

## *Saint Vincent De Paul*

The official beginning of St Patrick's Conference Beenleigh is a little clouded, but we believe that during the 1974 floods, a group of parishioners formed together to help those suffering at that time. They later provided assistance to local residents, from a small house in City Rd. Because of the great work that this small group of volunteers was doing, the Albert Council offered SVDP the present building which was being moved to widen the road. SVDP paid for this house to be relocated onto Parish land. Permission was given by the Archdiocese for this move at no cost to our conference. We believe that this happened in 1987. At this time, St Patrick's Conference was part of Brisbane Head Office. On the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1994, the Conference, in its present position, was presented with a Certificate of Institution from the Gold Coast Country Diocesan Council and remains a member to this day.



Over the years many, many volunteers have willingly given of their time and skills in helping the needy in our Parish. Many of them were with the Society for many years. As an example, our past president, Fay O'Toole, has been with us for 27 years and has been the backbone of our Vinnies. There are many others, too numerous to mention, who have served us with unswerving loyalty, enthusiasm and dedication. As a rather humorous example, one of our members was admitted to Intensive Care at Logan Hospital with a heart condition, saw curtains being taken down and said that Vinnies could make good use of them, only to be told that they were being taken down to be washed. Such was the commitment of our members.

Today, many things have changed – different kinds of hardship and different needs. What hasn't changed is the work carried out by a very supportive group of volunteers (23 at present), working in harmony with fellow members and the people we care for. Our area is a large one, taking in Beenleigh, Eagleby, Edens Landing, Windaroo, Mt Warren Park, Ormeau, Jacobs Well, Pimpama, Waterford West and as far as Tamborine Village. We are one of the busiest Conferences in the Archdiocese and we try to assist hundreds of individuals and families. We do this without any Government Funding. We therefore express our appreciation for the help provided to us by our wonderful and generous Parishioners during our fund-raising endeavours and the Winter and Christmas Appeals.