

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
2121 S. Rural Rd.
Tempe, AZ 85282
Phone: 480-966-1974
Email:
thieme@asu.edu



The Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference

Winter 2007

Contents

Thanksgiving Food Drive 1

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program 2007 1-2

Meet Our Volunteers: Mary Pat Pepping 2

From the President's Pen 3

In Memoriam: Allen Williams 3

Baby Footprints 4

Wish List 4

Third Quarter 2007 Report 4

Thanksgiving Food Drive 2007

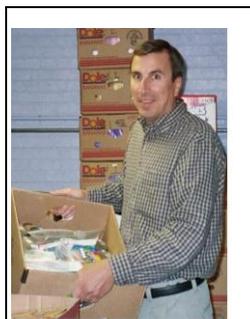
The people we serve thank you for your support. You donated 48 banana boxes of food and 2,763 dollars. May God bless you for your generosity.



OLMC parishioners helping with the food drive.



The Broglia family dropping off food.



Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program 2007

The OLMC conference of St. Vincent de Paul continues to maintain a flourishing "Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program" that serves about 100 families. We had a chance to talk to our current program director, **Mike Murphy**, who has been involved with the program for 7 years.

Q. What exactly is the program about?

A. Each year, our home visit teams locate families in need who have young children (ages 2-14) and cannot afford to purchase presents on their own. Then, our sponsors step in and shop for gifts as well as visit with the families the weekend before Christmas, bringing them both presents and food to enrich their Christmas celebration. (*cont. on p.2*)

Adopt-A-Family 2007 *(continued from p. 1)*



Q. How are the sponsors selected?

A. Most of our sponsors are parishioners of OLMC parish. Other sponsors come from referrals from our downtown St. Vincent de Paul main office. Still others come from word-of-mouth from sponsors who have shared their positive experience and got others “hooked” on being a sponsor.

Q. So you have families in need, and sponsors who want to help. What happens if you have more families in need than sponsors available?

A. In those cases, we have to inform the families that we could not locate a sponsor and that we would try to accommodate them in the following year. The last three years have been amazing, though. We had at least 10-15 families with no sponsors as of mid-December. The families were one day away from receiving a rejection letter. Somehow, and maybe this is the Lord working in mysterious ways, a few sponsors called me at the last minute and volunteered to adopt these remaining families. Those are really great days when something like that happens.

Q. If you want to be a sponsor, what do you need to do?

A. Pick up one of the pink brochures in the church or just call the St. Vincent de Paul office at 480-966-1974. I’ll be sure to contact you and give you the details of the program (time: 4-6 hours; cost: around \$35 per person in the family). We’d love to have more sponsors, as the number of qualifying families continues to grow each year.

Meet our Volunteers



Mary Pat Pepping, who has been serving our conference as **Treasurer** since May 2007, was born and raised in Los Angeles. After 12 years of Catholic School, she attended California State University in Los Angeles, majoring in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. For 29 years, she worked as an Accountant with

Catalina Sportswear. In 1996, she and her husband, Roger, moved to Tempe. For several years, she worked in the Fine Jewelry Department of Robinsons-May, and she is now in the process of setting up her business as an Independent Beauty Consultant for Mary Kay.

Her current job allows her to devote some time to volunteering. “It is a way of meeting people, and it is very rewarding to see that my skills help the needy in the community,” she says. Her accounting skills are valued not only by our conference, but also by other organizations for which she serves as Treasurer: the Association of Arizona Health Care Volunteers and the Sacred Heart High School Alumnae Board. Mary Pat is also a member of the Sodality at OLMC, the Tempe St. Luke’s Auxiliary (where she works in the gift shop), and she regularly attends the conferences and educational programs of the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress and the Association of Arizona Health Care Volunteers.

In her free time, Mary Pat enjoys keeping in contact with friends. She has also traveled widely, visiting countries all over Europe as well as Mexico, Columbia, and Hawaii.

After many years of occasionally substituting for home visit team members, Mary Pat is now a regular member of our conference. We appreciate her willingness to use her talents for the benefit of the needy, and we certainly value her genuine kindness and her spirit of service.

From the President's Pen



In just a few weeks, we will be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child, an event which changed the world. Christ came to save humanity and demonstrated special love for the poor. As Christians and Vincentians, we seek to serve him and follow his example. However, without your financial contributions and your prayers, dear donors, we would not have the resources and support that we need to do what we do in the name of the Father, his son Jesus Christ, and the Spirit.

Jesus fed the hungry.

In the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Jesus showed that the body needs to be fed as well as the spirit. We feed the hungry by delivering food boxes to poor families, the handicapped and the elderly who have limited resources. To see that their sustenance continues, we share information about other food sources: meal deliveries, dining rooms with free lunch and dinner offerings, and agencies that provide food bags or boxes at their locations.

Jesus healed the sick.

During his public ministry, he offered many examples when he cured those whose bodies were hurting. We inform our clients of free and low cost medical care offered by the St.

Vincent de Paul medical and dental clinics as well as other sites in and around Tempe.

Jesus brought love to all.

Our love for the poor motivates us to share our time, talent, and treasure with them. Through our questions and our sincere concern, we seek to understand their emergency and find ways to brighten their future. During each home visit, we also join hands and pray with our clients, sometimes in spontaneous prayers dealing directly with their needs and their current crisis. These prayers are always offered in your name, our donors. Thank you for hearing His words and for following His way with us.

Prayers and blessings for you and yours,

In Memoriam: Allen Williams



We mourn the loss of **Allen Williams**, who passed away unexpectedly two days before his 23rd birthday. In 2002, Allen, who was well-known for his computer savvy and programming skills, volunteered to design a client database for our St. Vincent de Paul conference that would allow us to better serve our clients.

We were looking for a database that would be so user-friendly that even totally inexperienced members of our conference could learn it quickly. The application that Allen designed met those criteria and allowed us to store a large amount of data for easy retrieval and analysis. Allen also provided initial training and trouble shooting during the implementation phase.

We will remember Allen not only for his expertise, but also for his patience and encouragement. May the Lord reward him for his kindness and his spirit of service.

Baby Footprints

(by Adelheid Thieme)



Have you ever seen the footprints of a five-month-old fetus, the delicate imprints on a piece of paper, traces of a life that ended before it had a chance to blossom, reminders of a hope that was not fulfilled?

When we visited the baby's mother, Jennifer, who had called our St. Vincent de Paul office for food and rental assistance, we immediately noticed the dejected look on her face. We brought in the food and then sat down to discuss the rental situation with her. She explained to us that she had lost her job six weeks ago and that her husband's wages did not cover the regular expenditures of the family and the high medical bills she had recently incurred. At this point of the conversation, she fought back her tears.

As it turned out, she had recently been pregnant with her third child. In the fourth month

of the pregnancy, she had taken a fall. That same day, her water had broken and she had been admitted to the hospital. The doctors had given her the option of terminating the pregnancy or trying to prolong it by strict bed rest. Her employer informed her that she would lose her job if she did not choose the abortion. The couple decided, however, that the baby was more important than a job.

For three weeks, Jennifer and her husband sustained the hope that the baby, a girl, would live. However, one night, Jennifer felt contractions. The baby was stillborn.

"The nurses in the hospital were wonderfully supportive," Jennifer recalled. "They clothed my little girl in a tiny pink dress and placed her in a crib. They called the chaplain, who blessed my daughter. Then the nurses took the time to place an imprint of her feet on a paper that contained her name and her birthday. Look at this precious gift," Jennifer concluded as she showed us the framed document.

We could not take away Jennifer's grief, but we were at least able to help her financially and save the family from homelessness. Please keep Jennifer and her family in your prayers.

Wish List

We need a new (new to us) **copy machine**. If you are updating your equipment, either at home or in the office, please consider donating your used one to our OLMC conference. We will supply a letter for tax purposes. More importantly, we will be most grateful for your generosity.

Food is always in short supply. Now that you learned in the last newsletter about the food collection bins at the north and south entrances of the church, please use them. Donate non-perishable items, please. Becky, our special helper, will be grateful for the extra work!

Third Quarter 2007 Report



Deliveries to clients:	382
Food boxes:	764
Food purchased:	\$ 2,163.93
Vouchers for Clothes	\$ 971.61
Rental Assistance:	\$ 7,243.63
Utility Assistance:	\$ 6,697.53