



## **SCLs Present Second Vincentian Charism Award**

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs) have announced that Irene Caudillo of Kansas City, Kan., is the second recipient of the Community's recently established Vincentian Charism Award.

"We are pleased to acknowledge Irene, whose life and work exemplifies the spirit and service of St. Vincent de Paul," says Sister Constance Phelps, SCL Community Director. "She has been a life-long advocate for the needy, a voice for the voiceless, and a champion for diversity, especially on behalf of the Latinx community. Irene embodies the characteristic Vincentian virtues of compassion, justice, and charity."

Irene has devoted her life to helping children, youth, adults, and families in a variety of service-related positions. Since 2013, she has served as the president and CEO of El Centro, a non-for-profit agency whose mission is "strengthening communities and improving the lives of Latinos and others through educational, social, and economic opportunities." The SCLs who nominated Irene concur that she is an educator and mentor who, with "Vincent-like" ability, is able to meet challenges and cultivate new leaders in the cause of compassion.

Irene is involved in several important boards and community service organizations, which include the Wyandotte Health Foundation, Governor's Council on Education, KU Advancement Board, and the University of Saint Mary Board of Trustees. She is an active member of Christ the King Parish in Kansas City, Kan., and is married with three children.

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth trace their roots to St. Vincent de Paul, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Catholic priest who served the poor and needy in France with grace and distinction. On November 11, 2020, Founders' Day, the SCL Community marked its 162<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, and the second year of this award. The award honors the works and witness begun by Mother Xavier Ross and the founding of the SCLs, whose charism is deeply rooted in the life and spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.

Due to Coronavirus concerns, Irene will officially receive the Vincentian Charism Award in a formal presentation sometime in early 2021, which will be filmed and made available for online viewing by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. Questions about the award and presentation may be directed via email to [communications@scls.org](mailto:communications@scls.org).