**Vincentian Heritage Week Events**

***September 23- 29, 2018***

*“Totum opus nostrum in operatione consistit:*

*From scholarly research to compassionate action.”*

**Overview**

Vincentian Heritage Week is a Niagara University tradition that educates and celebrates all that makes our university community Vincentian. We take our theme this year from the classical phrase St. Vincent de Paul often quoted, “All our work ends up in action!” by honoring people who continue to work effectively in the spirit of St. Vincent.

During the week, NU students will experience firsthand what it is like to live with the stress of not having enough to meet basic needs in our annual Poverty Simulation. Tuesday, we will welcome to our campus the Very Rev. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M., superior general of the Congregation of the Mission and 24th successor of St. Vincent de Paul. Members of our education faculty will present on their work combating poverty. On Thursday, we have an open dialogue on international homelessness and will hold our annual convocation in Alumni Chapel, during which members of our Vincentian and university communities will be formally honored for their work of putting compassion into action: aiding individuals and changing systems. During the ceremony, the Very Rev. Stephen M. Grozio, C.M., ’75, the provincial superior of the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians), will give the keynote address.

Please see the full list of events for each day of Heritage Week below.

**Family Weekend Mass: Commissioning of the Vincentian Scholars**

***Sunday, September*** ***23, 11 a.m.***

Alumni Chapel

**Poverty Simulation**

***Monday, September 24, 1:30 p.m.***

Gallagher Center, Multi-Purpose Room

Students from NU’s social work classes will gain firsthand insight into the day-to-day struggles of millions of Americans. Recognizing the Vincentian principle of compassion for the poor, this event enables participants to experience the realities of life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. All members of the university community are welcome to observe the simulation. For more information, please contact Dr. Kevin Blair ([blairkd@niagara.edu](mailto:blairkd@niagara.edu)).

**Vincentian Mission Reception and Awarding of Special Academic** **Honors**

***Tuesday, September 25, 3:45–5 p.m.***

Russell J. Salvatore Dining Commons

The Very Rev. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M., superior general of the Congregation of the Mission and 24th successor of St. Vincent de Paul, will be welcomed by the university and address the community. A reception will follow. All are invited.

**Panel on Vincentian Mission**

**“From scholarly research to compassionate action: College of Education Poverty Initiatives.”**

***Wednesday, September 26, 4–5 p.m.***

St. Vincent’s Hall 407

Chandra Foote, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education; Michelle R. Ciminelli, Ph.D., associate professor; Christian D. Elia, Ph.D., assistant professor; Haoua M. Hamza, Ph.D., associate professor; and Shannon Hodges, Ph.D, professor, will share their experiences working with children and families living in poverty, both locally and around the world, and the ways in which they prepare students for professional lives dedicated to this type of service.

**Dialogue on International Homelessness**

***Thursday, September 27, 12:45-1:45 p.m.***

Multi-purpose Room – Lower Level Gallagher Center

Yasmine Cajuste, project director of the Vincentian Family Alliance to End Homelessness and honoree at this year’s Vincentian Heritage Convocation, will share perspectives on her work. Find out more about the FamVin Homeless Alliance at <http://vfhomelessness.org>.

**Vincentian Heritage Convocation**

***Thursday, September 27, 4 p.m.***

Alumni Chapel

The convocation is a Vincentian Heritage Week tradition where we recognize members of the university community as well as others who inspire us through their outstanding work in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul. The keynote speaker will be the Very Rev. Stephen M. Grozio, C.M., ’75, provincial superior of the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission and vice chair of NU’s Board of Trustees. All members of the university community are invited to the convocation ceremony.

**2018 Honorees**

**Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)**

Sister Nora Gatto, D.C., Campus Minister for Retreats and Faith Formation, St. John’s University

**Vincentian Mission Award**

David B. Taylor, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Niagara University

**St. Vincent De Paul Medal**

Kenneth Sass, LCSW-R, President & CEO, Family & Children’s Services of Niagara

**St. John-Gabriel Perboyre Award**

Rev. Elmer Bauer, C.M., ’87, Provincial Treasurer of the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission, Philadelphia, PA

**St. Louise De Marillac Award for Outstanding Service**

Yasmine Cajuste, Project Development Manager for the FAMVIN Homeless Alliance, Worldwide Vincentian Family

**Ozanam Medal**

Amelia Gallagher, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Niagara University

**Keynote Speaker**

Very Rev. Stephen Grozio, C.M., ’75, Provincial Superior, Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission, USA

**Vincentian Heritage Week Mass**

***Friday, September 28, 12:20 p.m.***

Upper Level Gallagher Center

**Chilly Billy’s Ice Cream Truck**

***Friday, September 28, 1:15 p.m.***

Front of Gallagher Center for all who participate in Mass

**Saint Vincent de Paul Society Friends of the Poor Walk**

***Saturday, September 29, Registration: 8:30 a.m., walk at 10 a.m.***

Goat Island at the American Falls

NU’s Society of St. Vincent de Paul will join the Friends of the Poor Walk on Goat Island in Niagara Falls. This is a great opportunity to walk in solidarity with other St. Vincent de Paul societies in the region. Funds raised for this walk assist directly those in our communities in need of food, household goods and other services. All who would like to join can register online at <https://www.fopwalk.org/>. Proceeds will go to NU’s student-run soup kitchen as well as other works of our local council of the society.

For more information about all events, contact the Office of Mission Integration (formerly Mission and Ministry) at 716.286.8400.