

## **St. Vincent de Paul: Helping in Hard Times**

The saying “you get back more than you give,” applies to everyone who has ever donated to the St. Vincent DePaul society and also to the society’s members who seek to help the forgotten, the suffering and deprived in a spirit of justice and charity.

The 170 year old St. Vincent de Paul Society is a renowned international Catholic organization of more than 1 million men and women and also a perfect example of an organization that thinks globally while acting locally. Here at Saint Francis Borgia our St. Vincent de Paul members help men, women, and children who are going through true hardship in Cedarburg. The people we serve are typically in need due to an illness, a job layoff or some other unforeseen predicament.

Our conference has provided assistance in the form of vouchers for food and clothes, rent and utility assistance, school supplies, help with prescriptions, funds needed for auto repairs and most importantly the love, charity, and acceptance of Jesus Christ.

When a call to assist is received, our conference president assigns two or three members to meet with the person or family in need. During a home visit our members listen and ask questions to understand how the society can best help. After this meeting the members prayerfully evaluate the situation and make suggestions on how to help solve the crises. We do our best with our modest means and often inadequate talents and leave the rest to God. The result isn’t always miraculous, but it is usually spiritually enriching and often inspirational.

Our conference proactively seeks those in need of help at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. We also provide personal care items and entertainment programs for residents of Lasata Nursing Home, and back-to-school supplies for students.

Our funding comes from the generosity of SFB parishioners through the third Sunday collections and other donations. One hundred percent of every dollar donated is used to help those in need. Administrative expenses like postage are paid for by members of our conference.

If you have any questions or would like to become a member we invite you to contact us. We can safely promise you will get back far more than you give.

-Written by Kirk Strong for the *Messenger* parish newsletter, Fall 2003