



Ladies of Charity of Santa Barbara

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

VOL. 1: SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Ladies,

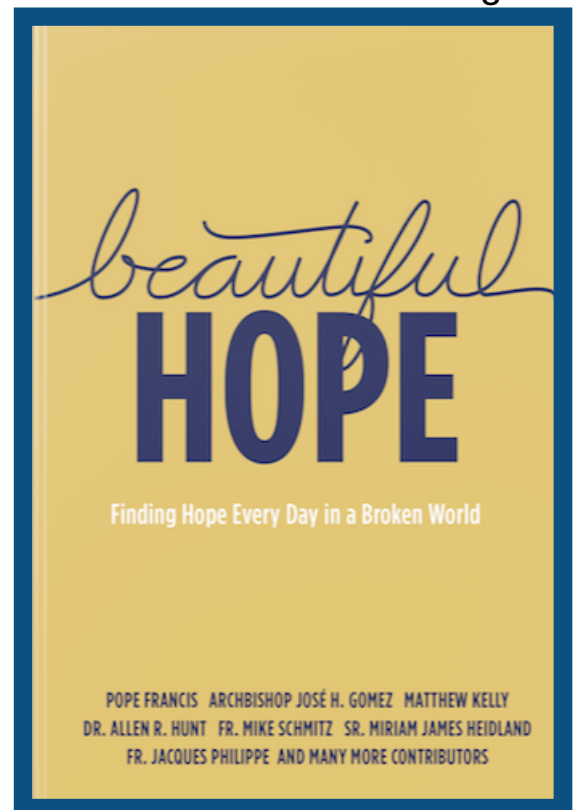
Sadly, due to COVID-19, we are unable to have our September meeting in person. As a way of staying connected to each of you, we are going to be sending a newsletter with information regarding our Ladies of Charity of Santa Barbara activities and updates. Our hope is that we can all find solace in knowing that we have love and concern for one another and look forward to the time when we can all come together again.

With Blessings to All,
Margaret

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Today we live in a time that is filled with fear and uncertainty for the future. The pandemic has fueled this sense of uncertainty. We need the gift of Hope. Pope Francis encourages us to never lose hope. In his words he tells us, "We must not let hope abandon us, because God, with his love, walks with us. I hope, because God is beside me. We can all say this. Each one of us can say: 'I hope, I have hope, because God walks with me.' He walks and he holds my hand. God does not leave us to ourselves. The Lord Jesus has conquered evil and has opened the path of life for us."

This is an excerpt from the book *Beautiful HOPE: Finding Hope Every Day in a Broken World*. It is a series of reflections from priests and religious lay men and women writing about experiences of hope in their lives. The book is free of charge from DynamicCatholic.com



Weekly Vincentian Reflection

Beginning in September you will receive via e-mail a weekly reflection from St. Vincent, St. Louise, or St. Elizabeth Ann Seton to help focus on our Vincentian heritage and incorporate a daily prayer.

LADIES OF CHARITY DIRECTORY

The Ladies of Charity of Santa Barbara Directory is in the process of being updated. The update will include the birthdays of members.



INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Denise Allyn was installed as a Lady of Charity on August 26, 2020 at St. Vincent's in the Founder's Room. Due to the pandemic, attendance was restricted to the President, Officers, and Sister Arthur, Moderator. In the absence of a priest, the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion was celebrated. Light refreshments followed.

PRAYER LINE

Our dear Elizabeth Fuentes went home to the Lord this past month. For so many years she maintained the Prayer Line to let members know of requests for prayers. Maura Pezzati has graciously volunteered to take over this ministry. Please contact Maura regarding prayer intentions at (805) 964-3295 or via email at mpx2sb@verizon.net.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

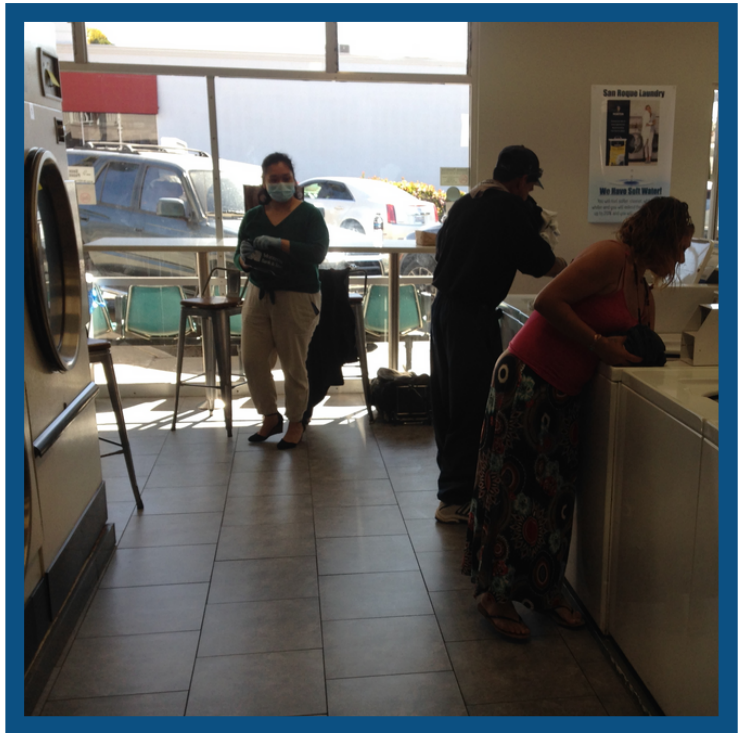
FR. VIRGIL CORDANO CENTER (FVCC) was closed at the beginning of the pandemic due to public health restrictions. To continue contact with FVCC companions, a community outreach program was established. A new van has been purchased. It has signage identifying it on the outside with the Fr. Virgil Cordano Outreach Center logo. Cynthia Estrada, Program Director, and Sister Maria Hoa, Director of Vincent's Heart, Outreach, and Volunteers, go out during the week to visit the various encampments to see how the members are doing and to deliver brown bag lunches, mail, sleeping bags, solar phone chargers, etc.



Arrangements have also been made with a local laundromat to provide specific days and times for the FVCC companions to come to do their laundry. The staff from the FVCC

meet them with coins and soap. The Franciscan Friars provide bag lunches which are distributed at this time.

The current FVCC is being used as a staging center where bag lunches are prepared. Volunteers are needed to make lunches at the Center and to accompany Cynthia and Sister Maria in the deliveries. Karen Harnetiaux, a Lady of Charity, is one of the volunteers who makes lunches at the Center and accompanies Cynthia to make deliveries. Fr. John and the Franciscan Friars have also been accompanying Cynthia and Sr. Maria in giving out lunches at the parks. If interested, contact Sister Maria at srhoa@sv-sb.org.



BROWN BAG LUNCHES AT SHOWERS OF BLESSING

In June, volunteers were requested to bring brown bag lunches to the Homeless who gather at the Showers of Blessing sites. It was made known by the manager that the people were hungry. Twelve Ladies of Charity volunteered to make the brown bag lunches and deliver to the four different sites. The teams of two, once a week, make the brown bag lunches and deliver them to one of the sites. The homeless brothers and sisters are very grateful for the gift of food.

There is a need for small tubes of sunscreen and new cotton underwear for men (shorts) and women (panties). These items can be dropped off at St. Vincent's office.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

The preschool has opened with a limited number of children in accordance with county guidelines. Only children of essential workers are accepted at this time. Because of your generous donations we have a sufficient number of books for the children.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Don't forget to keep track of your volunteer hours and send them to Lee Hilton at lhilton@sv-sb.org.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM

The Family Strengthening Program has been able to remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic. We currently have nine moms and ten children in the program. By mid-September there should be 13 moms and 16 children.

There is a need for diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6). These can be dropped off at St. Vincent's office.

NEW MODERATOR

We are pleased to announce that Sister Arthur Gordon, DC has been appointed as the new Moderator for the Ladies of Charity of Santa Barbara. The Moderator is appointed by the Provincial Superior of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The Sister Moderator is an ex-officio member of the Executive Board and all committees. As Moderator, Sister Arthur's responsibility is to assist with the spiritual formation of the Ladies of Charity. She also serves as Vice President for Mission Integration & Archives at St. Vincent's.



Deep gratitude to each of you, who through your prayer and generous gifts of time and donations, are touching our brothers and sisters who are living in poverty. St. Vincent recognized that the corporal care of people living in poverty often precedes the spiritual needs. September 27th is the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, our Founder.

