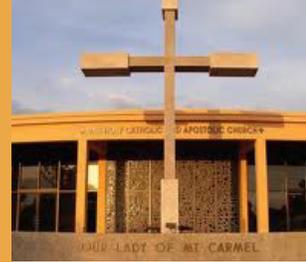




# THE Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference September 2016



visit us online at <http://olmcstvincentdepaul.weebly.com>

## I Am Set Free (by Maxine Malini)

Towards the end of May, my partner and I were doing home visits. Our last visit that day was to a woman who had called for rental assistance. She greeted us warmly, along with her mid-sized black Poodle mix, who was excited to see us. Her apartment was neat, and she had lighted a few candles that gave her living-room a cozy feel. On the small table was a well-worn Bible, and she wore a crucifix on her neck.

When we asked "How can we help you?" she began her story. On the brink of tears, she told us that she was still grieving her son, who had died from a heart attack at the age of 33. She  
(continued on p. 2)

## The Vinnies' Rosary Project



OLMC Vinnies (teen volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul) **Cienna Jaime** and **Jacey Salisbury** from Girl Scout Troop 1114 are doing a Service Project at OLMC. They are starting the Vinnies' Rosary Project, which involves praying the Rosary with people who are unable to make it to church.

Please help them spread the word so they can be

disciples and help other Catholics. Think of elderly, teens, people who are homebound or in a nursing home. Their goal was to pray the Rosary with 50 people in need of prayer before August 15th. The project will continue with the girls recruiting and training new teen Vinnie volunteers when school starts. Boys and girls are welcome.

If you have any questions about the Rosary Program, your teen becoming a Vinnie and helping with this Program or want to schedule a Rosary prayer time, please call Cindra at 602-478-5993.

P.S. Cienna and Jacey would like to give a special thank you to the OLMC Rosary makers for donating the rosaries.

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## Contact us

**Address:** St. Vincent de Paul Society, 2121 S. Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282

**Tel.:** 480-966-1974 (clients call for assistance Mon. - Sat. 9:00-11:00)

**Facebook:**

Saint Vincent de Paul - Tempe

**Email: Writer/Editor Adelheid Thieme:** editor@svdp-olmc.phxcoxmail.com

**Fitness and Health: Join the Women's Fitness Ministry.** Women of our parish exercise together **every Tuesday and Thursday** in the Youth Annex for one hour right **after the 8:00 am mass.** Voluntary donations go SVdP.

## I Am Set Free (cont. from p. 1)

and her three other adult children decided to fly him to Chicago, their home town, for burial. It was expensive to do and exhausted all her savings, and when there she could only afford to have him cremated. She was still upset that he did not have a coffin and a full burial.

On her return from Chicago, she returned to work, but was unable to fully function due to her grief. Eventually, she moved in with one of her sons, who also mourned the death of his sibling and felt overwhelmed by his mother's grief. They had difficulties between them, and her son finally asked her to move out. Unable to afford an apartment, she lived in her dead son's car for several months.

In March, she obtained an apartment with HUD housing, but as she only had a part-time job, she fell behind in her rent. She asked her church to help her with funds, and although they offered her \$500.00, she only accepted the \$300.00 that she needed to cover her April rent.

It was now the end of May. Her May rent was due with late fees of \$5.00 per day from the first of the month. She was facing eviction and cancellation of her HUD housing status. Her next paycheck would not arrive until early June, and she knew for sure that her salary would not cover both May and June rents, and her children were unable to help her. She trusted in God but couldn't see her way out of this situation. She would need to move back into her car if she couldn't make her payments.

We offered her 2/3 of her rent, but her apartment management would not accept our check unless she had the full amount of her rent. She said she might try her children again or ask her church for the remainder of the \$500.00 which was originally offered to her.

The three of us went to the management office to see what could be done. The manager brought up her account and said, "You have

no balance due. You are current, paid through May, no late fees. "

The woman was stunned; she could barely believe it. She knew her church had helped her with \$300.00 towards her April rent, and she was absolutely certain that she still owed rent for May. The manager showed us the ledger on the computer: April was paid, May was paid, and her June rent was coming due in a few days. We were allowed to take a look at the ledger ourselves. To everyone's surprise, there was an additional payment of \$240 for May, but there was no indication of who had submitted the payment.



The woman, still in utter disbelief, cried out, "This is a miracle. It must have been the Lord's work! My debt has been paid, and I am set free." With our money and the salary of the following week, she would be able to pay her June rent, and there would be no eviction, no sleeping in her car. She would be able to get back on her feet.

We prayed with her in thanksgiving for all the good the Lord had done for her and asked Him to help her reconcile with her family. She could hardly wait to bear witness to her church of what the Lord had done for her. We felt privileged to be witnesses to God's miracle of love for this woman that touched her heart, helped her in her grief, and gave new meaning to her life.

## We Can All Give a Little (by Glenn Newman)

It began mid-December; I received an email from the **English Department at Arizona State University** asking me to donate money to our annual English Adopt-a-Family Christmas charity. I took immediate umbrage. I thought, "Why am I, a poor student, being asked to give some of the little money I make, when I, too, have great needs?" When the time came to donate, I hesitantly gave a little bit, which set in motion a life-changing experience.

The money donated by faculty and staff from the English Department would cover 4 families (13 kids and 9 adults), who were to receive gifts at around forty dollars per-person. Each child was to receive a toy and an article of clothing, each adult an item of clothing.

On the day of the delivery, several members of the English Department met at the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry at OLMC, and we filled six banana boxes with rolls, gravy and cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, boxes of cereal, cake mixes, and bags of candy for the children. With a turkey for each family, we loaded up our cars.

The first family we visited lived in a trailer park. I immediately noticed how different the landscape seemed against my own subdivision in Northeast Mesa. Whereas I live amongst beautifully tended yards of exotic desert flora, here was a small park with patches of dead grass and dirt, dilapidated trailers trimmed in moldering wood and fitted with rusty railings. We drove past yards filled with garbage, old tires, and broken-down cars, as we sought our first family.

It was a cold afternoon, and we all pulled up to the first stop, a dingy trailer. Several of us walked up the rickety stairs towards the front door; we knocked, and a small woman answered the door. As we followed her into the darkened room, I saw that all the gas burners on the stove were turned on with flickering blue and yellow. It hadn't occurred to me that people in my city lived without heat and other comforts that

did not seem like a privilege to me. I realized then that even in my poorest hours I was rich compared to these people. For a moment I felt a little ashamed for my earlier selfishness, but was quickly distracted back into focus, as our next destination was not far.



*Members of the English Department at Arizona State University gathering to deliver gifts to families in the OLMC St. Vincent de Paul Adopt-A-Family program.*

The door opened, and a crowd of children, not dressed for the cold weather, ran out, so happy to see us and dancing around. As we were invited in, the aroma of freshly-steamed and hot tamales wrapped in corn husks swirled around us. The woman at the stove bade us welcome and gave each of us of a plate of her delicious food. She didn't speak English, but through the smiles and laughter of so many people present, we all came together in gratitude. "Next year," I thought, "I'll give more!"

I saw a meme at the first of the year on Facebook that said if I put into a jar the cash equivalent that corresponds with each day of the year, by the end of the year I would have hundreds of dollars. I've started my savings jar and will give a much larger donation this year. Maybe, with my bigger donation, we can take on another family, as there are so many people in need. It's really true: We can all give a little bit, and together it makes a lot.

(**Glenn Newman** is a Graduate Student in the English Department of Arizona State University. He is working on his dissertation in Writing, Rhetoric & Literature.)

## Congratulations, Julian

**Julian Natividad**, President of the OLMC SVdP conference, was selected to receive the **Community-Based Arizona Secondary Transition Services Award** in recognition of his outstanding service to students with disabilities within an integrated community setting in Arizona. The award was presented on August 29, 2016, by the Exceptional Student Services Division of the Arizona Department of Education.

## In Grateful Remembrance

In gratitude, we remember **Mary Jean Tate** and **Bob McKay**, long-time members of our conference, who recently passed from this life.



**Mary Jean Tate** served as a phone intake person for many years. Fluent in both English and Spanish, she enjoyed the opportunity to reach out to the poor and the most disadvantaged in our community, to listen to

them and to help them as much as possible. Everybody who had the privilege of working with her felt inspired by her patience, kindness, and generosity of spirit.



For many years, **Bob McKay**, a professional truck driver for 42 years, used his driving skills to pick up between 20 and 22 banana boxes full of bread from a bakery in Mesa, stock the refrigerators in our pantry, and deliver

the remaining baked goods to the public St. Vincent de Paul dining room in Mesa. "I like to help," Bob used to state in his matter-of-fact way, "and I haul everything that needs to be hauled. I keep going as long as the Good Lord lets me."

May the Lord grant them eternal rest in His presence and reward them for all the good they have done for the poor in our community.

## New: Online Donations

Are you one of the many Americans who frequently use their credit or debit card to pay for services rather than write a check?

We have listened to you, our donors, and made it easier for you to make your donations to our SVdP conference. We thank **Fr. John Bonavitacola** for allowing us to accept online donations, using both the **parish website** as well as the **kiosk** at the southeast entrance of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel church.

Here are step-by-step instructions for using the OLMC website:

**Step 1:** Log on to <http://olmctempe.com>

**Step 2:** Click on in the top right corner

**Donate Online**

**Step 3:** Select "St. Vincent de Paul" in the box "Please direct my donation to:"

Please direct my donation to:

St. Vincent de Paul ▼

St. Vincent de Paul

**Step 4:** Decide on the frequency of your donation and fill out your Personal Information and your Billing Information

**Step 5:** Click on the button **Make Donation**

You will receive an instant automatically generated receipt via email. Please keep it for your own records and tax statements.

Thank you for supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society at OLMC and assisting the needy families we serve.