

## St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary Star of the Sea

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, You can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "*I do will it. Be made clean.*"

### Sarah's Story.....

A team from St. Vincent's recently visited a young mother with four children seeking some interim help until her next paycheck was due. Having missed nearly a week's work because of illness she had fallen behind. Sadly, people forced to live at subsistence levels have little or no backup to see them through even a few days without pay.

Listening to Sarah's story, her "messed up" childhood, the fall from grace at age 16 when her first child was born outside of marriage resulting with excommunication from her church, leaving the team feeling angry and frustrated at the grave injustices in her life. Amazingly, they realized Sarah had moved on from this phase of her life as she talked about all she had learned when God graced her to forgive. She became animated with hope and gratitude. Her attitude was contagious and gradually the team members got it. Sarah had reached out and touched them and something happened.

At first glance, her life indeed was impossible. Looking through God's eyes, reality emerges. Sarah's gratitude for the people who had helped her along the way changed her perception. Father Jon Sobring, S.J. says, "*The source of hope is love.*"

We thank you, St. Mary's for enabling us to go to people's homes where we experience this hope born of love. We pray that God will give it to others through us and are surprised when we too become recipients.

**Most loving, gracious God, Thank you for awakening us to the many ways You touch us; perhaps, most especially through your poor.**