

## No Vacation For Poverty

We are soon to move from the Easter Season to ordinary time in our Liturgical Calendar. Like life, our prayer has highs and lulls, time to feast (Easter), time to fast (Lent). Ordinary time is part of this ebb and flow, and it coincides with the beginning of summer, vacation season, time off from school, perhaps some more leisurely days and weeks.

Every year I have a tussle with my choirs, small tussle; they want to take the summer off. I remind them we don't take the summer off from the Eucharist, and we need good music to lead us in prayer at every Eucharist. I accept that we will often be smaller, and that we won't try anything much too demanding, but we will sing, and they will lead each time we meet to celebrate the paschal mysteries in our Sunday worship.

As you know, poverty doesn't take a vacation either. In fact, often as children are not receiving nutrition while at school, family budgets get stretched even more tightly. Our Vincentian commitment to service for better or worse is a 365 day a year commitment. We may be smaller, and need to schedule our home visits less immediately, but we will need to be sure we remember that we don't take the summer off from our compassionate service.

Please let there be an ebb and flow in your life; it is a sign and necessity of healthy living. At the same time, please be ready to serve also. Enjoy the warmth after this long winter, glory in the beauty all around as nature blossoms and grows, get away for a while, and come back refreshed, and give thanks always for the opportunity to be the hands, and voice, and heart of Christ Jesus for those who come in need, asking and needing our compassionate service.

Fr. Jim Cormack cm