

# St. Vincent de Paul Roseville Quarterly



SPRING '23

## Preventing Hunger and Homelessness Since 1983

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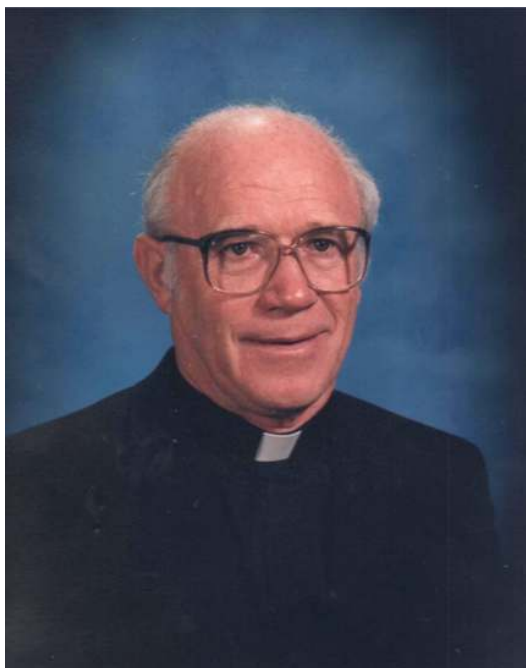
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## In Loving Memory Of



Father Michael  
Cormack





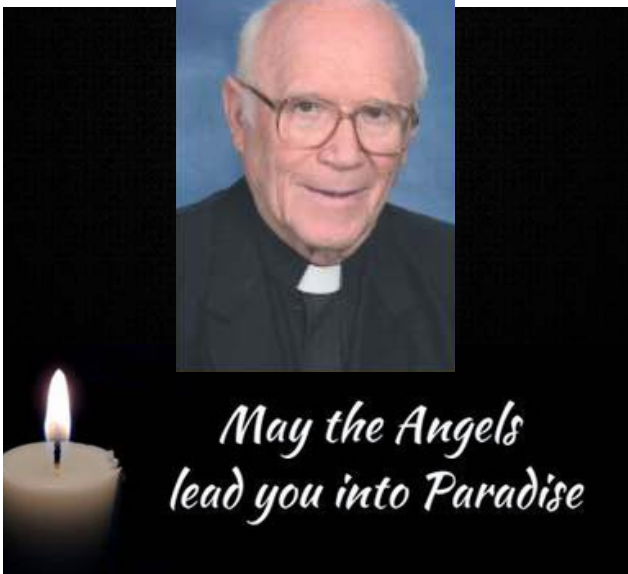
# Farewell to a True Servant Leader



Father Michael Joseph Cormack was born on November 10, 1927, in the town of Vallyerk, in County Tipperary, Ireland. He was the third child in a family of six. He attended Christian Brothers High School and Saint Patrick's College Major Seminary. As a young man, Father Cormack was an outstanding athlete and excelled in the game of hurling, the national sport of Ireland. He was a member of his high school's hurling team that played in the championship finals in Dublin and was later chosen for the college team to represent Munster Province in the college championship finals.

Father Cormack was ordained a priest on June 14, 1953. At that time, there was an abundance of priests in Ireland and so Father Cormack volunteered to emigrate to Sacramento, California. His first assignment was at Sacred Heart Church in Sacramento where he stayed for 10 years. He then served as a chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Sacramento for 7 years and then became pastor at Saint Anthony's Church in Walnut Grove.

In 1980, Father Cormack became the pastor at Saint Rose Church in Roseville. Under his leadership and guidance, the social gospel came to the forefront of the parish's spiritual agenda. In 1983, a Saint Vincent de Paul Society Conference was founded in Roseville. This was soon followed by Homestart, a transitional housing program for homeless families, and What Would Jesus Do?, an outreach service for the homeless in South Placer County. In November, 1992, after the City of Roseville decided against opening the National Guard Armory as a shelter for the homeless during the winter months, Father Cormack opened the Saint Rose Parish Center to the homeless to provide a warm and safe place for them to sleep.



After his retirement, his legacy continued to grow with the addition of The Lazarus Project, a transitional housing program for homeless single men and women. Additionally, the Saint Rose parish has joined a multitude of other churches in forming The Gathering Inn which provides emergency housing for homeless men and women.

In 1993, Father Cormack "retired" to become Pastor Emeritus of Saint Rose Church. He continued his priestly ministry by filling temporary vacancies in other parishes, saying mass for the Sisters of Mercy in Auburn, and officiating at an occasional baptism, marriage, or funeral. In 2012, Father Cormack finally withdrew from regular public ministry. It was time for him to relax from the pressures of active ministry. At that point, Father sold his home in Del Webb, Roseville and moved to the newly built Priests' Retirement Village in Citrus Heights where he enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow priests he had known most of his life. In his free time, he enjoyed having meals with friends, staying in touch with his family via e-mail, and watching an occasional hurling match in Ireland by way of satellite television.

Father Cormack passed away on March 2, 2023 at the age of 95. Wherever he served, as an assistant priest, as a hospital chaplain, as an administrator, as a pastor, or an auxiliary paster during his retirement, he did an outstanding job revealing the love of Jesus. Father Cormack truly loved the people to whom he ministered and they loved him in return. We at St. Vincent de Paul feel that we have lost our "Founding Father" and we will miss him deeply and always be grateful for the role he played in establishing our organization. May he rest in eternal peace with our Lord.



# Staff & Volunteer Luncheon



On February 12th, St. Vincent de Paul Roseville held a luncheon to show appreciation for all staff and volunteers. Burritos, enchiladas, and candy were served to all guests. President Don Fraser spoke about the importance of volunteers to our organization. “Without all of you, we could not accomplish our mission of preventing hunger and homelessness,” Fraser said. There are approximately 200 people that volunteer for us. They contribute close to 700 hours of service per month, which contributes about \$250,000 in services to St. Vincent de Paul.



After eating, Don Fraser announced the Dr. Tom Stanko Service Award. This new award will be given from time to time for long-time outstanding service. Jessie Chambers is the first recipient of the Dr. Tom Stanko Service Award. Jessie, who is now 95, is a former Board member who spent many mornings working in our food locker and front counter and assisted with translations for those that spoke Spanish. She spoke from the heart, telling everyone that when St. Vincent first started: “I would distribute groceries from the back of my car.” Congratulations Jessie and thank you for your service to God’s people.



The event ended with a raffle; each person took home items such as a s’mores kit, coffee mugs, and planting equipment.

St. Vincent de Paul Roseville will be holding a Staff & Volunteer Luncheon again next year, on February 8th 2024 from 11AM to 1PM. We hope you can join us.

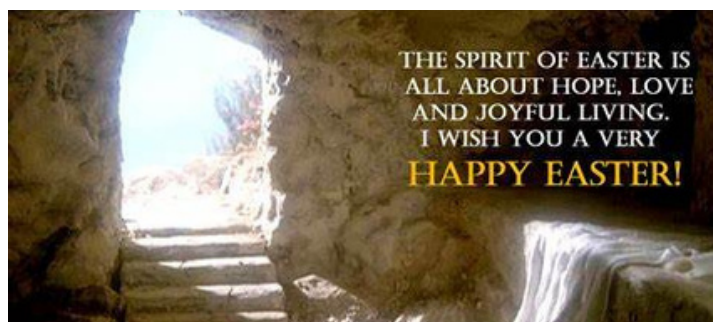


# President's Message

Don Fraser



Father Michael Cormack died in early March. He helped establish St. Vincent de Paul Roseville and without his support we would not be here today. We are dedicating this issue to the memory of Father Cormack for all that he did in getting our organization off the ground. He truly represented the best of servant leadership and living the Social Gospel that we all strive for.



This is the season of Lent, one in which we dedicate ourselves to prayer, fasting and works of charity. For many of our clients, life will become more difficult as the SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps) are cut back as the COVID-19 emergency ends. I hope you will think of us and other charities that help those in need during this Lent season.

We are also looking for more people to become actively involved in our next fundraiser on May 4, Big Day of Giving. If you are interested in helping, contact our office or me at [dfraser@surewest.net](mailto:dfraser@surewest.net).

I wish you and your family a blessed and Happy Easter as we celebrate the risen Lord.

## STAFF

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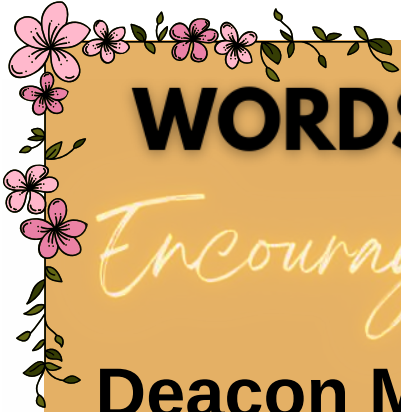
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## PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

St. Vincent de Paul is always looking for new opportunities to partner with the business community. If you own or work for a business that would like to become more involved, please contact Don Fraser at [dfraser@surewest.net](mailto:dfraser@surewest.net)



# WORDS OF WISDOM AND

## *Encouragement*

### Deacon Mike



Father Michael Joseph Cormack, Pastor Emeritus of St. Rose of Lima Parish, entered into his eternal rest on March 2nd, 2023, just months shy of his seventieth year as a priest. Way back in seminary, newly graduated Father Cormack had an important decision to make. Some of his good friends were going to the Diocese of Sacramento, so he decided to would go with them. It was a faith decision, a foolish one he later often said as he knew nothing about Sacramento, but a decision he never regretted. Michael Cormack was ordained into the priesthood in June, 1953 and after a journey by boat and train, arrived in Sacramento in the fall of 1953.

Father Cormack enjoyed all his assignments throughout the years before being sent to St. Rose of Lima in August of 1980. It was here in Roseville that I believe he felt he accomplished one of his highest achievements: the establishment of our St. Vincent de Paul Society along with several other social justice ministries. Shortly after his arrival, Dr. Tom Stanko invited Father over for dinner and suggested to him that St. Rose should be more involved in the social gospel ministry. Sharing this idea with Deacon Bill Boudier, Dr. Tom introduced the idea of starting a St. Vincent Society in the parish. In 1983, the idea became a reality with the founding of a Thrift Store. The organization eventually expanded to a Food Locker and Dining Room and finally grew into the St. Vincent's we know today. As the population in and around Roseville grew, new Catholic parishes were formed. First came SS Peter and Paul parish in 1981, then Saint Clare parish in 1993, and finally St. Joseph Marello parish in 2004. All of these parishes have joined with St. Rose of Lima parish to form the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Roseville Area Conference. From its humble beginnings, St. Vincent's has become the largest privately funded supplier of human services in South Placer County. Throughout the years, countless families and individuals have benefitted from Father Cormack's efforts to provide for those most in need.

Father Cormack was a gentle, soft-spoken man with the heart of Jesus. Many times, Father's demeanor hid his competitive nature, but in truth, he did not like to lose... at anything! Opponents of his social justice agenda quickly realized they had a tiger by the tail, and more often than not, Father Cormack prevailed. I said in a recent homily that if I have changed the life of just one person, my life will not have been lived in vain. When I consider the hundreds, if not thousands whose life has been touched and changed by the efforts and tireless work of Father Cormack, I can say with confidence his was a life lived not in vain, but so very well lived.



"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." May you rest in the arms of the One you served so well my friend; and may the face of the Father shine upon you.

**Together, We're  
A Force For Good**



**May 4, 2023**

**BigDayofGiving.org**



# EARLY GIVING

**Every Gift Counts!**

Starting April 20, you can schedule a donation at  
[www.bigdayofgiving.org/organization/placersvdp](http://www.bigdayofgiving.org/organization/placersvdp)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CHILD & FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR

PLACER COUNTY- WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 27  
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Maidu Center  
1550 Maidu Drive  
Roseville, CA 95661

**WHAT:** Join Placer MDIC and partners to:

- Learn about services
- Learn about resources
- Learn about Internet / Digital Safety - a seminar taught by a FBI agent



while supplies last

FREE  
diaper  
giveaway

FREE  
child finger  
print kits

FREE  
dental  
screenings

FREE  
toothbrushes  
+  
toothpaste

Learn more at [placer.ca.gov/](http://placer.ca.gov/) MDIC



## Save The Date

### Anniversary Dinner

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2023

St. Vincent will celebrate its 40th Anniversary serving those in need in south Placer County. The event will be held at the Saint Rose Parish hall and will include a tribute to our recently deceased founder, Father Michael Cormack.





# MONTHLY DRIVE SPOTLIGHT

**April 2023**



**May 2023**



**June 2023**



Donations can be shipped to:

Food Locker  
503 Giuseppe Ct. Suite 8  
Roseville, CA 95678

Donations can also be dropped off Tuesdays  
and Thursdays between 8AM and 2PM at our  
warehouse located behind the building.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*More to Give*



Clients visiting the Food Locker have been receiving extra blessings this quarter!

Thanks to our partnerships with various grocery stores we have been able to distribute a few extra items each month.



In February, we provided household cleaning products, deodorant, bar soap, hair care products, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sunblock, and Valentine's Day decorations and tableware. We had a full box of Valentine's Day cards for kids to share with their classmates.



In March, we offered St. Patrick's Day silverware and decor, razors, shaving cream, tissue boxes, and candles.



In April, we will distribute Easter baskets, plastic Easter eggs, plush bunnies, and tableware, paper towels, household cleaning products, and baby formula.

# FOOD LOCKER SURVEY RESULTS

Each January, we use a written survey of our Food Locker clients to measure our impact on improving food security, decreasing hunger, and preventing homelessness in our community.

In January 2023, the majority of the respondents stated that with the food they receive at St. Vincent's Food Locker, "I and/or other family members did not have to skip any meals." However, 14% responded that despite the groceries they receive at the Food Locker, "I and/or other family members do have to skip meals." Of this 14% of households who skipped meals, 42% were receiving CalFresh, 21% were ineligible, and 37% were unsure if they were eligible. We offered to help this latter group apply for CalFresh benefits.

A second survey question asked, "if the food locker were not available to you, would you be able to meet your monthly housing expenses?" 59% of our clients answered "no." 41% answered "yes."

A third survey question asked, "have the services you received at St. Vincent's helped you stay in your home?" 12% answered that they would be homeless without our services, and 43% responded that they would probably be homeless without our help.

Our 2023 survey affirms that we are successful in our mission to prevent hunger and homelessness and provide vital services to our Roseville community.



# How can you join our community's conversation about homelessness and help prevent it?



**National**



United States Interagency Council on Homelessness



**State**

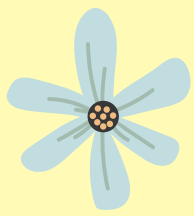


**County**

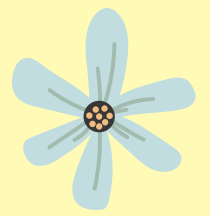


**City**





# To-Go Program



St. Vincent de Paul's TO GO serves a warm meal three days each week, and a cold meal two days a week. In collaboration with our community partners, Salvation Army and First United Methodist Church, we provide nutritional meals both to the homeless and to low-income individuals and families in our community. There is no application, nor ID requirement.



Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Closed Monday & Friday

105 Bonita Street

Roseville, CA 95678

# Volunteer Spotlight

## *Dorothy Peterson*



Dorothy's start with St Vincent de Paul began while her husband Rich was serving on the Advisory Board. Dorothy would wait in the car, reading, when Rich stopped by the office on Board matters. One day, Dorothy came in and asked if there was anything she could help out with. Rebecca asked, how about data entry? That was in November 2021, and since that time, Dorothy has been our regular Wednesday morning data entry volunteer.

Dorothy says performing the data entry is satisfying in that it frees up the staff to do other work, such as reporting, meeting with community partners, and grant writing. She says the volunteers who really work hard are those who work in the food locker, and that what she does is easy. It may be easy for Dorothy, because she is good at it! It is important work she is performing for us, and without someone with her attention to detail to get it completed, it would be difficult to accomplish all that is necessary.

Dorothy also volunteers with the BAGS Home Delivery Program along with her husband Rich. Dorothy and Rich have been delivering to the homebound for SVDP since September 2016 and Dorothy enjoys the home delivery program and visiting with the elderly. We are extremely fortunate to have Dorothy, as well as Rich, volunteering with us. THANK YOU for all that you do in our community!



# GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK ON YOUR JOURNEY!



**Desiree Orozco** joined the Administrative Team several months ago after completing her Master’s degree in the Public Health program at the University of San Francisco. Desiree also has a prior history with St Vincent de Paul Roseville, having served on our Board for over four years prior to joining the staff. During her time with us, Desiree helped bring several processes in our office from paper to electronic format, one of our top agency goals. Desiree has been instrumental in mentoring our social media intern and ensuring the quarterly newsletter arrives to your inbox on time and full of the great deeds St Vincent de Paul Roseville is accomplishing in our community. We are excited to announce she will be rejoining the St. Vincent de Paul Board in the near future!



**Vanessa Aguero** joined St Vincent de Paul Roseville last summer after completing her Bachelor’s degree in the Visual Arts program at William Jessup University. The social media posts, newsletter copy, videos, and holiday setup you’ve seen over the past several months have been the dedicated work of Vanessa. We are fortunate to have had Vanessa with us for these months and wish her all the best in her new full time position!



## Faith-Based Partnerships



St. Rose  
Catholic Church



St. Joseph Mareello  
Catholic Church



SS Peter & Paul  
Catholic Church



St. Clare Catholic  
Church

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

