at work building the Kingdom of God*

**Dn. Julius Maina, C.M.** and **Dn. Mike Mogusu Masita, C.M.** will be ordained to the priesthood on January 23, 2021, in Kenya.

**Dn. Scott Jakubowski, C.M.** was ordained a transitional deacon on August 12, 2020, at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the University of St. Mary's of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary.



Julius Maina, C.M.



Mike Mogusu Masita, C.M.



Scott Jakubowski, C.M.

## Dear Friends,



It is with joy that I greet you! I am the new Provincial of the Congregation of the Mission Western Province. It is a great honor to serve you, building upon the good works of my predecessor, Fr. Ray Van Dorpe, C.M. We are grateful to Fr. Ray for his service and wish him the very best in his future ministry.

Our theme, "*Let us love in deed and in truth*" (1 John 3:18), is an idyllic Vincentian theme because it names three interconnected Vincentian core values: love, truth, and service. St. Vincent did everything in his life from the centrality of Christ's love. His deep love for people was genuine. It motivated his service. And it still inspires generations of men and women to serve the poor.

Together, you and all Vincentian men and women (both our religious and volunteers) unite in Christ through our **love, truth, and service**. We are ONE in the great mission left to us by our Holy Founder, St. Vincent de Paul.

Serving this past year in Kenya, I've seen first-hand the significant difference your love, truth, and service have brought to the good people there.

You have also made a beautiful difference in other works — evangelization, formation of priests, service to the poor, and the care of senior priests and brothers. Recently, because of your generosity, we helped many people suffering from the pandemic through the *Walking with the Poor* Program. On behalf of everyone in the Province, thank you and we love you.

Finally, I want to congratulate our confrere (and my seminary classmate) **Most Reverend Andrew Bellisario, C.M.**, recently named by Pope Francis as Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau, Alaska. Archbishop Bellisario is a wonderful person, Vincentian, and servant of God. His leadership will be a true gift to Alaska and the Church. I also want to acknowledge **Father Hank Grodecki, C.M.**, a member of the Western Province who serves in Anchorage. Andy and Hank, you can be assured of our prayers.

*Patrick McDevitt*

Fr. Patrick McDevitt, C.M.  
Provincial Superior



## Your gifts at work in Kenya

### The blessing of shelter ...

Thank you for your generosity! The **Vincentian Community House** for the priests in Indangalasia, Kenya, has been completed. From their new residence, **Fathers Humphreys Okumu, C.M.** and **Kevin Nyanjom, C.M.** go forth to joyfully serve 6,000 parishioners and other impoverished neighbors living in Our Lady of the Assumption Parish and its five outstations across a sparsely populated area of Western Kenya.

### Family Assistance Program grows ...

The David Steward Family Foundation generously funds the **Steward Family Assistance Program** in Kenya. More than 130 donors contributed to the program this year; their gifts blessed the families coming to our gates in numbers that have doubled and, in some areas even tripled, since COVID-19. Your generosity is providing food, medical vouchers, utilities, household items, rent, transportation to the hospital, and other essential care.

### Empowering self-sufficiency ...

At DePaul Woodworking in Kenya, Brother Jim Donlevy, C.M. teaches carpentry skills to students seeking to earn a living wage to support their families. Currently, 19 men and women are enrolled as students in this life-giving ministry.

## Vincentian Appointed Archbishop of Alaska

On May 18, 2020, Pope Francis announced the merging of two Alaska dioceses, forming the new Anchorage-Juneau, USA Archdiocese. The Holy Father appointed Bishop Andrew Eugene Bellisario, C.M., as the first archbishop of the new metropolitan see. He was installed on September 17, 2020 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral in Anchorage.

Archbishop Bellisario entered the Congregation of the Mission in 1975 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1984.

The Vincentian family congratulates Archbishop Bellisario, and offers heartfelt prayers for God's blessing upon all in the Church of southern Alaska.

*"We as bishops need a living encounter and relationship with Christ, and our people need us to be in close relationship with Christ."*

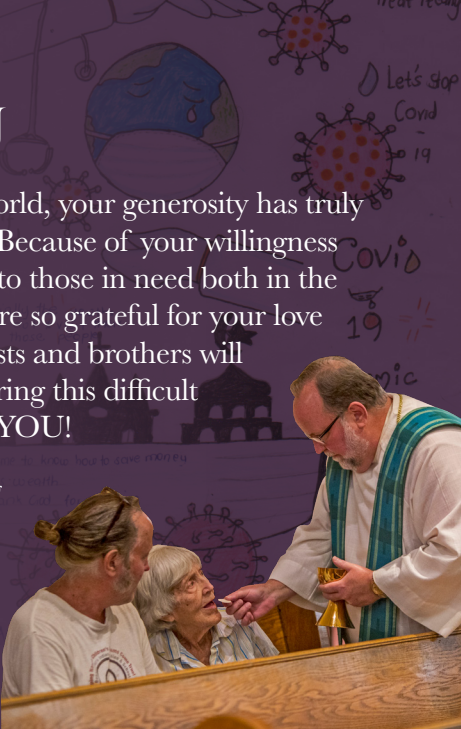




# THANK YOU

During this difficult time in our world, your generosity has truly shown your *Love in Deed and Truth*. Because of your willingness to give, we were able to reach out to those in need both in the United States and in Kenya. We are so grateful for your love and support. Our Vincentian priests and brothers will remember you in their prayers during this difficult time of pandemic. **GOD BLESS YOU!**

We also want to thank our *Walking with the Poor* campaign donors who continue to make payments on their generous pledges and are not listed in the Annual Report.



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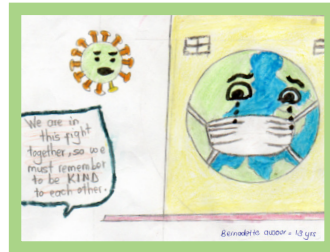
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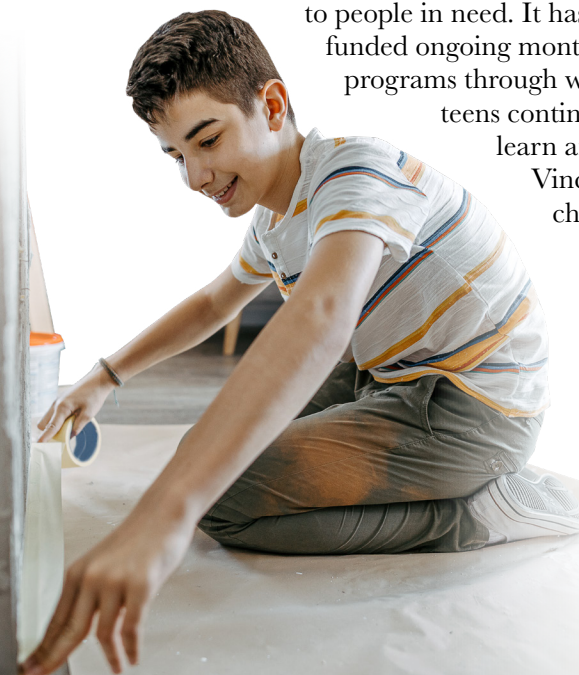
# Your Generosity Inspiring Spiritual Growth Among Youth

**Vincentian Marian Youth of Southeast Missouri (VMY)** invites Catholic teens to grow in faith through special opportunities for prayer and service to neighbors living in poverty.

Gifts from donors like you enabled VMY to receive \$10,000 from the Congregation of the Mission for its new Service on Saturday initiative (SOS). Teen participants in SOS experienced many eye-opening moments as, along with adult volunteers, they:

- assisted a low-income neighbor who lives in a converted garage, including painting the residence and installing new windows and a door to help prevent water from entering
- helped rebuild dilapidated decks for needy families and individuals with disabilities living in a mobile home park in Perryville
- replaced a bathroom for a veteran who had no working plumbing in his home
- prepared, served, and shared dinner with 20 homeless women at the St. Patrick Center in St. Louis, learning about their lives and challenges in the process.

Program coordinator Mike Giasi said,  
 “The grant has been a tremendous blessing to help VMY minister to people in need. It has also funded ongoing monthly programs through which teens continue to learn and live Vincentian charisms.”



# Enriching Lives of Immigrants

*You help empower neighbors in need*



With help from the Franz Foundation, the Pastoral Migratoria (Pastoral Social de Inmigrantes) continues to respond to the needs of the immigrant community in the Patterson/Modesto areas of California, especially with:

- access to health care
- immigration services and
- access to higher education for youth

Over the past year, the ministry

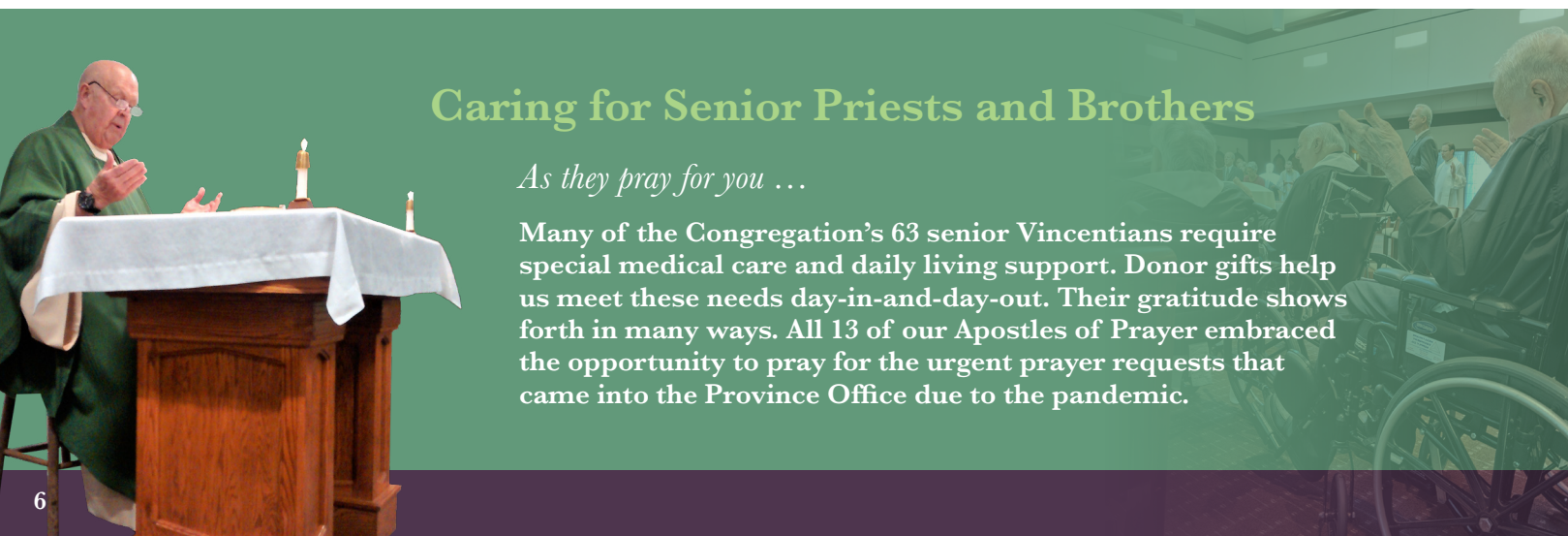
- served 380 people at three parish-based health fairs (St. Stanislaus, Sacred Heart, and St. Joachim)
- provided 55 parishioners with access to free legal consultations/resources from immigration attorneys
- offered guidance to 45 parents seeking to send their children to college, including help with the application process and ways to obtain scholarships
- welcomed an average of 35 worshippers to its monthly Holy Hour for Immigrants

During January's National Migration week, 53 events in 34 parishes across four Arch/Dioceses were conducted thanks to the leadership of the Pastoral Migratoria Program from Stockton, CA. Father Rex Hays, C.M. serves as pastor at Sacred Heart parish and was recently appointed as treasurer of the ministry.

## Caring for Senior Priests and Brothers

*As they pray for you ...*

Many of the Congregation's 63 senior Vincentians require special medical care and daily living support. Donor gifts help us meet these needs day-in-and-day-out. Their gratitude shows forth in many ways. All 13 of our Apostles of Prayer embraced the opportunity to pray for the urgent prayer requests that came into the Province Office due to the pandemic.



# Blessed by you, we continue to serve the homeless in Chicago, even now ...”

In addition to the \$53,000 allocated for the poor in Kenya in response to the pandemic, the Western Province distributed \$70,000 to help Vincentian parishes across the country. These funds helped increase their efforts to directly serve the poor through food pantries, sandwich windows, utilities assistance, urgent household necessities, and more.

Priests and brothers joined the front lines of service when employees were encouraged to stay home and be safe.

Dn. Scott Jakubowski, C.M. noted, “Especially during this time of civil unrest and lockdown from COVID-19, I am especially grateful to our donors. You provide us a very safe space to live, work and learn. You inspire me, and others, to carry on our Vincentian works during these difficult days.

It’s because of you that we have been able to continue the vital outreach services to homeless and impoverished neighbors. I am grateful and humbled by your generosity.”

## **Dn. Scott Jakubowski, C.M.**

*Dn. Scott Jakubowski, C.M. is preparing for priestly ordination in June of 2021.*

*His present ministry is with St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Chicago.*

*Working alongside Father Jeremy Dixon, C.M., Scott serves the poor who visit the parish’s Elizabeth Ann Seton Food Pantry and Sandwich Window.*

## 2020 PROVINCE REPORT



CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION  
WESTERN PROVINCE

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