

## CONTENTS

Interview  
with  
Fr. Camilo  
de Villa 1

Weekly  
Bread  
Runs:  
Bob McKay 3

From the  
President's  
Pen 4

Do the Poor  
Serve, too? 4

Adopt-A-  
Family 2012  
Update 4

## CONTACT

St. Vincent de  
Paul Society  
2121 S. Rural  
Rd.  
Tempe, AZ  
85282

Phone:  
480-966-1974

E-mail:  
adelthieme@  
aol.com



The

# Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference

February 2013

## Interview with Our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Camilo de Villa

(by Adelheid Thieme)



**A:** Fr. Camilo, in July 2012, you began serving at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church as a parochial vicar. We are happy that you also volunteered to be the Spiritual Advisor of our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Where are you from originally?

**Fr. Camilo:** I am from the Philippines. My father, a lawyer, and my mother, a businesswoman, raised me and my four siblings in Naga City, about 250 miles south-east of the capital, Manila. Naga City is a commercial, financial, religious and cultural center of the Bicol region with excellent schools.

**A:** Where did you go to school?

**Fr. Camilo:** I attended the Holy Rosary Minor and Major Seminary, a school adjacent to Naga City Cathedral that was run by the Vincentian Congregation of the Missions. I still remember the statue of St. Vincent de Paul in the entrance hall. All subjects were taught in English. At home we spoke Bicol, the native language of the region, and I am also familiar with Tagalog, the official language of the Philippines. Now that I am a priest in the United States, I am glad that I have a strong background in English.

**A:** When were you ordained as a priest?

**Fr. Camilo:** I was ordained on November 28, 1992. After a few years of serving in a parish in the Archdiocese of Caceres, the bishop asked me if I wanted to become the founding pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. My parish consisted of seven villages with about 5,000 inhabitants, most of whom were rice farmers or seasonal fishermen. The people were very poor, and my

*Continued on p. 2*

## Interview with Fr. Camilo de Villa *(continued from p.1)*

living quarters were anything but luxurious. The first two years, I lived with two seminarians and a cook in the home economics classroom of the local school. There was no running water, and it took me two years to obtain a phone line.

### **A: How did you succeed in building a church?**

**Fr. Camilo:** My first priority was to get to know my parishioners. I rode my bicycle or my motorcycle to visit them. During the Christmas season, I went caroling with a choir. The group of singers -- accompanied by guitars, violins, rattles, and drums - continued after the Christmas season and went serenading from house to house. I also encouraged parishioners who enjoyed taking care of statues or images of biblical characters that were displayed during the processions of Holy Week or other religious feasts. I also participated in badminton and Ping-Pong matches, arranged for benefit dances, and held raffles, the first prize of which was often a jeep. With all these activities, the community grew. Although people were poor, they were very generous. The church, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe (see photo) was consecrated three years after my arrival.



### **A: Did you stay in that parish until you came to the United States?**

**Fr. Camilo:** No, I only stayed there until 2005. I was appointed to serve at Naga City Cathedral and became Mother Seton Hospital's Chaplain. There I came into contact with many poor people who would be unable to pay for their care. As chaplain, I was often able to make sure that they would be admitted to the charity ward.

To control a medical condition that I had developed, I later moved to Manila, where I would be able to obtain better medical care. This health issue also brought me to the United States. I am thankful for the warm welcome offered to me by the parishioners at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

**A: Fr. Camilo, thank you for taking the time for this interview. We are grateful for having you here at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. As Vincentians, we appreciate the guidance you provide as Spiritual Advisor to our conference.**

### **Editors' Note**

Please see our new website at <http://olmcstvincentdepaul.weebly.com/>. You can access our newsletter in color (We strive to be good stewards of your donations, and printing the newsletter in color costs 10 times as much as printing it black and white), view videos about our organization, see a slide show of our Thanksgiving Food Drive, and obtain information about our ministry and volunteer activities.

# Weekly Bread Runs: Bob McKay

(by Adelheid Thieme)

Whenever we deliver a food box to a family, we include two to four loaves of bread. The man behind the scenes who makes sure that our refrigerators are always filled with bread is **Bob McKay**.



Every Monday morning, he drives his truck to the **Alpine Bakery** in Mesa, where he will pick up between 20 and 22 banana boxes full of bread. For a nominal fee, the bakery provides us between 300 and 400 loaves of bread that are one day old and therefore cannot be sold as fresh in the adjacent bakery.



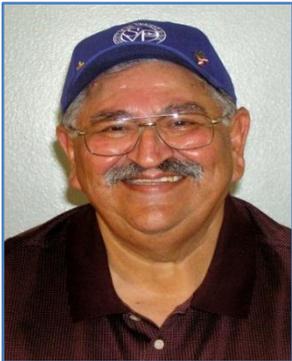
When Bob pulls up to the loading dock in the morning, he is greeted by a friendly employee who helps him load the bread and other baked goods that are available that day.

First Bob drives to our pantry and fills the refrigerators with 160 loaves of bread. Any remaining baked items he takes to the St. Vincent de Paul public dining room in Mesa. The 21-mile trip requires approximately three hours of Bob's time.



Bob has been a trucker for 42 years, driving 18-wheelers and serving cities such as Rapid City, Denver, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles. "I like to help," Bob states in his matter-of-fact way, "and I haul everything that needs to be hauled." At the age of 81, he sees no need to slow down. "I keep going as long as the Good Lord lets me," he says with a big smile.

## From the President's Pen



Vincentians encounter the suffering Christ in countless individuals and families who are homeless or on the brink of homelessness. Struggling for mere existence, they are caught in a vicious cycle with no quick-and-easy

solutions. Their needs are diverse, requiring much more than the Society can provide. We must look beyond what we are able to do, refer them to other agencies, and pray for them.

Hunger manifests itself in many ways. Hunger affects the productivity and health of workers running on empty. Elderly pensioners scrimp to try to get by. Hungry children are affected with poor concentration, behavior difficulties, and low achievement scores. With adequate nourishment, serious physical, mental, and developmental consequences can be prevented.

We, as Vincentians, realize that all people have a right to life and to secure the basic necessities of life (e.g. food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, safe environment, economic security). The food boxes we provide to needy families help them to fulfill their basic needs and lead a dignified life.

Thank you for supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul here at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish with your prayers, your time, and your donations.

Yours in Christ,

*Julian Natividad*

## Do the Poor Serve, too?

As Christians, we hear a lot about the witness and service that we are called to render to the poor among us. However, the poor also have a witness and a service to render to us. The openness and generosity of many of those who are poor, even in the midst of their own poverty, bear witness to the fact that, ultimately, we can depend only on God. Giving one's all witnesses that God will give to anyone who trusts in divine goodness.

The poor or disadvantaged also serve. They serve judgment on our individual and corporate ways of acting. If people are sleeping in our streets, that is a judgment on our priorities regarding others. At the same time, the poor can act as mediators of salvation. When they care for others, they can redeem our indifference and insensibility, lead us to care as well, and save us from ourselves.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

---

## Adopt-A-Family 2012 Update

Thank you to all those of you who contributed to our 2012 Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program. With your help, we were able to adopt **107 families**, serving 202 adults and 350 children, a **total of 552 persons**.

Sponsors were individual OLMC parishioners, Boy Scout Troupe 172 and Cub Scout Pack 26, OLMC Ministries (Marriage Encounter, Sodality, CTS Ministries, Catholic Daughters of America, Knights of Columbus, Companions of St. Paul ), The ASU English Department, St. John Bosco School, Mountain Pointe High School Language Honor Society, and various corporate sponsors.