There’s Something for Everyone
At Vincentian de Marillac’s summer picnic

Where else can you find free snow cones, a singing cowboy, a donut eating contest and an old-fashioned backyard picnic? The answer is Vincentian de Marillac, where the annual family picnic keeps getting bigger and better each year! This year, residents and their families enjoyed entertainment from Slim Forsythe and his band, along with fun for the whole family like face painting and balloon animals.

TOP: After visiting with residents and staff, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Sr. Therese Martin Blehar, left, and Sr. Denise Hibel enjoy lunch from the barbecue with Vincentian de Marillac Administrator Jennifer Pruett, right.
BELOW: Vincentian de Marillac resident Frank LoPresti enjoys a picnic lunch with daughter-in-law, Lindsey, and granddaughter, Sophia.

Celebrating the Spirit in Song and Praise

Vincentian Home service coincides with Pope Francis’ visit

Surely, so many of us were touched by the images of Pope Francis greeting pilgrims during his historic visit to our country. Vincentian’s own Maureen Coyne and Susan Lewandowski traveled to Washington to see the Holy Father, as did many others from Pittsburgh. At the same time, a charismatic service of praise was held at Vincentian Home to bring the spirit of Pope Francis and St. Vincent de Paul to our residents.

Fr. LeRoy DiPietro came to each resident with the Blessed Sacrament so they could “meet face to face with Jesus.” He encouraged all to see Jesus’ face in others, and in so doing, as Pope Francis reminded us, follow the golden rule to treat others as we would like to be treated. The celebration highlighted the Vincentian value of spirituality, which Sr. LaVerne Sihelnik is emphasizing this month in meetings with employees.

Deacon Bill Strathman played guitar and was accompanied by other singers and a piano player. Residents, family members and staff sang songs like “This Little Light of Mine” and “The Saints Go Marching In.” The experience was moving for many, with residents raising their hands in praise. As one resident was leaving the chapel, he exclaimed that he hoped a service like this could be held every day!
St. Vincent de Paul called charity “the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another.” This cement — the simple act of love for one another — sustains our ministries to this very day. We need to look no further than the many stories in this issue of Insights to see how.

Consider how one man’s love for others compels him to bring beautiful flower arrangements from his garden for all at Vincentian Home to enjoy. In the same way, a group of donors, our newly formed Vincentian Society, comes together with disparate backgrounds and experiences for one common goal – to ensure the continued prosperity of our ministries. And, the work of one of the many Sisters who helped form Marian Manor is honored at a record-setting golf outing.

In his historic visit to the United States, Pope Francis urged us to remember the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I am honored to be part of a Vincentian family that answers the Pope’s call each and every day. By carrying on the legacy of St. Vincent, St. Louise de Marillac, Catherine Spalding and all the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, we breathe life into our ministries and the seniors who trust us with their care. I can think of no better way — no stronger cement — to bind our communities together in service to God.

The new vcs.org has arrived at a browser or smartphone near you, featuring many improvements with you in mind.

Take, for example, the video “The Secret Behind a Century of Catholic Care.” You can watch it to explore the roots of the Vincentian mission. Photo galleries, virtual tours, daily schedules and more for each of our ministries are all there for you to see. An online giving option for donors is conveniently located on the home page, too.

It’s All Smiles at Marian Manor’s “Positive Week”

From Marvelous Monday to Fantastic Friday, residents and staff at Marian Manor recently took time to celebrate positive attitudes. Smiles and kindness for all were encouraged through fun games and special treats. Most importantly, it gave residents and staff alike the chance to say a simple “thank you” to each other for making Marian Manor a special place.

For example, on Marvelous Monday, staff invited a coworker they didn’t know to join them at lunch. On Terrific Tuesday, everyone was encouraged to smile throughout the day. And, to close out the week, an ice cream social was enjoyed on Fantastic Friday.

Donors Shatter Records at Sr. Eileen Charity Golf Classic

Golfers, dinner guests, sponsors and donors raised more than $80,000 for the residents in our care at this year’s golf outing. The record-setting day included a buffet patio lunch, a round of golf under clear blue skies, dinner and one-of-a-kind auction items. Some 112 golfers along with another 50 dinner guests enjoyed an ample dose of Pittsburgh wit from WPXI’s Alby Oxenreiter.

Special thanks to our presenting sponsor, CDL Nuclear Technologies, and everyone who made the event a success. We’ll see you again next year!
Vincentian Home’s Own Master Gardener

Long-time friend and gardener shares tips for prosperity inside and outside of the garden

John Howard has a green thumb. The Shaler native and longtime friend to Vincentian Home shares bouquets of his prized dahlias for all to enjoy. He's even been known to bring fresh, plump tomatoes straight from his sizable garden. John’s wife for more than 60 years, Pat, affectionately refers to him as Jack. On a recent fall afternoon, this "Jack of all gardens" shared a few secrets: First, tender loving care, as in life, is essential. Proper pruning and trimming encourages healthy growth. Second, choosing only the best seeds and tubers can result in bountiful results for years. Lastly, John recommends an ample fence to keep critters out.

Both John and Pat have been, at various times, short-term residents at Vincentian Home, and Pat's mother was a longtime resident. John says the staff likely saved his life during his short-term stay by promptly recognizing the warning signs of an infection and sending him to the hospital.

With a family of 27 that sit down together for dinner nearly every Sunday, the Howards have enjoyed prosperity — inside and outside the garden. ♥

Bookmobile a Big Hit for Vincentian Villa Residents

Vincentian Villa residents don’t have to travel far to check a book or DVD out of the local library.

Thanks to the Bookmobile’s regular stops at the Villa, residents can browse a selection of hundreds of books and movies. During a recent visit, residents were thrilled with how easy it was to check out items, obtain a library card and search the library catalog. Residents can request items from any Allegheny County Library Association member library, including all Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh locations. Requested materials are brought for residents to check out on the next visit.

Material can be conveniently returned on the Bookmobile’s next visit or to the library. ♥
The Vincentian Society: A Voice for Vincent

The newly formed Vincentian Society, comprised of benefactors from diverse backgrounds, stands as a voice for St. Vincent de Paul, the Great Apostle of Charity. Members’ philanthropic leadership helps to sustain our ministries, heighten the quality of life for seniors in our care and ensure the continuation of our Vincentian mission and values. For more information on how you can join the Vincentian society, call 412-548-4067.

Save the date
Saturday, March 5, 2016
LeMont, Mt. Washington

Christmas Caring Trees — coming soon!

Hundreds of generous donors sent in ornaments for caring trees at each of our communities. Check your mail this holiday season for your opportunity to again honor a loved one — and to see the design of this year’s ornament!

Vehicles for Charity
Donate your used car to Vincentian!

If you have an old gas guzzler you want to get rid of, Vincentian wants it! Vincentian has teamed up with Vehicles for Charity to make donating your used vehicle to Vincentian easy. Call Nakia at 412-548-4067 for all the details.

United Way or Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

Please consider designating all or part of your gift to one of the Vincentian system’s five participating ministries — codes are to the left. For more information, call 412-548-4067 or visit www.vcs.org/donate-now.

Thank you to all of our donors!
Your continued support of our ministries throughout the year makes a world of difference to our residents!