



# The Top Hat

The Vincentian Voice of  
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

*Archdiocesan Council of New Orleans*

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## Vincentians Showed Support in Big Numbers to ensure the Success of Jazzin' on the River! *-from The President*

Dear Vincentian Brothers and Sisters:

Please let me take this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to you on behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Archdiocese of New Orleans, for your support, participation and attendance at the "Jazzin on the River" Gala, recently celebrated on the Steamboat Natchez. The event was truly a community activity shared by Vincentians from throughout the City. A good time was had by all! The Gala was well attended, the food was delicious and the ambience of the Natchez on the Mississippi River added to the fun evening.

The Gala netted over \$70,000!!! These funds have been earmarked specifically for the Adult Learning Center and the free Pharmacy. Virginia Roddy, Fr. Arceneaux and Phil Brooks were instrumental in helping the Society raise these monies through sponsorships, patron support and other donor solicitation. Additionally, Donna Sorenson developed the idea of the Raffle "\$1000 Worth of Dinners" and Mike Champagne directed the raffle ticket sales. The raffle brought in more than \$20,000. Mucho gracias!

The Society thanks Gordon Stevens and the Staff of the Steamboat Natchez for their generous support and excellent service rendered to our guests during the evening. The Dukes of Dixieland were an integral part in making the activity most enjoyable.

Special thanks are given to the Gala Committee for a most successful event. The Committee was spear-headed by Virginia Roddy, Fr. Arceneaux, Gay and Doug Karkier, Donna Sorenson and Sr. Bonnie Hoffman. Likewise, the Society is most grateful to all of the Conference Presidents who encouraged their members to sell Raffle tickets and who encouraged their membership and Pastors to attend the Gala.

Thank you all for providing the St. Vincent de Paul Society with such an outstanding event! In the Spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Blessed Fredric Ozanam and Blessed Rosalie Rendu,

Sincerely,

Claiborne Perrilliat  
President-Central Council, Archdiocese of New Orleans

## THE TOP HAT....

Is a publication for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and it's designed to inform its communities of past, present and future services and events.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization that offers service to the needy in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam and its patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

## Formation News

The Primary Purpose of the Society-

By: Ransdell Hebert

### What Is The Primary Purpose Of The Society?

Our Society's Mission Statement begins by saying: "*Inspired by Gospel values, the SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually. . . . . which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule. . . . .*"

Too often we are so eager to help others that we stray from our main purpose of getting to heaven. The Baltimore Catechism said God made us to be happy with Him in heaven. That hasn't changed. The New Catechism says: *The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God.* Meeting Him in the poor is important but secondary. Leading others to meet Him is important. First comes Spirituality. So nourish your spirituality. Make your meetings prayer meetings. Begin with usual prayer and meditations and end by asking for prayer intentions. For what or whom shall we pray? It's good to pray for our clients and for needed cash, but open up to one another. Share your burdens. Mutually supportive prayer goes a long way. Attend Holy Mass together in a Corporate Communion. Call one another between meetings. Care for one another, sharing in the work load, or even seeing that they take time off. So. . . *join together to grow spiritually. . . . nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule. . . . Amen*

### Formation Workshop Follow-up

By: Ransdell Hebert

### CONFERENCE LIFE WORKSHOP

#### How to Run a Conference

A Conference Life workshop will be held on **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011** from 9am- 2pm at SVdP Community Pharmacy, 1995 Gentilly Blvd. We will study client interviews, various ways to help our clients, the Society's Burial Assistance Program, recruiting, Conference Meeting, Conference spirituality, reports and other day to day Conference operations (and dilemmas).

Returning students who took part in the earlier Formations are expected to bring their Formation Manuals (Conference S.O.P.s) from the earlier class to add new data, handouts and receive the latest updated addenda. No new Manuals will be issued. Please bring your own three ring binder if you didn't attend the April presentation. A free will offering is requested of each participant to defray program costs etc.

Please RSVP to Ransdell Hebert, RansdellH@Gmail.com, 985-690-9830 or 504-666-3229.

Give Name, address, Phone numbers, Conference Name and your email address.

Want to share your conference news with fellow Vincentians? Send info & stories to: svdpps@bellsouth.net



# TOP HAT EXTRA

## Recap from the June 19th Jazzin on the River Fund Raiser

Jazzin' on the River was a great success – lots of fun for all and a real “fund raiser.” It would not have been possible without the generosity of Gordon and Ann Stevens and the Steamboat Natchez.

Our receipts totaled \$75,087.00 and expenses amounted to \$4,994.17 for a net total of \$70,092.83.  
Thanks again to all of the people who worked so hard on this event-

**Virginia Roddy-Gala**  
Event Chair

On behalf of the pharmacy staff and volunteers, we wish to thank all involved in making the gala a success. The spirit of giving was strong at this event and the hard work of the gala committee was evident. Words cannot truly express our gratitude to so many giving hearts whose contributions will be instrumental in enabling us to make a difference in so many lives-

**Jackee Hall, Director of**  
Pharmacy Services

Special thanks to the following East Jefferson Vincentians:

**Donna Sorensen** for her active involvement and leadership on the Gala committee.

**Janie Wright** and **St. Benilde** for selling over 60 raffle tickets!!

**Bill Siegel** and **St. Matthew** for selling just about the same number of raffle tickets; over 50!

**Allen Hebert** and **St. Agnes** for selling over 35 raffle tickets.

**Betty Davis** and **St. Ann** for selling the most Gala tickets followed closely by Judge Patrick Schott and St. Francis Xavier, and **Allen Hebert** and **St. Agnes**.

Thanks to **Kathy Crosskill**, BOD secretary and to **Fred Kirchgraber** for serving as one of the hosts at the Patrons Party-

**Karen Kirchgraber-East**  
Jefferson District President

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*Letter from the Spiritual Director of The Society of  
St. Vincent de Paul*

Fellow Vincentians,

I want to express my gratitude to all who supported the “Jazzin’ On the River” fundraiser for the St. Vincent de Paul pharmacy and adult learning center on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The evening was a huge success judging from many perspectives. We had a wonderful gathering of more than two hundred people. Many people I talked with said they had a great time. I was impressed by the friendliness and joyful spirit among the participants. The food, the drinks and the music were wonderful, thanks to the generous hospitality of Gordon Stevens and the staff of the Riverboat Natchez. And we brought in many thousands of dollars (specifics elsewhere) to benefit our pharmacy and adult learning center.

Of course, such an event does not just happen. I want to thank the organizing committee that worked for several months, took part in many meetings, made numerous phone calls and encouraged others to participate. Virginia Roddy led the committee with active participation from Doug and Gay Kariker, Donna Sorensen, Sr. Bonnie Hoffman and myself. Besides the actual dinner, we had a silent auction that Doug and Gay guided to a successful conclusion. We also had a raffle of ten \$100 gift certificates, donated from excellent New Orleans restaurants, that was Donna Sorensen’s idea and proved to be very successful. Claire Balley of Belle Chasse was the winner. And Sr. Bonnie worked the crowd at the Gala selling tickets for the treasure chest of unknown yet worthwhile gifts.

Besides the committee, many District and conference presidents encouraged their members to participate in the Gala, to donate gifts for the silent auction and to purchase and sell raffle tickets. Without the help of all the members, we would not have had such a wonderful success. Many thanks also to Deacon Rudy and his staff for carrying out details of the Gala and making sure everything was done according to regulations.

This was the first fundraiser for the pharmacy since before Katrina so we have much to be thankful for that it proved so successful. Now we need to start thinking about what we want to do next year to continue to help our Society have sufficient funds to support those in need. We also need to get ready to help our very special work, Ozanam Inn, gear up for their November fundraiser.

May St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Blessed Rosalie Rendu continue to inspire and intercede for us. May God bless everyone who helped to make “Jazzin’ On the River” the wonderful success it was.

Fr. Louie Arceneaux, C.M.  
Spiritual Advisor



The 2011  
**Friends of the Poor  
Walk-Run** is soon  
approaching!

**Three events will  
take place this  
year!**

**Saturday,  
September 24th**  
rain date: Sunday,  
September 25th

**\*West Bank District**

**\*New Orleans District**

**\*St. Tammany District**

Walk/Run registration forms can be retrieved via our SVdP website, but **cannot** be filled out online. We are asking that participants submit entry forms to their **district or conference presidents**.

We apologize for the inconvenience.



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