

“Sister V” Will be Honored at Gala

Sister Virginia O'Donnell will be the honoree this year at St. Vincent de Paul School's 2015 Gala & Auction.

Sister O'Donnell was born in Ireland in 1930, the fourth of seven children of Patrick and Mary O'Donnell. From an early age, her parents instilled in her and her siblings self esteem, the recognition and use of one's God-given gifts and talents, and the emphasis on a strong prayer life. All who know her, or have known her, recognize that she very much lives these values each and every day.

She left Ireland for Houston to join the Sisters of the Incarnate Word in 1949 and began her teaching career while in first vows. She earned a BA from the University of St. Thomas, became a certified teacher and then pursued a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Houston.

Sister Virginia served as an elementary school principal for twenty-five years at three different Houston area Catholic elementary schools. She then attended the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkley, California, and was certified in Theological Studies.

Upon request from Monsignor Jim Jamail to her community, she was sent on August 18, 1987 to assist the pastor in the ministry of faith and spiritual growth at St. Vincent de Paul Church. As the only person ministering in pastoral services at the time, Sister Virginia initiated the creation of several sub-ministries, including ministry to the active and homebound seniors, hospital ministry, ministry to the terminally ill and ministry to grieving families.

She also advocated for the installation of automatic doors and wheelchair ramps for the disabled and elderly. Most recently, she has been an active champion of the Guayaquil Mission in Ecuador, living Christ's call to care for and teach the world's poorest of the poor.

Sister Virginia resigned from St. Vincent de Paul Church in 2012 when her community elected her as Local Superior of the Motherhouse Congregation. While the parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Church miss Sister's regular presence in and around the church office, she remains active, engaged, prayerful and a comforting presence to all

who are blessed to cross her path.

To learn more about the SVdP School 2015 Gala & Auction or to download a form to underwrite a table, visit www.saintvincent.school.org/auction-and-gala. Individual tickets go on sale January 5 via www.bidpal.net/svdp.



Bellaire AARP

The Bellaire AARP meeting will be held Jan. 12 at the Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd., in the Parlor at 10 a.m. The Bellaire AARP Garage Sale will be held at the Bellaire Civic Center, 7008 S. Rice Ave., on Saturday, March 21, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.



Sister Virginia O'Donnell will be honored at St. Vincent de Paul School's Gala.

Spelling Champs

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic school hosted its annual Spelling Bee in the Monsignor Jamail Family Center. Shawn Varkey and Seth Levy tied in the Intermediate School. Nathaniel Fernandez placed 1st and Liam Garrison 2nd in the Middle School.



Nathaniel Fernandez and Liam Garrison.



Shawn Varkey and Seth Levy.

Join Us for Worship Sunday!

New Worship Schedule starting Sunday, January 4, 2015

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 10:50 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 6:10 p.m. 6TEN - Recovery/Healing Worship



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