

## **LETTER OF APPEAL FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ON WILDFIRES DEVASTATION**

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Cecilia is committed in providing assistance to those suffering in the midst of the wildfires in southern Oregon. Our previous Vicars, now assigned to the affected areas, are facing the brunt of this catastrophe. Rev. Brent Crowe, in Ashland, has 18 families burned out of their homes. Rev. Ken Sampson, at Sacred Heart Parish as Pastor, is facing the fact that 130 parishioners have lost everything, their homes and vehicles. There are 42,000 people displaced in Jackson County, between those two parishes, and those numbers are an estimate. In Medford, 3,000-4,000 housing units were destroyed in the fires. People have lost the tools of their livelihood. They have lost the security of facing the fall and winter months without permanent shelter. They have and are experiencing trauma. Please consider a donation to St. Vincent de Paul-St. Cecilia, and we will forward all donations to our affiliated Catholic organization in Southern Oregon, to help the victims in the most effective way.

Please pray for these families as many face this tragedy without homeowners insurance. And, as said in the Psalm 40:2-3, 16-17: *"I waited, waited for the Lord; who bent down and heard my cry, Drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp, Set my feet upon rock, steadied my steps, And put a new song in my mouth, a hymn to our God. Lord, graciously rescue me! Come quickly to help me Lord! May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. May those who long for your help always say. "The Lord be glorified," Though I am afflicted and poor, the Lord keeps me in mind. You are my help and deliverer; my God, do not delay!"*

Please consider a donation, as we can help, quickly, and know that we are doing a work of mercy. Thank you, St. Cecilia Parishioners, and all members of the 'Parish with a Heart'.