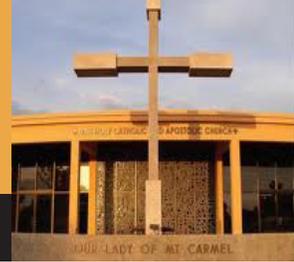




# The Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference June 2013



## Girl Scouts Donate Cookies to St. Vincent de Paul



On April 12, 2013, members of Girl Scouts Troop 0987 came to the St. Vincent de Paul pantry to drop off a donation of always popular Girl Scout Cookies. Many of our clients have a sweet tooth and will relish this very special treat in their food boxes.

Under the direction of **Joe Monks** and **Carrie Caruso**, the Daisy Scouts sold 1,200 boxes of cookies. In addition to making a donation to St. Vincent de Paul, they also donated some to soldiers overseas.

Pictured are the Daisy Scouts, first graders at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, with **Fr. Camilo de Villa**. From left to right **Kylie Monks**, **Alyssia Munoz**, **Angelina Caruso**, **Sarah Monsegur**, and **Mia Ferguson**.

## A Godsend

It was the Thursday after Easter. Among the people we were planning to visit this afternoon was Chris, the father of a 7-year-old girl, who had lost his job and was unable to pay his electric bill. When we called him to make sure he would be home, he confirmed that he would be at his apartment. However, when we knocked on the door, nobody answered. We gave him a call from our cell phone. He promised that he would be there in just five minutes and asked us to wait for him.

The temperature was already quite high, and sitting in the car with the engine turned off was not an option. The only shaded place was the staircase that led up to the first floor of the apartment building. We waited for 15 minutes, wondering what took him so long. Then Chris called hoping that we were still there and stated that he would definitely be there within the next 5 minutes. In the meantime, people were walking by, probably wondering why these two women who did not exactly look like teenagers were sitting on the stairs chatting. Finally, Chris did arrive. He had asked a friend to give him a ride.

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## A Godsend (continued from page 1)

Although Chris was physically handicapped, he insisted on helping us bring in the food boxes. When we entered his apartment, he opened the curtains, saying, "This is the only light I have. My electricity was shut off a few days ago." The amount he owed to the electric company was more than we typically allocate for a single person with one child, so we asked him to call the counseling department of the electric company to see if he would get his electricity reconnected if he made a partial payment. While he was nervously waiting for an answer, which turned out to be negative, we were thinking about his plight. Chris was unable to prepare a coffee or a warm meal, and his daughter did not even have a light to do her homework. He had a new job lined up for the following Monday, so he would soon be self-sufficient again.

Therefore, we decided to pay the full amount of his electric bill so that he would get his electricity reconnected within the hour. When he heard the good news, he was overjoyed. He kept thanking and hugging us. "I have to tell you something," he said. "You are from Mt. Carmel, right? On Saturday, I attended the Easter Vigil at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. I fervently asked the Lord to please help me with my electric bill. And here you come, even wait for me, and pay the full amount. You are indeed a godsend. Praise the Lord."

## United Food Bank Partnering with SVdP

We appreciate that **Bob Evans, President and CEO of the United Food Bank in Mesa**, took the time to join us at our February 27, 2013, meeting and speak to us about the work of his organization. The United Food Bank is one of the largest food banks in Arizona and provides access to nutritious food for the hungry.



Bob Evans (left) and Julian Natividad,  
President of OLMC Conference

Bob Evans initially joined the United Food Bank 15 years ago as a volunteer. He feels it is a privilege for him to work with many kind-hearted individuals and businesses that donate food to the United Food Bank. Currently, the United Food Bank processes more than 18 million pounds of food per year, the equivalent of 45,000 meals per day. Every week, the organization makes 470 stops at 119 different stores to pick up donated food items.

The United Food Bank partners with schools, other food banks like St. Mary's Food Bank, and organizations like the St. Vincent de Paul Society. In 2012, the St. Vincent de Paul Society received 18,393 pounds of food at a value of \$30,532.38 from the United Food Bank.

Our conference is thankful for the generous support of the United Food Bank and the smooth and friendly cooperation with Bob Evans and his staff.

## A New Set of Smilies

A few weeks ago, we received a letter from Jamie Earl, a case manager at Ozanam Manor, a shelter in Phoenix sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. On behalf of Ozanam Manor and the St. Vincent de Paul Dental Clinic, Jamie was asking for financial assistance for a formerly homeless resident named Mitchell M. (53), who was described as “a joyful man, optimistic, polite and so helpful around the shelter.”

Mitchell had recently won the St. Vincent de Paul’s dental lottery. All of Mitchell’s dental work was covered except for the \$300 needed to pay for the dentures. Neither Ozanam Manor nor the Dental Clinic was able to spare \$300 at this time. The letter read, “If your Conference ... would be able to help fund this dental work for Mitchell, you would not find a man more grateful.”



Mitchell M. included a note of his own: “My case manager, Jamie Earl, suggested I write a letter to you. Simply put, there is no way for me to come up with the \$300 without a benefactor of some sort. My hopes are that I might soon have a smiley that goes with how grateful I am to St. Vincent de Paul for opening their doors for me to stay here and get my life back on track. If this can happen, I would be deeply appreciative. If the funds are not available, I will understand and will gladly withdraw my name from the lottery winners in

favor of someone with less dental needs than I. I thank you for your consideration.”

Thanks to our generous donors, the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at our Lady of Mt. Carmel had the funds needed to help pay for Mitchell’s dental needs. We recently received a thank-you note written in Mitchell’s own hand:

*I just received the news! You’ll never know how exciting it will be for me to finally get some dentures. I want to thank everyone who contributed toward my cause. I have been blessed by so many things since arriving at Ozanam, and this, by far, is the biggest blessing. Please relay my heartfelt thanks to all involved.*

*God bless you all!*

## Ice Cream Social

Join us on **Sunday, July 14,** after all masses for our annual Ice Cream Social.

All are welcome to help us celebrate the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at OLMC.

(Expenses are paid by active members of the Society. No donations are used for this event.)



## Jubilarian Ceremony to Honor 10 Long-time Members

At our February 27, 2013, meeting, ten members were recognized for their many years of work in the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The members are **Judy Bawcom, Albert and Susana Marquez, Myrna Morgan, Bart and Valerie Nigro, Shirley Ouellette, Mary Rasmussen, Mary Jean Tate, and Hal White**. Some of these members have retired from active service, but several of them continue to dedicate themselves to work for the needy in our parish.

**Judy Bawcom** and **Shirley Ouellette** used to deliver food boxes together for twelve years. While Shirley occasionally helps with food deliveries, Judy Bawcom helps sort donated food items at the St. Vincent de Paul central food storage facility in downtown Phoenix every week.

**Albert and Susana Marquez** served as Co-Presidents from 2009 to 2012, leading the conference, streamlining the Adopt-A-Family Program, hauling food from the central warehouse, and delivering countless food boxes several times a week. They were honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Myrna Morgan** served for seven years as a phone intake person. She is a wonderful listener who was at the same time very efficient as she was recording clients' requests and referring them to additional sources of assistance.

For ten years, **Bart and Valerie Nigro** visited families in their homes, serving them with love and joy. Bart was also a long-time member of the Voice of the Poor Committee, a committee that advocates for laws that advance justice for the poor and protect their rights to a dignified life.

**Mary Rasmussen** used to deliver food with her late friend and Vincentian, Mary Ziegman, for many years. She still contributes to the work of the conference in her loving and generous way.

For nine years, **Mary Jean Tate** took clients' phone calls every Friday morning. Since she is fluent in both English and Spanish, she was able to com-

municate easily with the people who called. In her gentle and friendly way, she offered support and encouragement to many less fortunate people.

Together with his dear late wife, Lucile, **Harold White** delivered food boxes for many years. He also helped shape the Ozanam Formation Training, which has become an important formative element of every Vincentian's ministry and spirituality in the diocese. Vincentians appreciate his vision and wisdom.

The Jubilarian ceremony, which was conducted by Fr. Camilo de Villa and arranged by Ben Picone, was attended by over 30 members of our conference. Fr. Camilo presented each honoree with a Jubilarian crucifix and a certificate, and he led us in a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving. The ceremony was celebrated with a delicious potluck.



Attending the Jubilarian Award Ceremony (from left to right) Fr. Camilo de Villa, President Julian Natividad, Shirley Ouellette, and Ben Picone.