

*Meet the Recipients of this year's
Norbert F. DeJaco*

Deacon Mike and Joyce Lyman of our St. William Conference have been selected as our 2017 Norbert F. DeJaco Vincentian Service Award recipients.



This award was established in 2013 to recognize Vincentians who have shown dedicated service to our neighbors in need. That service can be performed at the Conference level, Council, Regional or National level of the Society.

Previous recipients of this award have been 2013 – Norb DeJaco; 2014 – Bill and Vicki Biery; 2015- Stan & Rita Bond; and in 2016 – Phil Vaske.

Mike and Joyce have done amazing things for their neighbors in Williamstown. Having very few community resources compared to our northern counties, Mike, Joyce and their fellow Vincentians at St. William, are many times the only source of assistance for the residents of Grant County. Their accomplishments

are too numerous to capture here, but they helped establish the St. William SVdP food pantry. Joyce served as Conference President for eight years, during which time she served on the 2010 Executive Director Search Committee; and was the driving force behind this 'Newsflash' newsletter. She remains very involved with that publication. Joyce prepares an annual application for our St. William Conference to receive funds through the Diocesan DPAA grant program. Mike is the lead instructor on our Ozanam Training program and started our annual Vincentian Spiritual Retreat program. Deacon Mike has also become our Mideast Regional Spiritual Advisor and provides a very insightful weekly reflection, that is shared with all of our Mideast region Vincentians and can be found on our Council website. Mike served on our 2017 Executive Director Search Committee.

Perhaps the most impactful program they have developed is our "Turn the Corner" program. Through that program two single parent families in Grant County have received in-depth training, spiritual support and assistance in order to help them truly turn the corner and take control of their lives. The result is that they have moved from a life of need to a life of self-sufficiency. Mike shares the challenges, blessings and results of this program at the SVdP National meeting.

Ralph Bradburn, Executive Director 2010-2017

"There is Nothing Impossible with God"

When I was asked to share some thoughts and experiences as a new President of our local SVdP conference, I balked! Why? I had been an active member for a little over a year and I was going to retire in a month as CRE of our parish. I knew I would have some extra time to give so I accepted being President without knowing everything it entailed. God has a sense of humor indeed!

My first month started with at least three unusual cases. We had a gentleman come to Church where I was working. He had no active phone, no gas, no food, no electric and was physically handicapped. He walked with a cane and had an oxygen tube. Where do you begin? I called the Assistance Office for him. After speaking with him, I found out he had a \$2000.00 dollar electric bill. Whoever has a bill that high? It must have been because of his disability. He was not able to use his oxygen at the house and cooked what he could on a grill. We sent him off with prayer and food. When he was gone, panic set in. What just happened? I turned it over to the Lord and then called our former President, for which I thank God profusely.

The support and help I received from our former President, Spiritual Advisor, and conference members was humbling. I learned to reach out to other conference members and really came to see how awesome it is to be a part of such a caring, generous, and God centered Vincentian family. We did give the gentleman hope and a plan of action and he is now up and "running".

Two other complex cases came up; the former President kept telling me that this was not the norm to have so many families in need of serious help right on top of one another. She encouraged me pray for guidance and to take one step at a time. My Vice-President and Treasurer probably seriously considered not answering the phone when they saw me calling, but they did answer. They were nothing but supportive and helpful. Other SVdP conferences in the Northern Kentucky offered their support, helped us with food and financial assistance through twinning for which we are extremely grateful. It has been almost a year since taking office, but I have learned that there is nothing impossible with God, the Vincentian family, and people in love with the Lord.

Kathy McDonough, President SVdP St. William Conference