



2024 SVdP WEST REGIONAL MEETING

SPEAKER BIOS

MICHAEL ACALDO, PRESIDENT & CEO, DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE

Michael is in his 35th year as President and CEO of St. Vincent de Paul in Baton Rouge. He is a native of Baton Rouge and graduated from Catholic High School in 1985. He received both his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management (1989) and MBA (1997) from Louisiana State University. Michael and his wife Paula are the proud parents of 26-year-old twin daughters, Miranda and Madison.

Michael has witnessed the Society's growth, and has been blessed with the opportunity to see the Society in Baton Rouge establish many community firsts – including, the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy (the first SVDP Charitable Pharmacy in the nation), the Bishop Ott Shelter Program for Men, Women, Children and Families (Five emergency shelters providing over 31,000 guest nights of shelter in 2023), the new St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room facility (Serving over 300,000 meals in 2023), just to name a few.

ARCHBISHOP ANDREW BELLISARIO, C.M., NATIONAL EPISCOPAL ADVISOR

The son of the late Rocky and Mildred Bellisario, Archbishop Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M. was born and raised in the Los Angeles area. He graduated from Saint Vincent's Seminary High School in Montebello, CA in 1975, and entered the Congregation of the Mission. He attended and graduated from Saint Mary's of the Barrens Seminary College in Perryville, MO with a B.A. degree in Philosophy, and four years later he received his Master of Divinity degree from De Andreis Institute of Theology in Lemont, IL. He was ordained a priest for the Vincentians, Province of the West, on June 16, 1984.

Archbishop Bellisario served as the Superior of the International Mission of the Vincentians in Alaska, and was named Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Co-Cathedral in the Archdiocese of Anchorage in May 2016. Archbishop Bellisario was appointed the sixth Bishop of Juneau July 11, 2017 by his Holiness Pope Francis and Ordained and Installed as Bishop October 10, 2017 at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Juneau. Archbishop Bellisario was appointed the first Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau May 19, 2020 by his Holiness Pope Francis and was installed as Archbishop September 17, 2020 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral in Anchorage.

JOHN BERRY, NATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A servant leader with decades of corporate and nonprofit experience, John Berry serves as President of the National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul. John is an experienced senior executive and tireless advocate for people in need. He champions national, state, and local efforts to fight poverty, dependence, and need. After 14 years as the Chief Executive Officer of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, John retired in September 2020 and founded Berry Consulting Solutions, LLC; consulting experts in Nonprofit Board Governance, Organizational Dynamics, Strategic Planning, and Development & Fundraising.

John became SVdP Georgia's CEO in 2006 following a 25-year business and federal government career beginning as an engineer in the commercial nuclear power industry and leading to senior executive management positions with Fortune 100 companies in the nuclear power, environmental engineering, and high technology sectors, which included extensive international experience in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. During his 14 years at SVdP Georgia, John led an organization that impacted poverty by hundreds of millions of dollars. John is a vocal advocate at the National and State levels, working with Congress and the Georgia State Legislature on issues related to children, families, the poor, and those at the margins. After retirement, John was elected as the National Vice President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the Southeast Region. In 2023 John was elected as the National President of the National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. His term will run from October 2023 to September of 2029.

In 2021, John was appointed by the Archbishop of Atlanta to a five-year term as Chair of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta Finance and Advisory Council. John is a nationally recognized speaker, facilitator, and trainer.

RON COSTANZO, PRESIDENT, DISTRICT COUNCIL CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Ron Costanzo is a 16-year Vincentian who is the Past President of the Contra Costa District Council and a past Conference President. He is currently an Ozanam Orientation Presenter and a Board Member for the District Council.

SHAWNNA COSTANZO, CONFERENCE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, ST. BONAVENTURE - CONCORD

Shawwna Costanzo is from the Contra Costa District Council in California. She is a 16-year Vincentian, Spiritual Advisor, and Formator Specialist for the West Region.

JUDY DIETLEIN, NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, WEST REGION

A Vincentian since 2001, Judy Dietlein was recently elected to the role of National Vice President for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's West Region. Judy grew up in Queens, NY and earned both a B.A. in Art and an M.A. in Secondary Education from Adelphi University in Garden City, New York. Among her many professional adventures, she has served as an art teacher, a paralegal, banker, and business owner — just to name a few. A long-time servant leader in the Society, Judy has served at multiple levels, including a six-year term as Conference President and three-year term as Diocesan Council President. She's been a coordinator of Training & Formation at the Diocesan Council level, a member of the National Reentry Task Force, and the Western Region's Disaster Chair for SVdP subsidiary Disaster Services Corporation.

In addition, she currently leads a Home Visit Monthly Meeting for team members and performs weekly Home Visits as part of her Conference. Judy was a recent member of the national strategic plan committee and represented SVdP at the Convocation of Catholic Leaders in 2017. She's also heavily involved with developing the Society's next generation of leaders, having helped create materials for the Mentoring Program, and mentoring other Council Presidents.

When not serving in the Society, Judy has worked in her community, tutoring through her local library's ESL program and volunteering at Wardrobe for Opportunity. She has also volunteered at LAAM (Life Abortion Alternative Ministries), a nonprofit providing emotional, spiritual, and practical support, including free maternity and baby clothes and supplies for expectant mothers. Married and proud mother to one daughter, Judy lives in Benicia California.

BOB DIETLEIN, ST. DOMINIC-BENICIA

Bob has been a Vincentian for over 20 years. He has served as his Conference Treasurer for the last 10 years and is a Sacramento Diocesan Council Board Member, serving on the Finance and Governance Committees.

He retired from Chevron after 28 years as a Financial Analyst and went on to do taxes for H&R Block for several years. Bob lives in Benicia California with his wife Judith.

KATTI FERNANDEZ, ADCC OF LOS ANGELES

Katti is the Vincentian Services Manager at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Los Angeles. She has been working at SVDPLA for 15 years, during which she has developed a passion for creating efficient solutions that contribute to and promote a positive Vincentian culture. When she is not at work, Katti enjoys spending time with her husband and two children.

SR. PAULE FREEBURG, D.C., SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, WEST REGION

Sister Paule Freeburg has an extensive background in religious education for both children and adults. Though not raised Catholic, she became one during her undergraduate years. A few years later, she took her faith one step further by becoming a nun, joining the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. She was inspired while watching a community of sisters in Santa Barbara work with developmentally disabled children. "I saw in them a profound respect for the dignity of human beings," she said. She took her vows in 1971 and then went to Gonzaga University to earn a master's in theology. Sr. Paule Freeburg, is a member of the Daughters of Charity and the Western Region Spiritual Advisor to St. Vincent de Paul. Sister Paule has written song and prayer texts for many well-known collections of children's music. She also presents workshops on children and spirituality.

SYLVIA GONZALEZ

Sylvia is originally from Mexico, from a small town one hour south from Mazatlán, where she graduated as a Private Accountant. She came to the U.S. looking for a better future, married to a wonderful man, and they have 5 sons, one grandson and a great grandson.

She joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul the year she retired after working 25 years at an elementary school in Glendale, California where most of the student body were Hispanic. Her duties were as a bilingual Educational Assistant and translator. Her first training as a Formator was in 2014. In 2017, she was named Leader of the Western Region Spanish Formators. In May 2023, she participated in the National Spanish Formators Training under the direction of Marge McGinley, Tim Williams, and Guadalupe Sosa. She leads the presentation of Ozanam Orientations, Officers Trainings, The Basics of Home Visits, and Spiritual Advisors Training in Spanish for her Council. She also presents all these workshops in English.

KATHY IBERLE, FORMATION COMMITTEE CHAIR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA RIVER

Kathy is the Formation Chair for the West Region and has helped develop officer training with National's Leadership Task Force. She enjoys developing and delivering training both as a volunteer for the Society and professionally through her consulting business.

FR. MICHAEL KIERNAN, DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF SACRAMENTO

Fr. Michael Kiernan, serves as Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Community, Beale Air Force Base, and assists several parishes in the Diocese of Sacramento where he has been a priest for 47 years. He has long been involved in many charitable organizations, as well as ecumenical and interfaith activities.

STEVE KRANK, VINCENTIAN SUPPORT SERVICES, SVdP CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

For the last ten years, Steve has been part of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in positions ranging from program development of the Champion Guidance Center to his current position as Director of Vincentian Support for the parish-based branches of the Society in Contra Costa County.

FR. PATRICK McDEVITT, C.M.

Fr. McDevitt was born and raised in Chicago. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1986 and is a member of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians). He has worked in parish ministry and seminaries. Fr. McDevitt conducts retreats for laity, religious women, and priests. Fr. McDevitt began his teaching career at DePaul's Counseling Program in 1996 as a summer adjunct professor. He began teaching full time in 2000. He has a long history with DePaul University. His family home and paternal grandmother lived on the Lincoln Park campus. St. Vincent's parish is where generations of his family attended.

He has an extensive record for professional and civic leadership through his service on boards and membership in various professional associations. Thus, he brings a wider view to the conversation on collaboration and community building. He has written on education, leadership development, the psycho-social influences on ministry and education in today's society and on aspects of community mental health. Fr. Patrick McDevitt, C.M., was elected Provincial of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) Western Province in March 2020 and began his tenure July 1, 2020.

JOHN MURPHY, PRESIDENT, SACRAMENTO EAST DISTRICT

DOT O'CONNOR

Dot has been a member of St. Vincent de Paul since 2015. She was the conference president at Holy Spirit Sacramento, served as an interim District Council President, and is currently a Board Member for the Sacramento Diocesan Council. She worked as an Information Technology Specialist for the Office of the Legislative Council of California before her retirement.

Dot assists with Spanish translation services, is a presenter for Ozanam Orientation, serves as the Spiritual Advisor for her district council, and assists with the administration of her conference's systemic change program Temporary to Permanent Housing Solutions.

KEVIN PEACH, COO, DISASTER SERVICES CORPORATION

Kevin Peach is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Disaster Services Corporation SVDP-USA, recognized for his ability to create public-private partnerships to drive cross-sector collaboration. He has served in various capacities to advise the United Nations (UN), the Executive Office of the President (White House), the National Security Council (NSC), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), and private industry. Kevin's background is in emergency management, leading programs that address preparedness, protection, security, response, recovery and mitigation. Having served in various capacities for various local, state, federal, and international agencies, Kevin possesses extensive and diverse professional experience managing multilateral disaster responses, government organizations, complex disaster projects and emergency management programs.

He has experience managing emergency field response activities, and the formulation and development of policies addressing the mobilization of resources during emergencies, the preparation of emergency plans, and the coordination of emergency operations. He possesses comprehensive knowledge of the principles, practices and organizations that affect emergency management activities in the United States and internationally. Has a proven ability to exercise leadership and manage a diverse and complex organization to protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, terrorism, and other man-made disasters through a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, security, response, recovery, and mitigation.

GABRIEL PEREZ, CONFERENCE FORMATOR, ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

DAVE RINGLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE – JUNEAU

Dave runs 101 housing units from 26 rooms for families and vulnerable adults to 75 rental units throughout Juneau. He has raised 80% of the capital improvement campaign funds and is scheduled to complete this project by next year. Many more individuals are channeled into other community resources through the Continuum of Care.

He has significantly increased thrift store sales, established a robust home visit team, and helped rewrite their bylaws after the Diocese of Southeast merged with the Archdiocese of Anchorage. All his knowledge has been learned through on the job experience, and he hopes he can make the learning curve easier for others.

Dave graduated from Marquette University in 1984 and moved to Alaska as a Jesuit Volunteer, teaching in a remote boarding school on the Yukon River. He met and married his wife, Valorie, there. They have been married for 33 years and have four children.

PAUL STARKEY, DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

Past-President of the Sacramento Diocesan Council, Deputy Director of Labor Relations at California Department of Human Resources.

Paul has over 35 years' experience in the field of labor-management relations. He excels in public speaking before management and labor groups and professional associations since 1983. He has been a member of Toastmaster International since 1988 and he received the designation of Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) in 2011.

PHIL WIJMER, PRESIDENT, ADCC OF LOS ANGELES