



Feeding the Homeless at St. Bernard's Hot Meal Program

# Rich Man, Poor Man

## A parable for our time

In a recent homily, Father Steve explored the dramatic parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, a beggar who lived outside the rich man's door. (Luke 16:19-31) While the parable is drawn in extremes, it marks clear lines that are as obvious today as they were in the first century.

While the rich man dressed in the finest clothing of the time—silks and fine linens—and dined sumptuously, it appears he never noticed the miserably poor beggar at his door. Lazarus was hungry and begged for some of the scraps from the man's table.

Father Steve pointed out the wide cultural chasm that existed between the two men—one blessed with things, the other miserable and virtually invisible.

### IS LAZARUS AT OUR DOOR?

Do we see the poor man at our door? No, but he is not far away. Perhaps a few blocks away, at the corner with a sign, sleeping under a bridge, in a doorway or the woods. He will emerge when word goes out that a hot meal will be served nearby.

Clearly the rich man was self-absorbed, blind to the needs of others around him, and oblivious to the urgings of the rabbis and prophets who warned him to share his blessings with others in need.

### ROLE REVERSAL AND THE CHASM

The parable ends with a role reversal and another chasm between—the chasm between heaven and hell that can never be breached. Both men have died. The rich man suffers torments in Hades, while Lazarus was welcomed into the bosom of Abraham. Begging for Abraham to send Lazarus to give him some comfort, the rich man is reminded that he had enjoyed his pleasures and comforts on earth, while Lazarus is comforted in eternity.

Relief from his agony is denied to the rich man, as is his plea for someone to warn his family on earth of what is to come. Abraham declares: "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead."

### CAN WE SEE THEM?

Compared to Lazarus, we all are rich, and we may have difficulty "seeing" the poor in our midst. We don't have to search the woods and bridges or drive the streets looking into doorways to find them. St. Hilary has many ministries that help the poor (turn these pages)!

### HANDS ON

If you are able, volunteer at least once to help feed the homeless or repair a home. It may well be an experience you will never forget. Physical labor, home visits, shopping, making sandwiches, locating housing—all are needed and gratefully appreciated. Entire families are welcome to help in some places that feed the poor. If your schedule does not permit hands-on help, give of your treasure to support the work of those who gather and deliver food, prepare it and serve it to our neighbors in need. Financial resources are badly needed to maintain these ministries.

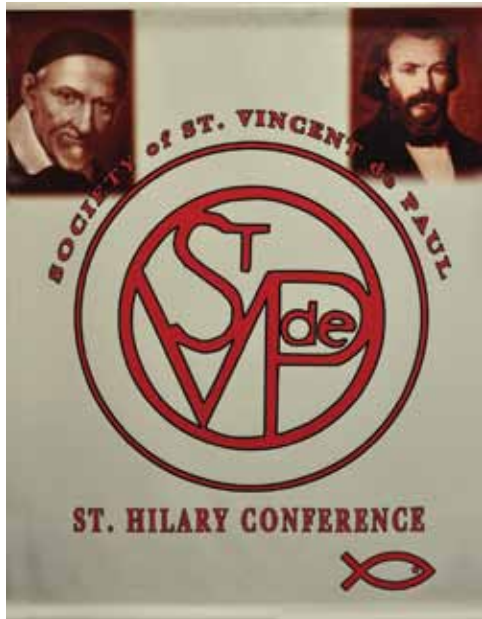
### THE POOR AND OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

In his homily, Father Steve pointed out that "our concern for the poor is part of our Catholic identity and Catholic teaching." Like the Rabbis and prophets who warned the rich man in the parable, Father Steve urged us to listen to the message of the gospel, when he said: "Go to the places where the poor are. Get to know them. Interact with them. See them as people of God who are in a situation of need. Be mindful of the Lazaruses at our door. Be a blessing for all those who are poor."

### INDEX

Rich man, Poor Man	1
St. Vincent de Paul	2
Homeless Ministry	3
Teens to Appalachia	4
El Salvador Mission	5
Our 3% solution	6
Welcome!	7

# St. Vincent de Paul Society



*Taking Christ to the homes of those in need*

## DAVID GEORGE:

“St. Vincent de Paul, which is a worldwide conference of many Catholic parishes, was established in the 1830’s with a mission to take Christ into the homes of those in need. I think our help makes a big impact on the spiritual lives of those we help. The St. Vincent de Paul manual says that the first reason we help people is to help them get to heaven.

“We are funded by donations from St. Hilary parishioners, who are very generous. Parishioners give us money and donate food for our pantry on the first Sunday of every month. Of course, like all organizations that help, contributions have been down a bit, but we structure our dollars to make things work. We also get food from the Akron-Canton Foodbank and buy some of the things we need if we can buy in bulk. We have our own freezer in the basement of the Spiritual Center.

“We often work through referrals from other agencies, such as Akron Summit Community Action, Catholic Social Services and Battered Women’s Shelter, and requests made directly to the parish. Two members make a visit to the homes of those who are referred to us, so we can understand their needs and determine if they need help or could help themselves. We take food to everyone we see. Usually the first question we ask when we make a contact is, ‘Do you need food?’

“Often these families or individuals just need temporary help to help get them through a crisis, and temporary help is what we provide. We try to stop the bleeding for a bit. Sometimes that’s all they need. And we only help a client once a year. If they need ongoing help, we refer them to community resources, because we encourage them to use public resources before private funds, if possible.”

When David was asked what makes him passionate about his work through St. Vincent de Paul, he replied: “All of us on the committee feel blessed in our own lives and feel it’s important to help people who are really in need. We enjoy working with clients on a person-to-person basis in their homes. We hear their stories and connect with them. Many are lonely, so it feels great to help them.

“Every dollar donated goes directly to the poor. That’s what makes us different. There are 21 of us on the committee. We collect money from our members to pay for expenses, etc. Twice a year we publish a newsletter to let parishioners know in detail what we are doing.

Has there been an increase in calls in the last year or so? “Absolutely! No doubt about it. Calls are much greater than a year ago. We see about 16 families a week, with an average of three or four per family.”

*Two members of the St. Hilary St. Vincent de Paul Society shared their thoughts on the work of the group:*

## CARYL HESS:

“Giving of my time, treasure and talents when my life is good helps me keep the goodness in perspective. For example, during home visits for St. Vincent de Paul, when you walk into a home with sparse furnishings, a single mattress on the floor for a family of four, no working stove, a refrigerator held together by duct tape, children without shoes, a grandma cutting pills in half to make them stretch.... I quickly realize how fortunate I am! Volunteerism is a mutual gift with unlimited blessings.”

“I find that I’m called to help others when my life is terrific! It’s true! When my spiritual life, work, finances, health, friends, and family are all positive and in balance, I feel a need to reach out and help others. By reaching out with prayers, money and/or a helping hand, I believe I’m saying to God, ‘Thank you for all I have and for all of the good in my life.’

## FINANCIAL REPORT OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

This is an accounting of our fiscal year 10/1/09 to 9/30/2010. Our total revenue was **\$139,955**.

Our financial outreach was **\$170,033**, and our in-kind outreach was **\$77,315**. We made **760 visits** and helped a total of **1,940 family members** in the past year. In most cases, we also took **2-3 bags** of food to each family.

St. Vincent DePaul  
**FOOD**

# The Homeless Ministry

## **Parishioner Bruce Kenny— in his own words:**

"I joined the Homeless Ministry in the fall of 2007," comments Bruce. "For a variety of reasons, throughout my adult life, my charitable giving largely took the form of financial support (treasure) versus being actively involved in assisting those in need. Most of my career I was consistently traveling and typically worked at least six days a week. I guarded very carefully what little time I had at home.

"My perspective began to change, though, partially due to my travel requirements diminishing as my corporate responsibilities changed. I also began to realize that everyone has reasons not to give of their time. It seemed those that contributed time to helping others were often the busiest—moms juggling work, raising kid's, managing the home, and yet still involved in the community and church.

"Inspiration to begin came from many directions. It seemed the Lord was calling (maybe yelling). I applied more thought and prayer to St Hilary's annual 'Time, Treasure and Talent' campaigns. I have always admired my wife Cathy's many commitments to St. Hilary ministries, often giving of her time even when dealing with very challenging health issues. It was time, so I attended the 2007 'Ministry Fair.' After spending some time at the Homelessness Group's booth, I decided I would give it a try.

"Under the excellent leadership of Joe and Marilyn Malick, we have assisted many families, helping them avoid becoming homeless. We pay bills (e.g., rent, utilities, etc.) if their delinquency would be the catalyst for them losing their home. We have assisted some with transportation issues that were impacting their ability to keep a job and ultimately their home. The ministry also assists local organizations that provide a variety of services to help the homeless and nearly homeless.

"This ministry has been a good fit for me. We are making a difference in people's lives, though there is much work to be done. The

team works well together, all the members sharing their talents and time in a variety of ways. The time commitment is varied throughout the year, but is very reasonable. Reviewing the cases each month of those needing our help reinforces to me how blessed I am. It has truly been a rewarding experience for me!"

## **Parishioner Bobbie Doria, in her own words.**

"I also joined the Homeless Ministry in 2007. Our small group has spent about \$30,000 over the last year to help those who are one step from being homeless," Bobbie explains. "We help with utility bills, rent or mortgage payments. The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority recommends hard-working people who just need some temporary help.

"We help up to seven or eight people or families a month, depending on the needs that come up and based on our budget. Sometimes it feels like a teardrop in an ocean when we see the number of people who need help, but we are helping as much as we can. Our policy is to help a recipient only one time. Joe Malick always checks in with St. Vincent de Paul to make sure we are not duplicating donations or to recommend assistance. Joe also handles emergency needs between meetings.

"We raise the funds through on our annual Homeless Ministry raffle in June—our only fundraiser. St. Hilary parish has been very gracious. This year, our third year for selling tickets, we sold all but eight out of our 300 tickets. Each ticket costs \$50 and weekly drawings are for \$250 (1st and last week) or \$100. Winning tickets go right back into the raffle, so some people have won several times! And some winners have turned their money back to us! There have also been direct contributions, which are gratefully accepted! In addition to referrals from AMHA, we gave \$500 in gift cards for food to homeless veterans and to the Springtime of Hope Ministry—an organization that feeds the homeless every night."



## **Financial Report for the Homeless Ministry**

The Homeless Ministry serviced **51 families** during this past fiscal year, as well as donating monies to Springtime of Hope, Stand Down Day for homeless veterans, Project Homeless Connect, the Haven of Rest and New Exodus Christian Fellowship Church. The ministry raised \$27,000 in fiscal year July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 and distributed \$22,000.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HOMELESS MINISTRY.  
They were recognized this year by Nazareth Housing,  
receiving their My Brother's Keeper Award.**



Ellen Ulinski, ASP Staff Member "Ben," woman they served, Tim Miller, Colleen Waickman, Noah Bastock, Bridget Allen, Patrick Miller.

## The St. Hilary Youth Group's ASP Mission Trip Report:

The Youth Group raised \$15,000 for their Mission Trip in July 2010. Forty-two teens and young adults went to Hancock County, Tennessee, where they repaired homes for six families: 1) repaired a roof and floor; 2) repaired a floor, foundation and ceiling; 3) repaired a wall and roof; 4) repaired the underpinnings and siding of a home; 5) repaired a roof and built a room addition; 6) built a porch.

# Teen missionaries to Appalachia

## Living faith radically!

Forty-two teens and young adults from the St. Hilary Youth Group traveled to Hancock County, Tennessee, this summer, on an ASP mission trip, where they built and repaired homes for six families. Two of our teen missionaries reflect on their experience.

### COLLEEN WAICKMAN:

"I participate in the ASP Mission trip each year because it teaches me something new every time. I love growing closer to the St. Hilary group that goes each year, but I also love getting a chance to really put my faith into action. Sometimes it's easy to fall into a comfortable routine of 'doing' Christianity—go to church, pray, etc. etc. The ASP trip is a way for me to live my faith more radically. I have attended ASP for five summers now, and each trip is different. ASP involves a lot of trust within work crews and a lot of trust in God that the week will go smoothly.

### Poverty and privilege

Parishioner Colleen Waickman continues: "The first time I went on the mission trip, I was amazed at the degree of poverty that exists in Appalachia and in the United States. The next year, I really recognized the humanity within the families that we work with in Appalachia, and I was able to see my own privilege more clearly. It's easy to demonize the poor, wishing that they would 'pull themselves up by their

bootstraps' or blaming them for other problems in society. But once you meet people who have nothing, it's easy to see that those in poverty are not the problem—the problem is that those with the resources are not willing to share, or that institutions within poor communities simply do not give people the support they need.

"The third year, I realized how little my volunteer work is worth in comparison to the problem of poverty! But with God's help, it helps somehow, even if I don't understand how. This year, I was able to see that many intersecting forces in Appalachian communities cause higher levels of poverty—isolation in a rural community, lack of education, lack of nutrition, etc. A lack of education leads to higher teen pregnancy rates, which leads to less education, leading to lower salaries for these girls and a higher likelihood that their children will become teen parents, and the list goes on. It's a cycle that requires more than just warmer, safer, and drier housing, which is what ASP aims to implement in Appalachian communities. But better housing is definitely a start.

### Appalachian culture

"Participating in ASP also makes me value the Appalachian culture," comments Colleen. "By participating in mission trips, I've learned a lot about cultural sensitivity and other skills that will help me when encountering people who are not like me. Because I have spent some time in

a region of our nation different from my own, I have a greater appreciation for cultural diversity within the United States, both regionally and otherwise.

"ASP has also given me perspective on my own life. At the end of the day, I can count on food in my belly, a roof over my head, and a place to sleep. That's something I often forget to be thankful for, but ASP reminds me that I can never take anything for granted—all blessings are gifts from God."

### ELLEN ULINSKI:

"The reason I decided to do the ASP mission trip was because it seemed like a good way to help people who aren't in as good a situation as I am. Also, I knew I needed service hours, and since I wanted them to be very meaningful, I chose ASP as a way to know I was really helping someone. At the end of every day, we could look back on the work we had done and see exactly how we had helped the family we were serving. The family my group and I helped needed to have underpinning done on their trailer so that they would be warmer. By doing this for them, we were improving their quality of living. It didn't seem like much to us at first, because this is something we have already, but to them, it was a great improvement. We felt great by the end of the week, because we had changed people's lives, and they would always be grateful to us for this."

# Adventures in El Salvador

## Sowing seeds for six years

Traveling to El Salvador, the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America, is a missionary adventure undertaken by a number of St. Hilary parishioners. John Pajk and Sig Limbo are veterans of this missionary outreach by *Serving Christ Through His Poor*, a non-profit begun by Mike and Heather Connell and supported by many St. Hilary parishioners/missionaries.

### JOHN PAJK'S EXPERIENCE

"I first heard about conditions in El Salvador when Associate Pastor John King shared his experiences there from the pulpit. In 2005, an announcement in the bulletin said Mike Connell was having a meeting about taking a mission trip to help a rural community in El Salvador. I admit I didn't pay any attention to it, but I had been interested in what I heard from the pulpit. My wife said, 'You don't do anything for this church. Why don't you do something?'"

"I was very inspired by Mike's passion for this. He took the bull by the horns and made it happen. By the way, Mike Connell was the best person I ever met—his values, what he believed in. his love for the poor, his love for his family.

"We couldn't believe what we saw—the poverty they lived in. The average daily wage was \$4 a day, but a dozen eggs cost \$1.29 and gasoline cost \$3.80 a gallon. Most people said they couldn't send their kids to high school because it costs \$72 dollars a year. There I sat with \$200 dollars in my pocket—enough to send three kids to high school for a year. Now I sponsor a child every year to go to school at an orphanage there. There is a lot of alcoholism there among the men, lots of unemployment, and lots of kids. The capital, San Salvador, has lots of gangs, but where we go is rural and is safe. The people know us and take good care of us, and so do the police.

"There were 14 of us there that first year, and we built several houses. The second year 42 of us went. We put up houses and installed a water project for a village, whose water supply was cut off by an earthquake years earlier. They had no clean water, just a stream they used for everything. The government there had dug a well, but the people couldn't get the water up. With generous donations, we spent \$32,000 to lay 2,000 feet of pipe and ran electricity to the well. A woman came up to us crying, saying that day was the first time her four-year-old ever had a clean bath. We also built some latrines. On this year's trip we built houses, one of which was for a family with eight children. The house is about the size of a garage."

### SIG LEMBO'S EXPERIENCE

Parishioner Sig Lembo is retired and has been on five of the group's six mission trips to El Salvador. "I've been fortunate in life to have lots of assistance from many people. When I got to my age (Sig is 72), I wanted to give back in a personal way, not just in a monetary way. I wanted to be interactive with people. Now going to Mizata is like wearing an old shoe. I can relate to the people, and I enjoy seeing the faces of the children and the people we've helped.

"One of the most important things I have carried back from El Salvador, especially this last time, was the effect on the town of the Youth Center we built for them two years ago. This year I could really see the effects of the center. It represents a gift to the whole town. We gave them a seed, and they are sowing it. Now they're getting the harvest. They are having classes for the whole community. It's very gratifying to see the wide scope of its effects on the whole community in this small town."



John Pajk in El Salvador

### Financial report on the El Salvador Mission Trip

*Serving Christ Through His Poor* raised \$32,000 for the trip this summer (in July 2010). Twenty missionaries went to Mizata, El Salvador, serving four families by building them brick homes. They also donated money for the community to build a second level for the Youth Center, which the mission group built two years ago.



John Pajk works with local youth in the Youth Center in Mizata



Sig Lembo with Fr. Steve in Mizata, El Salvador

# Our 3% solution

## How your offertory donation helps the poor

Good news, parishioners! When we place our offertory envelope in the collection basket or hit the “give button” at Faith Direct, we are also contributing to a number of charities. In addition to supporting the parish, a full 3% of our offertory donations to the parish are carefully awarded to worthy charities. We’ve all heard this before, no doubt, but it is easy to forget!

The Social Concerns Committee (sometimes called the 3% Committee) was initiated by Father Koegel in the late 1980’s. Individuals active in serving the needs of the poor within our community were invited to join this committee. Betty Sobieski has served as Chairman since the inception of this outreach ministry. Father Koegel believed it was an important ministry for St. Hilary to share the monetary generosity of our parishioners to meet the basic needs (food & shelter) within the community. The Social Concerns Committee (8-10 members) meets quarterly with the pastor and assesses the needs of community outreach programs. Members of the Social Concerns Committee have been involved as “hands-on” volunteers with these agencies and are able to educate and inform fellow committee members of the mission, current outreach projects and funding needs.

Committee member Diana Farro commented, “Each meeting is opened with a beautiful prayer touching our hearts, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and realizing the needs of others.” Members discuss the current budget, based upon the offertory revenues of the previous year and forward contributions to selected agencies on a quarterly basis. One-time donations for needs that arise during the year are dispersed as well. Members review each Agency and discuss the current status. If there have been changes in funding or effectiveness of the program, one of the members, whoever is most closely involved with the specific ministry, will contact the agency and provide the committee with an overview or will invite the agency to update them at their next meeting.

The Social Concerns Committee is comprised of a strong group of compassionate members, active in volunteer service to various ministries which benefit the poor within our community. Diana expressed, on behalf of the committee, “We feel humbled and blessed to serve on Social Concerns and strive to prayerfully direct the generosity of our parishioners to those most in need.”

### Financial report from our 3% Committee:

The parish provides 3% of our offertory to community agencies and programs. For July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010, we unfortunately had to decrease the amount of outreach to 2% due to the deficit our offertory revenues encountered during that fiscal year. However, with the increase in our offertory, we have now returned to providing 3%. During this last fiscal year, we provided \$35,000 in outreach to the following organizations: St. Bernard Hunger Program, Good Samaritan Hunger Center, OPEN-M, Pregnancy Care of Summit County, Catholic Social Services, Access, the International Institute of Akron, Catholic Worker, HM Life Opportunities and Cartie’s Kids. Also to Gennesaret, St. Hilary Youth Mission Trip and Springtime of Hope.



**6** The Family Life program assists with the the Feed My People collection for the Good Samaritan Hunger Center, which also receives financial support from St. Hilary Parish.

When seventy of our parish leaders gathered in a warm metro park lodge on a Tuesday evening in September, they were immediately challenged to answer this question: “How can we each be more welcoming to our fellow parishioners and visitors to St. Hilary?” The group was energized by the challenge, and their lively discussion generated many wise and practical strategies we all can implement to grow a warm and welcoming culture in the parish.

# Welcome!

*During the evening parish leaders reflected individually then discussed in small groups the question: “How can I be more welcoming as a St. Hilary Parishioner?” Here is a list of the top ideas for how all parishioners can be more welcoming to others:*

- When you come to Mass, say “**hello**” and introduce yourself to new people.
- When you introduce yourself, make a point of remembering the name of the person you just met then call them by name at the end of Mass, wishing them a “**great day**.”
- **Invite** people around you to return to Mass.
- **Sit in a different pew each time** you come to Mass, using this as an opportunity to meet new people.
- **Search** out people sitting by themselves, and sit with them at Mass.
- **Shake hands** with two people you don’t know during the sign of peace and make a point of talking with them after Mass.
- As soon as you enter St. Hilary grounds, whether the Spiritual Center, the school, the soccer fields or even the parking lot, **smile** and introduce yourself to those you encounter.
- When you attend **Coffee & Donuts** on Sunday morning after Mass or the new **Eat-n-Greet** after the 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm weekend Masses, meet one new person and introduce that person to someone you know.
- Better yet, when there is hospitality after Mass, **invite** those around you to join you for refreshments.
- During your conversations with others, **compliment** them, **thank** them or **encourage** them.
- If you are a member of a parish ministry, personally **invite** another person to join your ministry.
- Be an impromptu greeter at Mass. You don’t need to be a member of a ministry to warmly greet those who come to worship at St. Hilary. Arrive early for Mass with your family, stand at a door and **welcome** those who enter.
- **Compliment** those who serve at Mass such as a lector, choir member, or Mass server.
- **Sit** with people you don’t know at a parish function.
- **Invite** a new parishioner to join you at Mass.
- At the end of Mass, wish people to **have a good day** or week.



*Dick Bradner, Stephanie Sipe, Ted Oravesz and Tom Peltier share ideas on being welcoming.*



*Meg Hopp, Robin Kuppusamy, and Carolyn Hogan listen as Mike Costello discusses his ideas on being welcoming.*

## Thoughts on being more inviting

The overwhelming consensus of the group that gathered that September evening was this: Every parishioner has a part to play in being welcoming to others. Who among us does not enjoy being warmly greeted and made to feel welcome wherever we go—especially when we step into a community based in the house of the Lord? Consider this: The first invitation or greeting you offer may not seem to have made a difference or inspired a warm response in return, but it is a critical step in the process of making the other person feel their presence is appreciated and welcomed here. Be the first in your pew to speak a greeting and to introduce yourself. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Let’s each do our part to make everyone feel the warmth of God’s love so we can truly be a warm and loving parish family.

November 2010



St. Hilary Catholic Parish  
2750 West Market Street  
Fairlawn, OH 44333-4236

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
AKRON, OH  
PERMIT NO.373

## Annointing of the Sick at all Masses **November 13 and 14**

### **INSIDE:**

Rich man, poor man  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Homeless Ministry  
Teens to Appalachia  
El Salvador Mission  
Our 3% solution  
Welcome!

This Newsletter is brought to you  
by the Stewardship Committee at  
St HILARY PARISH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
2750 West Market Street  
Fairlawn, OH 44333-4236  
Phone: 330-867-1055  
Fax: 330-869-2312  
eMail: church@sthilarychurch.org  
Web: www.sthilarychurch.org

Have feedback on this newsletter?  
Contact Lyn Schott at 330-867-1055

Karen Moran, Writer  
karenmoranwriting@gmail.com

©2010 St. Hilary Parish All rights reserved.

## **Opportunities to share our resources with the poor...**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
"Green Envelope Collection"  
first weekend every month

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD COLLECTION**  
first weekend every month

**OPEN-M LAUNDRY DETERGENT  
COLLECTION**  
November 20-21

**GIVING TREE**  
November 20 to December 12 (noon deadline)