



# Voice of the Poor

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, SAN MATEO DISTRICT COUNCIL

## San Mateo County Housing

✓ Number of households on Section 8 waiting list in San Mateo County (6/2005)

- 9,095 Households
- Average Section 8 turnover per year: 300
- Average waiting time to receive Section 8: 1-5 yr.

✓ Average apartment rent

- \$1,432 (2 bdrm/1bath)
- \$1,352 (1 bdrm/1bath)

✓ Single family home sales (quarter 06/05)

- Median sales price: \$901,000
- Average sales price: \$1,153,454

✓ Condos/townhouse sales (quarter 06/05)

- Median sales price: \$560,000
- Average sales price: \$601,695

Source: County of San Mateo, Department of Housing

✓ 2005 San Mateo County median family income

- 1 person: \$66,500
- 2 person: \$76,000
- 3 person: \$85,500
- 4 person: \$95,000

Source: US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

## Minutes of September 7, 2005 Meeting

Members present: Deborah Payne, Ann Cole, Reggie Pomicpic, Barbara Keefer. Staff – Lorraine Moriarty.

The meeting was called to order and Reggie led the Opening Prayer. The committee reflected on a selection of the *Faithful Citizenship* document published in 2004 by the USCCB. The topic, "Practicing Global Solidarity," led to the committee's discussing immigration and how important it is to put a human face on poverty, whether abroad or at home. Minutes of the August 10, 2005, meeting was approved.

### ACTIVITIES and UPDATES

Ann provided the roster of official contacts for the cities in San Mateo County. We will update it after elections in November.

Lorraine reported on being part of the Catholic delegation to visit San Quentin and brought us copies of the White Paper on Restorative Justice prepared by the Interfaith Roundtable. VOP is writing a letter of appreciation to the Roundtable for their work.

Both Lorraine and Deborah are meeting with different committees of the Homeless Task Force for SM County. SVdP continues to safeguard the privacy of its clients. The VOP also discussed mobile home park practices which could lead to homelessness.

Lorraine and Deborah reported on the National SVdP meeting where new by-laws were approved and a statement on Fair Wages was approved.

The national VOP committee discussed the upcoming cuts to Medic-Aid and are writing letters to urge Congress to re-think this proposed legislation.

The local VOP studied the Phoenix, AZ, advocacy guidelines and those of the Vincentian Partners for Justice to draft a local advocacy resolution.

In order to raise awareness of social issues, the committee is considering ways to get inserts in church bulletins, at least monthly and possibly every week.

Barbara reported on the PIA Health Forum at St. Timothy's parish. One pertinent fact emerged from the forum – the need to get the word out on available services to those who need it. Lorraine suggested the Society look at ways to do this, possibly in food box deliveries. Another forum is scheduled for St. Matthew's on September 25.