



## Living Christ Together...

### Fire in the Heart

Dear Friend in Christ,

Four and a half months have passed since wind-whipped fire rampaged through Phoenix and Talent, south of Medford.

Thousands of people lost everything and had nowhere to turn but to strangers who lived beyond the reach of the flames.

Untold numbers of them proved to be *neighbors* in the true Gospel sense. They saw the overwhelming need at their door and stepped out to meet it immediately. In particular, volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul Society played a crucial role in the community response to the disaster.



“I’ve been working over 40 hours a week down at St. Vincent’s,” a friend wrote me. “We were short-handed before COVID, but now everyone is doing three and four jobs, and we still can’t keep up. The needy can’t wait it out like the rest of us. I come home, shower, and crash. I’m usually back in the store at 5 a.m. to get the work done. Today was a ten-hour day again.”

Most of these Vincentian volunteers are retired. For their invaluable contribution to the community, they receive no salary. But they are well paid nonetheless. Their wages: deep, shared satisfaction from working together to drive out desperation and build up hope.



In Christ Jesus,

*Bishop Liam Cary*

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