

An Extraordinary Life

In the 1880's, Frederick Ozanam founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He recognized the face of Jesus in the poorest people in Paris and wanted to serve them in their homes. His work has spread all over the world. One of his most ardent missionaries was Judith Titchener who died on May 11. With Fr. Richard Bollman and Ray Hilvert, Judith was one of the founding members of the Bellarmine Conference of SVDP in 2006. (You may recall her red hair and array of hats, or shepherding her stepdaughter, Annie, whose special needs Judith doggedly pursued.)

Stories abound of Judith's advocacy for the neighbors she visited each Saturday morning. She believed the person she encountered deserved the most assistance and she could be heard to proclaim that the "Blessed Mother would put this woman ahead of all others!" Judith would go the extra mile, seeking out services, using her own funds to buy groceries, approaching landlords or driving neighbors to thrift stores or doctors' appointments.

As a landlord herself, she knew the law in regards to what actions could be taken by the tenant and landlord in an eviction case. Like Jesus, she could frustrate the treasurer by pleading for more funds but all agreed she was the "heart and soul" of the Bellarmine Conference. Judith could hook you in to attending a meeting and then you'd be on a ministry path with boundless rewards for years to come.

Dick Neidhard commented that "Her example of love and concern for our neighbors and to her fellow Vincentians set the bar in how the Conference operates today." Judith we will miss you. We know that many hands reached out to you as you stepped into eternal life.