

## **47<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Wrap Up**

VOP members will be putting together a Second Annual Legislative Report Card on areas such as healthcare, utility assistance, homeless shelter and support services, AZ charitable tax credit, childcare assistance and payday loans. Watch for your copy in the mail later in the summer!

## **Catholic Charities Office of Peace and Justice Poverty Conference Oct. 5-6**

Building on the goal of cutting poverty in half by 2020 announced by Catholic Charities, USA and supported by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Office of Peace and Justice will present in-service training on generational poverty featuring a national trainer for Catholic Charities employees and St. Vincent de Paul Conference members on Oct. 5. The following day workshops on homelessness, the working poor, food insecurity, healthcare and poverty and life issues will be offered. Place and time to be announced.

## **Overflow Shelter To Be Open All Summer**

In response to the extreme heat of our Phoenix summers, the City of Phoenix has budgeted funding for year-round operation of the Overflow Shelter. SVdP and other organizations who have worked to shelter homeless individuals to prevent illness and death caused by dehydration are grateful for this humanitarian outreach by the City.

## **MAG Announces Gaps in Homeless Beds**

VOP member Walt Gray continues to attend Maricopa Association of Government meetings related to homelessness. In early May, MAG held a "Needs Gap" meeting: Homelessness continues to grow with the growth of the county and while progress is being made in emergency and transitional housing, a major gap exists in supportive housing. 20% more housing units were needed in 2007 than in 2006 for the homeless population. The 2007 street count of homeless was 38% over the 2006 count.

## **VOP Meeting Schedule**

No meetings in May or August. VOP will meet at 3:30 p.m. in Vincentian Support Conference Room on WED. June 27, WED July 18, WED Sept. 19. VOP meetings will return to MONDAYS at 3:30 in VSS on Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Feb. 18, March 17 and April 21. Meetings are open.

## **Travels with VOP:**

Ron Meyer represented Phoenix at the SVdP Mid-Year VOP meeting in St. Louis in April. Tom Finnerty will present a VOP Workshop at the SVdP Western Region Meeting in Billings, Mt. June 20-23. Walt Gray will attend the annual summer workshop on social justice hosted by USCCB in Milwaukee in July. Lucy Howell will attend SVdP National Meeting in Austin, TX in late August for VOP.