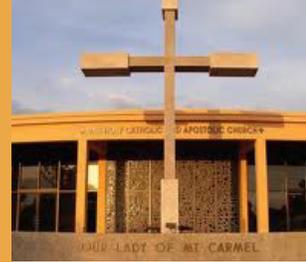




THE Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference September 2013



IN MEMORY OF ALBERT MARQUEZ

(by Bill Richwine)

When I started writing this article about **Albert Marquez**, I realized it would be an impossible task. I couldn't write about Albert without writing about his wife, **Susana**, also. Albert and Susana were a team right from the time they met. They were a team in their marriage, they were a team as parents, and they were a team at St. Vincent de Paul.

My wife, Janet, and I met Albert and Susana shortly after we joined St. Vincent de Paul. When Albert was elected president in 2009, he and Susana became co-presidents. At every meeting Albert presided, and Susana was at his side. She also took over the duties of secretary for the three plus years they served.

In the spirit of Frederick Ozanam, the founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and St. Vincent de Paul himself, who always encouraged people to "**do more**," Albert and Susana's life was devoted to "**doing more**." Albert and Susana were a delivery team and a home visit team. Most teams delivered one or two days a week. Albert and Susana were often delivering six and seven days a week, plus Albert spent Wednesdays (and other days, if necessary) answering the phone and taking requests from clients.

It was not uncommon for them to pull up their Honda to the pantry, pop the trunk, and pull out fifty-pound bags of beans or a trunk-load of chicken. Albert would laugh



and say that we were getting low on food and that Fry's or Costco were having a sale.

Albert never uttered a harsh word, neither with the clients he worked with nor with his co-workers and his family. Simplicity was St. Vincent's favorite virtue, and that virtue was always on display with Albert. For the three years I served as Vice President with Albert, there was never a display of pretentiousness. Albert treated his fellow Vincentians just as he treated our clients – with patience, understanding and love. (I'm sure there were times when it wasn't easy for him.)

At Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference, we have lost great leaders and conscientious members in the past. Albert will be remembered as one of the best, and as we go through our daily activities, Albert will be with St. Vincent and Frederick Ozanam urging us to "**do more**."

Albert set the standard for all of us to follow. He will be missed, but his memory, his smile, and his love for all of us will always be there.

Elderly Lady at Risk of Losing Home after Stroke

(by Adelheid Thieme)

At every St. Vincent de Paul meeting, we Vincentians pray that we may do more than just assist our clients in their emergency situations. We pray that we may also “understand their deeper needs.” Getting to the bottom of their problems and helping them find sustainable solutions often requires more than a simple home visit.



A few weeks ago, Shirley and I visited Patricia, an elderly lady in her late seventies, who had asked for a food box and help with her electricity bill. Dressed in a blue silk bath robe that contrasted nicely with her white hair, she looked frail, yet elegant.

With a friendly smile, Patricia welcomed us into her neatly kept, tastefully furnished home. Walking slowly and taking careful steps so as to avoid a fall, she led us to her dining table where she had placed a stack of medical and financial documents.

Having suffered a bout of pneumonia, she had to pause several times to catch her breath as she was telling us her story:

A few months ago, she had suffered a stroke. While she was hospitalized and went through rehabilitation, a trusted friend took care of her

finances, but neglected to pay the space rent for her mobile home and her utility bills. As a result, Patricia was in arrears. Since she had incurred substantial medical expenses, she was unable to pay her rent and was about to be evicted.

Her two sons, who lived out of state, had helped her in the two previous months, but were unable to provide further monetary assistance. With no immediate family nearby and without any support system, she was desperate.

She gratefully accepted the food boxes we brought and thanked us for paying the past due of her electric bill, thus avoiding having her power disconnected, but it was obvious that her need was far greater than what we could offer.

Shirley followed up on our visit and contacted the Foundation for Senior Living, an agency that provides assistance in navigating the support system and helps elderly people make decisions. It took several calls on Shirley’s part until she got a social worker involved who was able to meet with Patricia.

With the social worker’s help, Patricia arranged a deal with the manager of the mobile home park and the utility company. She was allowed to make small, but affordable extra payments every month until she had met her financial obligations.

Please keep Patricia in your prayers.

We are in dire need of phone persons (M-F 9:00 to 11:00 am) and volunteers for delivering food boxes (day and time at your convenience).

Please contact us at **480-966-1974** or email us at **juliannatividad@cox.net**.

Spotlight on SVdP Volunteers Art Shane and Cathy O'Hara

(by Adelheid Thieme)



Art Shane and his wife, **Cathy O'Hara**, joined our St. Vincent de Paul conference shortly after the People Raiser at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in the fall of 2011. Art vividly remembers how he received the calling, or more precisely the “handshaking,” to become a member. At the People Raiser, Vice President Bill Richwine greeted Art with a firm handshake. With a twinkle in his friendly eyes, he held Art’s hand in an iron grip and said to him, “I will not let loose until you promise that you will help with St. Vincent de Paul.” Art promised and also recruited his friend Cathy to become his partner for food deliveries.

Art had become a widower in 2010, and Cathy’s husband had passed away in 2007. Cathy and Art had reconnected after not seeing each other for 33 years. Delivering food boxes to needy families brought them closer together. In October 2012, they were married by Fr. John.

Volunteering for St. Vincent de Paul suited them well because they could easily fit their volunteer activities into their work schedule. After many years as a customer service representative for various companies, Art is now retired, but he is still active part-time as a Spanish interpreter for the Tempe School District. Cathy works full-time as a medical-surgical nurse in the Total Joint Center of Scottsdale Health Care.

In their spare time, Cathy and Art enjoy spending time in Cathy’s condo in Rocky Point, Mexico. Art also likes all kinds of outdoor activities, such as gardening, hunting, and fishing. Both of them try to spend as much time as possible with their children and grandchildren.

Despite their busy lives, they make time every week to “give back to the Lord” by serving as ushers at the 9 o’clock mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and delivering food boxes for St. Vincent de Paul. “Serving people in need is the best part of my life,” Cathy says, “and our rewards are far greater than our efforts. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to serve. And we have made many new friends within this wonderful group of dedicated Vincentians.”

Ice Cream Social

(by Julian Natividad, President, SVdP-OLMC)



Julian Natividad, Josie Lagunas and Janet Richwine (left to right) volunteering at Ice Cream Social

"I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream." I would like to thank all of you who attended our Ice Cream Social on July 14, 2013. Approximately 300 OLMC parishioners came to this event arranged by our conference for the very purpose of giving back and thanking our parishioners for their support and donations over the years.

This year's Ice Cream Social began with a planning meeting in the dining room of Past Presidents Albert and Susana Marquez just weeks before Albert passed away in June. Under the direction of **David Valdez Sr. and Jr.** and with the support of many conference members, it became a reality. I am very proud of all our Vincentian members for reaching into their own private funds to finance this event and then coming together to help make this project happen.

We are also very grateful to Mary Jo West and Mary Chou Thompson of St. Vincent de Paul, Phoenix, for their assistance in providing videos about the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. You may access them on our website at <http://olmcstvincentdepaul.weebly.com>.

At the Ice Cream Social, we also celebrated the 83rd birthday of Dolores Navarre. I had the honor of serving George Navarre the Holy Eucharist until his passing. George and Dolores are long-time members of OLMC.

As Vincentians, we are united with our parish at Our Lady of Mt Carmel by our spirit of poverty, humility and reflection for the poor and those in need. Together we are witnesses to God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. I once again wish to thank all our parishioners for their assistance and support.

Client Assistance January - June 2013

Total: \$27,808.60

