

St. Joan of Arc Parish Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Annual Report - January 23, 2005

The Parish Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has focused on four areas during 2004: Emergency Assistance, Food Programs, NOAH Shelter, and Parish Visitors.

The officers and associates wish to express their gratitude for the tremendous cooperation and generosity demonstrated by the parishioners of St. Joan of Arc Church, without which our efforts would have been fruitless. The officers also wish to express their gratitude to the more than 250 associate members who do much of the necessary work. Members of our parish donated more than 5,900 service hours to the organizational activities and charitable works of the Society during the past year.

OUR MISSION

(1) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE IN NEED – Volunteers have provided immediate relief and counsel, in confidentiality, on a person-to-person basis. The conference has assisted more than 125 families, disbursing in excess of \$42,000 for food, clothing, shelter, fuel, utility expenses, medical needs, etc.

(2) FOOD PROGRAMS – Over 100 volunteers have processed about 19,000 items of food and personal products valued at almost \$20,000 for distribution to our less fortunate neighbors. More than 900 Thanksgiving and Christmas “Two-day Food Packs” have been distributed during the holiday season. Also, during the past year we provided \$2,100 worth of non-perishable food items to the “LCOC” Main Pantry, “NOAH” Shelter, “SKIP” and “LOCAL” meal programs. Volunteers donated over 1,000 hours to these programs.

(3) NOAH SHELTER – P’TOWN SOUP KITCHEN (“SKIP”) – LOWER CAPE LUNCH (“LOCAL”) – More than 60 volunteers donated over 1200 hours to prepare and deliver over 800 meals to the Hyannis NOAH shelter for the homeless serving seventy clients and over 400 mid-day meals to P’Town “SKIP” which serves about fifty clients. Support group members also collaborate with other churches in volunteering at the “LOCAL” lunch program.

(4) PARISH VISITORS – A group of 34 volunteers visit members of the community at home or in extended care facilities. Many members are Eucharistic Ministers in the parish and bring Communion to the homebound. The Parish Visitors, who donated well over 2,800 hours serving our community, made over 1,350 hospital, nursing home, and home visits.

Your generosity has enabled us to provide these additional services:

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE – Over 330 gifts were provided in our community for children in families who have been assisted by SVdP in the past year, and for the NOAH Shelter, SKIP, and LCOC’s “Santa’s Toy Stop” clients. Volunteers devoted over 40 hours.

KID PACKS – Over 50 KID PACKS, valued at \$2,500, were assembled by RENEW groups and more are being assembled by the students in the School of Religion. These KID PACKS are provided to children being placed in emergency foster care and provide clothing and other items needed to help a child through a traumatic time.

Twinning – Local Parish Conferences may assist a Vincentian Conference, domestic or foreign, whose resources are too small and needs are great. Your generosity allows our Parish Conference to twin with four foreign country SVdP Parish Conferences in Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Trinidad-Tobago, sending \$900 per quarter, and with a diocesan twin, St Joseph's Conference in Attleboro, sending \$500 per quarter.

Housing With Love Walk – Our Parish Conference made a significant contribution to the Cape-Wide Vincentian's "Housing With Love Walk" District Housing Fund, raising over \$11,500 to assist with client housing needs.

Recovery at Canal House – We continued our annual pledge of \$2,000, based on availability of funds, in support of appropriate housing for working individuals in recovery from substance abuse.

Habitat for Humanity – As a Habitat for Humanity Covenant Church our March Harvest Sunday donations provided \$4,260 for the work of Habitat in our community.

Other Charitable Giving – We again provided support for the Bishop's Charity Ball, Catholic Charities, A Woman's Concern Pregnancy Resource Center, LOCAL, SKIP, NOAH, Hospice of Cape Cod, Nauset, Inc., Cape AIDS Ministry, Children's Place, Together We Can, and Interfaith Council for the Homeless (IFCH).

If you need any of these services, please call the HELPLINE – 508-255-8080.

If you would like to help us in any of these activities, please call the HELPLINE number, leave your name and telephone number and we will get in touch with you. New volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Our funds have been provided through generous donations from you, our parishioners, on Harvest Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, the poor boxes, memorials, individuals, and the generosity of Father Roy, our pastor.

Thank you for helping us to help others.