

Vincenpaul Canada



The Magazine of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
Volume 41 No. 3 - Fall 2015

Extend a *Hand* to our
Neighbours in Need.



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Mission

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is
a lay Catholic organisation whose mission is:

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ
in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

Values

The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
implies that as Vincentians we:

- see Christ in anyone who suffers
- come together as a family
- have personal contact with the poor
- help in all possible ways

YOUR QUESTIONS - OUR ANSWERS

What is SSVP's response to Laudato si'?

Blessings,

Heather Schilling

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul supports the Pope in his concerns for our earth.

We will be including this concern as part of our social justice committee's future meetings and plans. There is no doubt the issues raised in Laudato si affect the most vulnerable in our communities and we shall strive to develop various actions that can raise awareness of this critical issue.

Jim Paddon, Chairperson, Social Justice Committee

My interest would be reading about other SSVP conferences with food banks located in provinces across Canada, other activities they undertake and what makes them a success in the community. Perhaps spotlighting examples of big and small, city and small town food banks from across the country. Besides being very interesting to read, it would be a wonderful way for all our food banks to learn from each other and incorporate new ideas.

Sincerely,

Jim McArthur

We invite you to join our Facebook group : SSVP Canada Activities/Activités to exchange with other Vincentians.

Please send your questions and suggestions to : editor@ssvp.ca

Message from the President

Dear brother and sister Vincentians,

Fall promises to be quite busy for Vincentians across the country. The difficult economic situation will bring about an increased number of assistance requests, and our workload will likely follow suit. Do not forget that for people who will find themselves in dire straits after losing their job, asking for help will not be an easy task. The first contact might be difficult, and it will be important that you do not judge them. Be patient and take the time to listen, to find out if they might need something other than food.

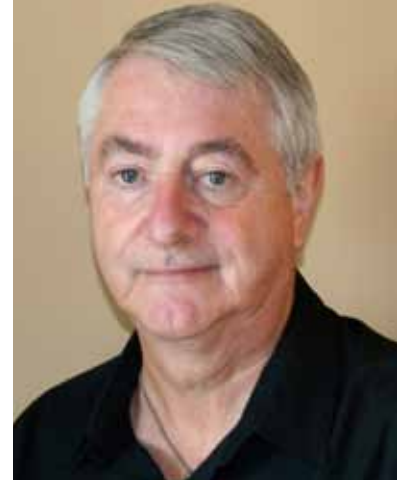
Your Conference might already have an assistance program for school supplies, financial help for school fees, or perhaps there is a resource in your community to help parents with a handicapped child, or those who cannot pay rent or utility bills. Only by listening to what they have to say will you identify what kind of help they need and refer them to available services in your Conference or community.

You know, as I do, that during such a difficult time in their life, those people need someone who listens and sympathizes, and often, we are the only ones who take the time to serve them well. As I emphasized in the past, the person who feels that someone is listening will regain self-confidence and find the energy necessary for a second start in life.

Your listening will contribute to somewhat humanize a period that seemed difficult to start with. That is what sets us apart from other assistance organizations, and we must continue this practice.

On another note, I would like to inform you about important changes that will take place between now and March 31, 2016. First, we have reformatted the annual report in order to shorten it and thus ensure wider distribution. Indeed, starting this year, all Conference and Council presidents have received a copy of the new report. In addition, when we submit applications for funds to various foundations, the new and lighter format will allow us to inform our potential donors better.

As well, we have modified your Vincenpaul magazine. We have reduced the number of pages, shorten the articles, and redirected part of the contents towards our website and Facebook pages. We think that by transferring celebrations, acknowledgement and tributes, etc. to



our electronic media, we will be able to publicize them more rapidly, and include more information. You will have access to what is happening within the Society 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

That is why in the coming months, we will review our website to make it more user friendly, while making it easier for us to update and post your activities. Our objective is that each one of our communication tools has a different and specific vocation, so when you are looking for something, you will know where to find it.

To conclude, I invite you to keep in your prayers all the people who are trying to find a place to live peacefully and safely. The atrocities that migrants have to face are unworthy of the human race, and it is difficult to understand why there is not a general mobilization to find solutions to this crisis.

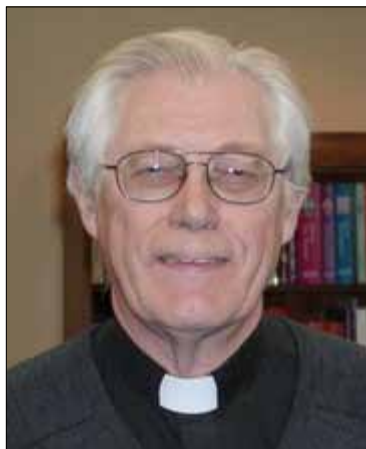
If you wish to learn more about the various sponsoring possibilities, you may visit the Immigration and Citizenship Canada website at www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/index.asp. If you prefer to make a donation, you may send a cheque to the National Council of Canada, 2463 Innes Road, Ottawa, ON, K1B 3K3. We will forward your donation to the Council General International, who will transfer the funds to Conferences located near refugee camps. Whatever you decide to do, please keep those people in your prayers.

May God bless you.

**Jean-Noël Cormier, President
National Council of Canada**

Spirituality

EXTEND A HAND TO OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED



The concept expressed by the theme: **Extend a hand to our neighbours in need**, can be viewed from three perspectives: first the world at large, second our more immediate social reality, and third our individual endeavour and more specifically that of our Vincentian Conference. Obviously the three

perspectives are related and are mutually enriching. Also my reflection assumes that the extending of the hand is done from a Christian point of view. And more specifically from a Vincentian viewpoint.

Solid foundations for our reflection are the eloquent words of St Paul in Galatians 3, 26-29: **For in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.**

Our extended hand must not exclude anyone but must reach out to all. A Conference certainly has the right to have rules governing the extended hand, but there must always be an over-riding principle to deal with the new and the unexpected. Real life is always less than neat and tidy.

Also as we progress in life we should always be guided by the wonderful charisms we received in the Sacrament of Confirmation: Wisdom and Courage, Prudence, Intelligence and Understanding, Piety and Reverence. Thus guided we will be aware of universal concerns and will be conscious of the instruments at our disposal. We will also know of the companionship offered by the Holy Spirit, giving orientation to our endeavours.

A note to keep in mind is that we resolve to use our theme Extend a hand to our neighbours in need throughout our entire program development. Why not be inspired by the theme to set up a travelling exhibit that you can use to help parish, school and other groups to better understand our Vincentian work.

Before we go any further, a word about something that is very essential for this process of extending the hand to work. We have to have the wherewithal to provide the required help. Our relationship with our donor base should include an intelligent and to the point information program. This should include timely use of the

parish bulletin, visits to parish organisations, such as the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League. A special information package should be devised for the schools. The more people know the real story of what we are about, the more we will have the resources we need.

While on this cautionary note I wish to add a few more ideas. Extending the hand to the neighbour in need is not as if we were a magician with a magic wand. Extending the hand is a first step in a relationship that often requires much patience. It also requires the deep understanding that human change takes time. We are all creatures of habit. Habits are like an auto-pilot; when they are good habits, all goes well, but if they are not, life can be chaotic. Many folks in need, often through no fault of their own, have precisely habits that hinder rather than help. These are challenges that we must face and we must bring to the situation the wisdom to see the value of time.

The first major perspective to take on our theme is that of the world at large. Twinning is one good way of extending the hand throughout the Vincentian World. Not only do we share from our bounty but we learn in the process. Also, as individuals we should give generous support to organizations such as The Church in Need, Peace and Development and The Catholic Near East Works Association (CNEWA). Such support is another way to follow the year's theme. Indeed such groups extend the hand in our name

Another perspective relating to our theme, Extending a hand to our neighbours in need, relates to the social community where we live; this can cover country, province, city and local neighbourhood. People in need in any and all of these areas should be our concern. Being aware of needs is a skill we must develop and often part of the answer may be systematic change. Also we can never have enough of good information and communication.

Let me tell you of an experience I had when pastor of what might be termed a blue-collar parish which included three rent-to-income projects. Very soon in coming to the parish I became aware that while much Social Assistance was put into the community, many of the agencies working in the area were often acting at cross purposes and inter-agency communication did not exist. As a result I wrote to all the agencies involved and what ensued was the habit of twice annual round table meetings held in the parish hall and included all the social workers, public health people and police who were involved in the area. Usually there were some thirty people in attendance, and when we finished over

coffee provided by the parish I was always thanked for the opportunity they were given to be better informed. They particularly appreciated the opportunity to establish inter-agency relations. We often forget the power of a parish to bring about change.

We must never be afraid to venture, to try something new. While some initiatives fail those which get off the ground often provide amazing results. This round table project resulted in tremendous cooperation between agencies and clear results on the ground.

Christians and in particular, Vincentians must be good citizens, engaged to foster good government in country, province and city. The plight of those in need finds its solution not only through our individual efforts but also through good intelligent policies at all levels of government.

Before we look at what the theme has to say about our individual strategies, I would like to add a little note about the outstanding biography of our current Pope Francis which has recently appeared. It is the work of a British journalist, Austen Ivereigh and entitled, *The Great Reformer, Francis and the making of a Radical Pope*, Published by Henry Holt, New York, 2014. The book is full of interesting details and I want to focus on one item. When Father Bergoglio was ordained as a Bishop in 1992, he distributed a special holy card that depicted, Mary Untier of Knots. The original of this unusual picture is a painting hanging in the Jesuit Church of St Peter in the Bavarian town of Augsburg. The illustration, dated from the 17th century, was the result of a successful reconciliation between husband and wife after the pastor had prayed to Mary to untie the knot that was at the heart of the couple's dispute. The Pope's esteem for the picture is based on his belief that successful help is given case by case. The extension of hand is most successful when it is very personal. We might say that the Pope's view is very much in line with the home visit, an essential part of the Vincentian tradition.

In the Pope's book *Evangelii Gaudium*, he notes the warning of what happens when we do not extend the hand to the neighbours in need: **We do not live better when we flee, hide, refuse to share, stop giving and lock ourselves in our own comforts. Such a life is nothing less than a slow suicide.**

People in need must never be seen as statistics or numbers. Extending the hand must carry with it our entire being. Imbedded firmly on our personal hard

drive we should have the words of Matthew 25, 40: **Truly I say to you, as you did to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.**

You recall I mentioned the initiative of the information round table held in the parish hall for all the social service, health and police people working in the area. Part of the success of this venture was due to a very competent Sister of Service, Gertrude Holland. She was on the parish pastoral team and her duties consisted of visiting people at home. A story illustrating her style of operation is as follows:

At one of the homes she was visiting she met a very depressed lady who had let her appearance go to pot. Sister Gertrude sized up the situation and said, Dearie we won't talk about religion today. I am going to wash and fix your hair. And that is what she did! With such a powerhouse of charity, much solid evangelisation took place.

Speaking of strong examples of charity it may not be a bad idea to get to know our Patron Saint, St Vincent de Paul. Not only was he an apostle of prayer and action but he was also a very practical person. Here are a few quotes from his writings, quite pertinent to our reflection:

- Even though in the past we have let our resolutions lapse is no reason not to make new ones.
- Yes let us love God, indeed let us love God, but let it be through our actions, through the sweat of our bodies
- Establish God's reign in ourselves before trying to establish it in our neighbour

We should never forget that the hand we are extending, to be truly effective, must be Christ's hand. Then and only then our action results in human renewal and growth.

We have all heard it said that being a Vincentian should also lead to our personal sanctification. I submit that it is not so much in the prayers at our meetings and the deep spiritual reflections that such sanctification takes place. Rather it is in the manner we extend our hand to the neighbour in need. When we consciously bring Christ into the picture, our hand becomes what Michelangelo in the great painting in the Sistine Chapel shows as the hand of God giving life to Adam. Indeed our hand extended to the neighbours in need becomes life giving in the fullest sense of the term.

Msgr. Peter Schonenbach, National Spiritual Advisor

North of 60 Project

SSVP IN THE CANADIAN ARTIC

This is a condensed version of a Community Visit report done by Vincentian Stefan Michniewski to two Arctic Communities in Nunavut earlier this year. His complete trip report is available on the SSVP Western Region website at ssvpwrc.ca/News/3479850 and we encourage you to read his full report.

Last April and May I had the rare and exciting opportunity to visit Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak in Nunavut as part of our Vincentian North of 60 Project. It was a truly rich experience.

For the last few years sea containers of food, requested furniture and miscellaneous other items have been shipped to several Northern communities by Vincentians and distributed to the poor. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park, Alberta sent sea cans to Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. We are most grateful to St. Timothy's Parish in Winnipeg for their financial help and their ongoing advice and support for the last number of years.

I viewed my trip as a 'Home Visit' - a 'North of 60 Home Visit'. I did what our home visitors do in our communities. I visited and told the people that I met about our Society in Edmonton and Sherwood Park and I discussed how we could help them serve the poor in their communities.

I am deeply grateful to Fr. Lukas Zajac OMI (Pastor), Ilulik (Keith) Nimiqtuqtuq (Gjoa Haven) and Johna Johnson (Taloyoak) for their overwhelming generosity and hospitality during my visit. These three people took me into their homes and fed me. They are the lead people in distributing the sea can food and furniture to the poor in their communities.

Here is a small sampling of my trip as I recorded it in a daily diary.

Gjoa Haven 1:

I arrived in Gjoa Haven yesterday. We nearly could not land because of wind and blowing snow. However the wind dropped about an hour before landing and we made it in. Keith met me at the airport and Fr. Lukas and I had lunch with Keith and visited his family after dinner that evening. Most socializing happens in the evening.

Gjoa Haven 2:

Today we celebrated Mass at 7.00 am. Fr. Lukas and I went for a walk about and met several Inuit people in the street and in their homes. They made me try raw fish, raw seal meat, seal fat, and raw caribou stomach. As I tried, they laughed, waiting to see if I would get sick....

I went to the graveyard where the plywood coffins from the last 5 funerals were sitting up on the snow. They will be buried in the summer....

On Monday evening Keith, Fr. Lucas and I reviewed the supply list Keith had sent us all by email.

It was a good meeting and Keith was very happy with a revised and extended list. Fr. Lucas was very helpful. He is most supportive of Keith and the Vincentians....

On the street the Kids would yell 'Hi Father' and 'who is he?' meaning me. They were not shy to ask. We chatted with them explaining what work we do with Keith and Fr. Lukas. As we visited with adults on the street and they heard we were involved with Keith and the sea can, they all expressed their thanks. It was heartening....

The role and importance of Fr. Lukas in these two communities cannot be overstated....

We celebrated Mass at 7.00 pm. and met with the Vincentian group after Mass. With Keith's help we then reviewed the supply list again and, after some tweaking of the list, they were happy with it.... We had tea! I have never seen such tea-hospitality like this, not even in England. Wherever you go you get tea. You go in a house without knocking. It is rude to knock. You are greeted by the people who are home, and without asking, you help yourself to tea. You then sit down and visit...

Taloyoak 1:

On Thursday Johna picked us up at Taloyoak airport after a 4 hour flight delay - mechanical problem and bad weather. After supper we discussed the sea can, the supply list and the distribution of food in Taloyoak. Johna assured me that there is great need for food help for needy people here. The community was most grateful for the food provided last year by Good Shepherd Conference in Edmonton and over the years from St. Timothy's Conference in Winnipeg. I have pictures

from Fr. Lukas of how they unpacked the sea can, stored it in the mission and how they sorted the food. They ran out of some essentials during the year – e.g. lard, flower, baking powder used for Bannock. We have started to customise the supply list more to their needs. We will continue to work on this today....

The snow was so bad there were no planes in or out all day and Johna and I had to shovel twice to get the water truck in. We nearly ran out of water for washing and the toilet, but the truck was able to get near the house this morning and deliver. Fr. Lukas spent the day trying to repair the frozen sewage tank at the mission....

Taloyoak 2:

Being at home for most of the day allowed me time to do some research on the poor and needy in Nunavut. If you google, 'Nunavut Housing' there are several articles and web sites on this topic. Community members confirmed my findings....

I hope I can now explain how some people are very poor and need our help. Some have no housing and

they crowd in with their extended family and friends. It is culturally very difficult to refuse to help a family member and indeed, any community member in need. There is drug and alcohol abuse. Both are very expensive because of shipping by air and sold on the black market. Government cheques are often squandered on drugs and alcohol. There is unemployment, dependency, and no incentive to work for some. The responsible public housing resident has his/her government support significantly depleted by supporting their extended family. So a working public housing resident ends up supporting many people for food and shelter resulting in low standards of living for some and poverty for others....

In my short time here I have observed Fr. Lucas and Johna receiving calls for food from community members. They do not have much left at the Mission....

There are people who need our support. We must trust that leaders in the community, including government, are working on the systemic issues. Fr. Lukas, Johna and the community appreciate our help.



Twinning

PROJECT J7 (JAMAÏQUE) - 7TH MISSION TRIP

After two 4.5 hour flights, the airport in Montego Bay was very hot and very, very crowded. All ten of us lined up for three hours to get through Jamaican immigration and customs and then to finally meet our friend and driver, Ronnie.



Let's back up a bit

Project J7 (Jamaica) is an undertaking by members of St Peter Columbus Club. We are associated with the Knights of Columbus – St. Peter Council 7070 in Edmonton, Alberta, as well as, with St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, also in Edmonton.

Every year, 10 people meet once a month over a period of 6 – 7 months to plan the upcoming Mission Trip. We do various fund raising events during that period of time to raise funds to take with us, however, each of us pays for our room, board and other expenses. A very generous donation from St. Peter's Columbus Club pays for the airfares for the group.

Back to the trip itself

During the first week, we met the Bishop of Mandeville, attended Ash Wednesday Mass at the Cathedral, visited people we had assisted during previous trips, spent 3 days painting a pre-elementary school (inside and out) and visited the Bosco Home for Boys where we were fed a delicious Pizza dinner.

On Saturday, we traveled to Kingston and spent a good part of the day with the members of St. Jude SSVP Conference, with whom, our St. Theresa's Conference

has twinned for the last 6 years. It was a wonderful visit. We now have faces for the names we have corresponded with all this time and were treated to a Jamaican Pattie lunch. We visited the Ozanam House for Seniors run by the St. Jude Conference.

On Sunday, we attended Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, where our friend, Fr. Baylon, is the pastor. After that we met with the SSVP Jamaican National Council and the members of Our Lady of the



Assumption SSVP Conference. We were privileged to be there, when Alfred DaCosta, President of the Jamaican SSVP National Council, presented the Assumption Conference with their Aggregation Certificate. But the best part of this particular visit was that we received the blessing of the Jamaican Council to twin with Our Lady of The Assumption Conference. We, at St. Theresa's Conference, have now two twins in Jamaica – St. Jude and Our Lady of the Assumption. Another wonderful and heart-warming visit. We finished the day with dinner at Little Ochie Seafood Restaurant. The weekend was, by far, the best one any of us has had in a long time.

On Monday, we prefabricated the walls for one of the two houses we would build in the following days. The first house was for a couple with a two-year-old daughter. The mom is already pregnant with the next baby. This was a very special event. We called it the "Miracle". You needed to be there, and experience the feelings of seeing the hovel this family had been living in, to then watch the family's expressions and reactions as the new house was being built. It touched us all more than I can

NEW TWINNING COUNTRY – DOMINICA

say. The second house was for an older couple. Quite a unique story also.

We spent a day at the Mary Help of Christians Seniors home, helping with breakfast and lunch and just spending time with the residents. We even had quite an exciting game of dominos. We visited an Aids Clinic and had lunch and a good visit with the clients. Afterwards, we visited an infirmary for men and women. This visit was the most traumatic part of the trip.

At the Mustard Seed Community, we played with and held handicapped children. It was wonderful to be able to bring laughter and love to the children. They, in turn, gave us laughter and love also.

On Sunday after Mass, we spent time at the beach with some of our Jamaican friends. Then home to pack to leave the next day.

For the ones of us that had been on these trips before, this was the most successful one. Because we went for two weeks, we had more time to accomplish all the things we wanted to do.

Taking part in these Project J Mission Trips is **“putting our catholic faith into action”**.

What a great feeling it is to do that!

Maria Lupul
St. Theresa's Conference



The National Board of Directors approved the addition of the Commonwealth of Dominica as a new twinning country with Canada at a meeting held on April 25, 2015. This decision follows a request by the National Council of Dominica to twin with Canada.

Dominica is a small island in the Caribbean Sea, south of the island of Guadeloupe. It gained its independence from Great Britain in 1978. It has a population of about 72,300 with 80% reporting to be Roman Catholics. Most people are of African descent (former slaves) and the main language spoken is English. Its economy is heavily dependent on tourism and agriculture (banana, coffee, etc.). The island has one of the lowest per capita domestic product (GDP) in the Eastern Caribbean states.

The Society has a strong presence in Dominica with 26 active Conferences and about 300 members (CGI report – 2010). Good relations have been established with the National Council of Dominica. At this time, seven (7) Twinning Applications from that country are waiting a Canadian partner.

Twinning is one of the activities most cherished by the Society. Vincentian preferential option for the poor spurs Conferences and Councils to assist others with less resources. Dominican Vincentians are asking for our assistance and friendship for their humble mission to serve the poor of their communities. I encourage all Canadian Conferences and Councils not benefitting by a twinning partnership to engage in a twinning with Dominica. Those Conferences and Councils already involved in the twinning program may also apply as a Donor Twin can have more than one recipient twinning partner. A Twinning Application can be found on the National Council web site, www.ssvp.ca, link Twinning.

May the spirit of our patron Saint Vincent de Paul and main founder Blessed Frederic Ozanam accompany this new mission.

Clermont Fortin, Chair
National Twinning Committee

Social Justice

SOCIAL JUSTICE - REPORT FOR VINCENPAUL

Dear fellow Vincentians,

As we embark on our plans for social justice across Canada, allow me to introduce the committee.

- Chair-Jim Paddon, Ontario.
- Spiritual advisor-Msgr. Peter Schonenbach
- Ex-officio- Jean-Noël Cormier
- Atlantic Regional -Chris Ryan
- Quebec Region-Pierre Morissette
- Ontario Region-Corry Wink
- Western region-Chris Gillen
- BC-Yukon Region- To be announced.

The social justice committee now has terms of reference which can be found on the national website. We also have a representative from each region except BC-Yukon. Just as Frederic Ozanam had a dream of a network of charity, we too plan to focus on developing a network of social justice across Canada. It is critical to have this network in order to make our efforts and communications a truly grass roots movement. The social justice committee includes our work in Advocacy, Systemic Change and Prison Ministry. We feel these three areas are related and that it is best to place them under social justice to avoid any duplication of work.

I would recommend that every Council and Conference appoint one or more members to act as their social justice reps., or even as a committee. In addition, every Council and Conference meeting should add social justice to its regular agendas and spend at least five minutes talking about an issue. There is a real need to first educate our own membership about the many important issues related to social justice. The more we can raise this awareness I am convinced it could also attract new members with an interest in social justice. We can help with various resource materials for such discussions.

If you currently have someone interested in taking on this role at your Council or Conference, please forward their name and contact information to me at jpsvp@hotmail.ca. These names will then be added to our social justice data bank and will be included in

all future mailings. If we can begin by having each Council appoint someone by January 1st, 2016, it would be a great start. Conferences are asked to try to find someone for this position by April 1st, 2016. You may find a copy of the duties of the social justice rep. online at our website. I am also available to answer any questions about this role by email or phone. (519-397-9391)

I would like to discuss social justice and why it should be an integral part of our Society.

The Spirituality of Social Action

Our Vincentian spirituality is simply based on developing and nurturing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ which is achieved by the love we share and in our various social justice efforts. It is not enough to just give our friends in need a food voucher or clothing. We must also be a real friend, one who cares about their family and future. It is when we develop this deeper level of love that the true meaning of being a Vincentian is displayed for all. Jesus told us that the poor will always be with us, just as he will always be there. We must always be there for both Jesus and the poor. Our ability to advocate and develop systemic change programs and our ability to actually make a positive difference in the lives and hopes of our friends in need is what being a Vincentian is about.

History of Social Justice and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

While the terms we use today were not likely familiar to Vincent or Frederic, there is no doubt that their actions certainly provide evidence of their desire to address the causes of poverty and to try to change or revise systems that would improve the lives of those living in poverty.

Vincent did this by forming the order of the Congregation of the Mission, the lay Ladies of Charity and the Daughters of Charity, the first non-cloistered order of nuns. All of these new organizations had as their first goal, to go to the poor and to seek a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through this contact.

Frederic is credited as being one of the founding voices in Catholic social teaching, a champion for a living wage and pensions for workers as well as an advocate for the

Social Justice

poor. He also put his faith into action by helping to form the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and beginning home visits, which as with Vincent, had the dual purpose of helping those in need and seeking and meeting Jesus where He told us to look for Him.

Advocacy - Our first duty is to find ways our friends in need can have a voice about poverty issues. If they are unable to do so, we must step in to assist their efforts and needs. Advocacy includes educating ourselves about the issues at national, regional and local levels before we voice our concerns about these issues. Please consider joining any local poverty reduction initiatives in your community to learn more about what is being done locally and to make yourselves known to others. We also need to educate our own membership and parishes.

Systemic Change - While this term may confuse some it is simply the action of looking at the current structures, or lack of, that may actually contribute to maintaining the cycle of poverty for so many. Once we have an understanding of these structures, we can then look at developing programs that help to alleviate poverty, provide hope to those in need for a better future, and change attitudes of both our members and the public about poverty in Canada. While social justice is not something every Vincentian is comfortable with, there is a need to educate our membership about the importance of accepting social justice as the second arm of our mission. Charity without Justice is very limited but if we add the element of action and change, it can renew our efforts and give us hope that we can make a difference.

Canada Learning Bond (CLB) - This is a government of Canada education savings plan which can provide up to \$2,000.00 of FREE money for any child born after January 1, 2004 and whose family qualifies for the National Child Supplement. (net income of \$43561.00 or less). The Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) offers a matching grant for contributions into an RESP which can reach up to a 40% grant. There will be further information about these programs later this year or you can immediately contact Jim Paddon at jpsvp@hotmail.ca for this information.

Prison Ministry - Our focus with prison ministry will be that of helping former inmates who are re-entering society and the families of current inmates. Much of this work is simply what we have always done for anyone in need but with a stronger emphasis on the issues former inmates face in finding accommodations, jobs and friends as they are released from months and years in prison. There are certainly systemic change programs we can develop as well as advocating on behalf of former inmates.

Other topics - There are other areas in need of social justice action that include our 1st nation's peoples, North of 60 Inuit peoples and refugees.

Summary - We encourage every Council, Conference and member to discuss social justice and the various areas we need to address. Please join us in the formation of a social justice network which will have a strong voice with and for our friends and neighbours in need.

Sincerely,

**Jim Paddon, Chairperson
Social Justice Committee**

Social Justice Committee Mission Statement

To proclaim the Christian response to all forms of injustice. To bring about positive change in people's lives by deepening the understanding of the ways that all forms of poverty deprive people of their dignity, their health, and the opportunity to participate fully in society.

2015 EMMANUEL BAILLY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT RYAN KONNO

Ryan has been involved with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul nearly his whole life with the desire to serve the poor passed on to him from his grandmother. As a child, he would assist in St. Ann's Conference in Penticton, British Columbia, with their pantry at his parish, where he would help to sort food and to package into hampers for delivery. As he grew older, he got involved with the Christmas hampers, assisting with food collections at the local schools, and making home deliveries to those in need.

"He enjoys helping people, especially those in need," said Rene Barone, President of St. Ann's Conference. "He always does this in a respectful manner. I realize that as a full time student, time commitments can restrict his activities, however I will vouch for his willingness to share his free time volunteering on behalf of the Society. I believe that Ryan's time with us has, and will continue to develop his awareness of the mental, physical, and spiritual needs of those we help."

Ryan has started in September at the University of Calgary where he is studying to obtain his Bachelor of Science degree for biochemistry. Once completed, he plans on attending medical school. "My time with the Society has taught me it is important to give back to the community and help people who are in need," said Ryan. "I believe being a doctor will be a good path. Being a doctor will allow me to practice the values that I have learned from the Society."

The National Council of Canada congratulates Ryan on being named this year's recipient of the Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship and wishes him the best with his studies.



About the Scholarship

The Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship, sponsored by the Monica Martineau Foundation, is an initiative of the National Council of Canada. Its purpose is to reward young Vincentians for their contributions to the Society. In addition to attending school and working part time, young Vincentians find the time and energy to assist those who are less privileged in their community. Each year, the National Council recognizes one of these young members in Canada who has demonstrated their commitment to the Society, to Vincentian spirituality, and to the Catholic Church.

It is in the name of Emmanuel Bailly, who saw the importance of helping youth combine their studies with their religious formation, that the National Council of Canada wishes to recognize a young person each year for their exceptional contribution by offering a bursary of \$1,000 to assist them in the pursuit of their studies.

Applications for the scholarship are due by March 31 of each year to the National Council office. Details of the scholarship can be found on the National website. The full application for 2016 will be available in the fall of 2015.

Jason Hunt, National Youth Rep

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we announce the following deaths:

- Herb Jones**, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Conference, Windsor ON, September 21, 2014
Len Jennings, Good Shepherd Conference, Windsor ON, September 25, 2014
Byron Ducharme, St Peter's Cathedral Conference, September 29, 2014
Julie Van Dongen, Corpus Christi Conference, Windsor ON, October 2, 2014
Roger Hachey, Our Lady of Fatima Conference, Elliot Lake ON, October 3, 2014
Owen «Scotty» McAllister, St. Denis Conference, St. Catharines ON, October 5, 2014
Douglas H. White, Assumption Conference, Windsor ON, October 9, 2014
Théodora Paquet, Conférence Saint-Vincent de Paul de St-Sauveur, QC, October 31, 2014
Suzanne Ménard, Conférence St-François Solano, Montréal QC, November 10, 2014
Doug Vernem, St. Raphael Conference, Burlington ON, November 29, 2014
Patrick Taylor, St. Mary Conference, Collingwood ON, December 26, 2014
John Joseph (Jack) Seifred, Church of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph ON, December 29, 2014
Gordon Burns, St. George Conference, London ON, January 7, 2015
Pierre Lafrance, Conseil particulier de Bellerive, Montréal QC, January 14, 2015
Thérèse Lafleur, Conférence Notre-Dame-de-Pitié, Québec QC, January 19, 2015
Père Lionel Dion, M.Afr.(Pères Blancs), Conseil régional du Québec, February 1, 2015
Grant McAuley, St. Agnes Conference, Chatham ON, February 13, 2015
Anna E. Boom, Holy Family Conference, Amherst, NS, February 15, 2015
Cecilia (Cis) Rayworth, Holy Family Conference, Amherst NS, February 16, 2015
Kevin Crozier, St. John Vianney Conference, Barrie ON, February 22, 2015
Eugene Mooney, Holy Family Conference, Amherst, NS, March 15, 2015
Lucette Plamondon, Conférence Saint-Denys, Québec QC, March 23, 2015
Marie Hunter, St. Cecilia Conference, Calgary BC, April 7, 2015
Carole Palmer, Conférence Repentigny, QC, April 11, 2015
Beverly Brown, St. Thomas More Conference, Niagara Falls ON, April 23, 2015
Anne Marie Kaplan, St. Joseph the Worker Conference, Richmond BC, May 2015
Trish Yates, Brant Particular Council ON, May 26, 2015:
Lorrain Muise, Brant Particular Council ON, July 15, 2015
Pat Zahrybelny, St. Mary's Conference, Brantford ON, July 17, 2015
Joe Johns, Kent Deanery Particular Council, Chatham ON, July 29, 2015
M. Edward (Eddy) Phillips, Conférence St-Rosaire de Gatineau, QC, August 2, 2015
Guy Fortin, Conférence St-Jérôme de l'Auvergne, Charlesbourg QC, September 18, 2015
Garry Stanhope Richardson, Christ the King Conference, Comox Valley BC, September 26, 2015
Else Maria Forster, Christ the King Conference, Comox Valley BC, September 29, 2015
Gloria Clendinning, All Saints Conference, Coquitlam BC, September 29, 2015

They were our brothers and sisters serving the poor.

Lord, we pray that all the good they did bear fruit and be continued.

Help us keep their memory alive in our hearts. Let us keep them in our prayers.

Please send your death notices to editor@ssvp.ca

Canada's Councils in Action

ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

On June 13, 2015, 35 members of the St. John's Particular Council planned and prepared a noon time meal for approximately 150 guests of The Gathering Place in St. John's. This centre operated by the Mercy and Presentation Sisters, who serve meals daily and provide numerous services. St. John's Particular Council has agreed to provide three special meals per year and to cover all costs and services associated with this.

In June, a full luncheon was provided, cooked and served by SSVP volunteers. All members thoroughly enjoyed this special outreach project.

Chris Ryan, St. John's Particular Council, NL



The St. John's Particular Council welcomed Jean-Noël to Newfoundland. St. John's Conferences provided a number of activities during his two-day stay. We were very delighted to give him a tour of the city, its four local Conferences, a meet and greet luncheon at Corpus Christi and a special trip to the Gathering Place.

Con Milmore and Chris took Jean-Noël to a small fishing village for a traditional fish lunch, then on to a tour of all St. John's and Mount Pearl Conferences meeting members as they worked. In the afternoon, Shirley McKinnon took a group on a tour of their new social housing project. Jean-Noël left our beautiful province with a gift of fresh lobster for himself and his wife to enjoy in Ottawa.

Chris Ryan, St. John's Particular Council, NL



Jean-Noël visits St. Theresa's New Housing Project with Shirley McKinnon, Cathy Fleming and Louise Moores.



Members attend a meet and greet luncheon welcoming Jean-Noël to Newfoundland.

Canada's Councils in Action

QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE "OPÉRATION BONNE MINE" PROGRAM, QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

To encourage school perseverance is one of the main objectives of the OPÉRATION BONNE MINE program, as well as to help less fortunate youths to have a fair opportunity to pursue their education. It aims also to help children acquire self-esteem, promote their integration and arouse their motivation and tenacity. In a broader scope, the program aims to be a solution to the labour-shortage challenge in Quebec.

The Benefits of the Program

Opération Bonne Mine is a flexible program, in the sense that it gives parents tangible means to help at back-to-school time. As well, it grants scholarships that allow youths to purchase sport and cultural supplies. The program's applications may vary from one region to the next.

Back-to-School Assistance

Financial assistance is available to families in need. The assistance takes the form of two coupons each worth \$25. Those coupons can be redeemed in any school for expenses related to school expenses, in Jean Coutu drugstores for school supplies, and to cover child care or meal costs.

Educational Programs

Schools who propose educational projects can obtain assistance, after the projects submitted during the year have gone through an evaluation process.

Opération Bonne Mine Scholarships

\$250 and \$500 scholarships are granted respectively to primary and secondary-level students who have shown perseverance and a will to improve during the year. These scholarships are granted on merit rather than academic results. This recognition system was designed to encourage self-esteem and school perseverance.

From 2001 to 2014, we have helped:

Back-to-school time: 105,787 children	\$4,472,972
Scholarships: 735 children	\$238,305
Educational programs: 9,895 children	\$349,506
Summer and sport camps: 8,117 children	\$417,547
For a total of 124,534 children and a total of \$5,527,424.	

Lise Blais, Project Coordinator
Quebec Regional Council



Canada's Councils in Action

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

ONTARIO'S SYSTEMIC CHANGE MOVEMENT

The Ontario Regional Council is committed to systemic change and bettering the lives of those in need. While this has always been on our minds, these past six months we have really upped the activity level as it's clear we must do more. We began by getting people to volunteer as Social Justice Representatives.

At the end of May, our Social Justice Committee organized an introductory workshop for all of our SJ Reps. They were provided with brochures and handouts to spark discussion, prayers, resources, and tips to further their own knowledge base, and of course, the chance to talk with other SJ Reps from across Ontario to learn and grow together.

Another workshop is planned for this October, a continuation from the first, to explore how to start social justice activities at the conference level.

We also held a Focus on Advocacy Workshop in Toronto on August 19th, which allowed our Advocacy Reps to hone in on the language used in this type of work, our real objective when we advocate on behalf as well as with those we serve, and the challenges we face. The workshop helped us identify that we needed a clear description of what our advocates would do (vs what our social justice reps would do), and as a starting point for conferences, an extensive list of potential advocacy projects that may, or may not, be applicable for individual conferences – but a list of many options to be sure that each area would have some relatable ideas.

Our Prison Ministry is also growing with our St Dismas Project development, to aid those leaving the prison

system. Support for their families is also a priority; regardless of what found a loved one in prison, the family members face their own struggles with the situation. We are looking to how we could best serve each with their individual needs.

Finally, our major Systemic Change project, the Ozanam Education Fund is growing fast. Created to help our friends in need (those with low incomes, and those in or leaving the prison system) to obtain further education to help move out of poverty and to help them reach their goals. To date, we have helped 95 people, with approximately \$2,000 each. The number of people accessing this program is steadily growing, to the point where ONRC can no longer sustain the program independently (or else we could not continue to help more and more people each year). Therefore, the Systemic Change Committee has developed fundraising materials targeting outside of the Society and are looking to various foundations that may support this program as well.

We've come a long way from our small committee a few years ago, to a network of over 65 Social Justice Representatives. The number of Vincentians willing to work on this front continues to grow, as does our commitment and determination to serve all with dignity, respect, justice and joy on a personal level and on a systemic level.

If you would like more information about our systemic change activities, please email our president, Jim Paddon, jpsvp@hotmail.ca

Sarah Davidson, Administrative Assistant
Ontario Regional Council

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - ST. MARY'S COLLINGWOOD

In 2011, our Conference received an unexpected gift of \$10,000.00. Our members decided to dedicate this money to an Education Fund. The Education Fund is used to support Collingwood students who are enrolled in a post-secondary diploma, degree, trade ticket or professional designation program and are able to cover their tuition fees but need assistance with additional costs such as special assignment fees, books, transportation or child care, etc.

Since this program started, we have helped several students with travel expenses to College in Barrie and Orillia. Three students received help with rent. Recently we purchased a computer for a single mom who is taking courses by correspondence. These students have expressed that this extra support has made the difference in their ability to complete the program they were enrolled in.

Also, we encourage visitors to our food bank who have young children to register for the Canada Learning Bond. One of our members has volunteered to assist anyone interested with the paper work involved. To date, we have had a few of our food bank visitors register for the Learning Bond.

Mary Beth Sharpe

Canada's Councils in Action

WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

EDMONTON CENTRAL COUNCIL AGAIN SUCCESSFUL WITH THEIR ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE SALE

Furniture is refinished, brass and silver is polished, the china and crystal come out. Jean Craig, Director of the Edmonton Central Council Charity Sale says, "We put more than 2000 volunteer hours into the three sales a year and raise about \$60,000.00 to support the Distribution Centre and our cost of operating trucks throughout the city. This event provides an opportunity to meet the people of Edmonton and to share with them the good Works of our Society."



SPRING HIGH TEA FOR LADIES IN EDMONTON INNER CITY

On Friday, May 22, 2015, volunteers from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul St. Theresa's Conference as well as members of the CWL hosted a Spring High Tea for ladies living in poverty in the Inner City.

We made posters and invitations that were given out to ladies only.

On the day of the event, we loaded the vans with volunteers and supplies and off we went to the Bissell Centre – a community support centre in downtown Edmonton.

After we set up, the ladies started to arrive and we began to serve the beverages and food.



A resident of the inner city played background music on his guitar and sang songs, some of which he wrote himself.

One of the ladies, who runs programs for the Inner City Pastoral Ministry, gave a wonderful reflection about how everyone is unique in the Creator.

As we served and interacted with our guests, one lady asked me what we were celebrating. I told her "We are celebrating you, all of you". One lady commented to another about her fancy dress and the response was "This is high tea".

We drew for door prizes and everyone left with their own goodie bag that was decorated by the St. Theresa's Parish Girls League.

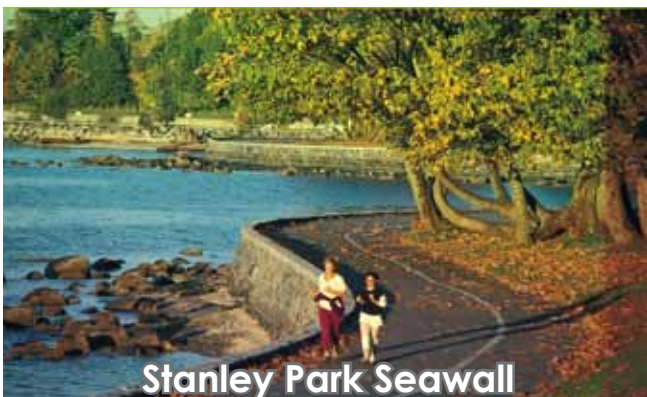
The ladies, that accepted our invitation for tea, were very appreciative of the fact that we took time to organize the event and serve them.

The volunteers had a wonderful time serving and conversing with the ladies and enjoying their reactions to the fun afternoon. They were already asking when we would do it again.

We can hardly wait until the Fall High Tea.

Maria Lupul, President
Edmonton South Particular Council

AGA 2016 - Vancouver BC



JUNE 15-19, 2016
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
VANCOUVER, BC

As President of the Vancouver Archdiocesan Central Council I am both proud and happy to invite and welcome you to AGA 2016, which we have the honour and privilege of hosting next year in our beautiful city. Those of you who attended the AGA here in 2001 will remember our superb facility at the University of British Columbia. Our accommodation will once again be in the Gage student residence tower which has been recently upgraded and refurbished to make it even better than last time. Workshops and meetings are close by and there is a spectacular new Student Union Building. We have included some Vancouver and UBC scenes here to showcase the attractions available in the Vancouver area, and preview what awaits you on the UBC campus. Our speakers and selection of workshops will ensure that there is something for everyone at AGA 2016. We are very much looking forward to renewing friendships and sharing Vincentian experiences next June and we hope you will extend your stay to explore our great city. Look for more program information in the winter edition of the Vincenpaul. Register early and stay as long as you wish. A hundred thousand welcomes from all of us in Vancouver to all Vincentians.

Ivan Douglas, President
Vancouver Archdiocesan Central Council



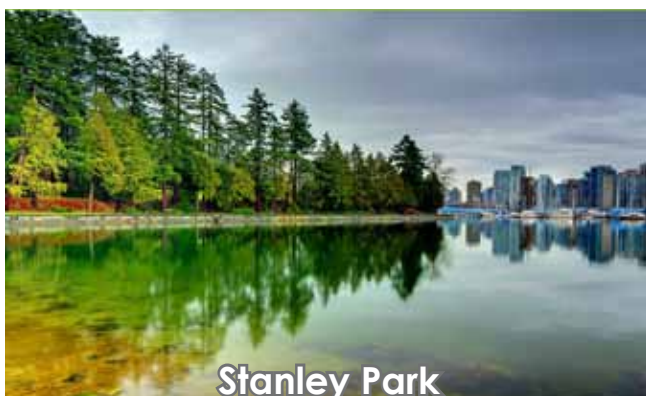
AGA 2016 - Vancouver BC

May I extend to all Vincentians an invitation and warm welcome to join us next year in the beautiful city of Vancouver at the superb venue of UBC, where we look forward to hosting you from the moment of arrival on or before Wednesday, June 15th to the date of departure on Sunday, June 19th. Perhaps some of you may choose to extend your stay to enjoy West Coast hospitality, our spectacular ocean and mountain scenery and our many tourist opportunities.

Our theme for the AGA is Joy in Service; surely precisely what our Society epitomizes in our outreach to those in need. Our speakers and workshops will encompass many facets of our work and we hope you will be revitalized and energized by choosing to join us for this opportunity to share with and learn from each other at AGA 2016.

In the Winter edition of Vincenpaul you will find details of our program and tours, the registration forms and financial details. Please register early for the best choice of accommodation, but most of all, just come to the Vancouver 2016 AGA. You will not be disappointed.

Bill Yule, Chairperson
AGA 2016 Planning Committee



Centennial Pilgrimage to France

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Vancouver Island Invites you to join us in Celebrating our Centennial year:

Walk in the Footsteps of Saint Vincent - Centennial Pilgrimage to France

Date: March 14 to 22, 2016

**\$3,939 per person with airfare from Victoria B.C
\$2629 Land price**

including double occupancy, breakfast and dinner & guided tours.

Deadline: January 15, 2016. Space is limited book now.

To reserve a seat please contact info@svdpvictoria.com 1-250-727-0007

DAY 1: Depart Victoria for your overnight flight to Paris. Dinner and break-fast will be served on board.

DAY 2: Welcome to France! Group transfer to your hotel. We will continue to our hotel for check in. This evening join your Tour Director and fellow transfer a welcome dinner

DAY 3: Paris - Tour dedicated to Saint Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic Ozanam & Blessed Rosalie Rendu.

In the morning, we will celebrate Mass and then walk to visit the Church St. Vincent De Paul where the Saint's body is visible through a glass coffin.

In 1833, Blessed Frederic Ozanam founded with fellow students the Conference of Charity, later known as the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris in 1997. He was buried in the crypt of the church of St. Joseph des Carmes at the Institut Catholique in Paris.

We will visit Montparnasse Cemetery and tomb where Blessed Rosalie was buried.

DAY 4: Paris - Tour of Paris including Sacre Coeur Basilica, Notre Dame Cathedral

Visit to the historic part of Paris, the Rue du Bac. In the convent chapel, we will view the incorrupt body of St. Catherine of Laboure. Next, we will visit the Sacre Coeur Basilica for Mass, with time for adoration. Next we depart on our sightseeing tour which includes the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, L'Arc de Triomphe, and the Champs Elysees.

DAY 5: PARIS - Visit to the Louvre Museum

DAY 6: Paris – Lisieux

Tour of the home of St. Therese whom Pope Pius X called “the greatest saint of modern times.” Her extraordinary love for God and service to humanity comes alive as you visit the Basilica of Saint Therese, one of the biggest and most magnificent religious structures built in the 20th-century. While in Lisieux we will celebrate Mass. We will stop at Les Buissonnets, St. Therese's family home, where on display are relics, clothing, and personal objects belonging to the “little flower.” We will tour the ancient Cathedral of St. Peter and the Carmelite Convent. Dinner and overnight in Lisieux.

DAY 7: Lisieux - Chartres – Paray Le Monial

After Mass we continue on to Chartres, where we will visit the famous Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Chartres. We continue on to our final destination of Paray Le Monial for dinner and overnight.

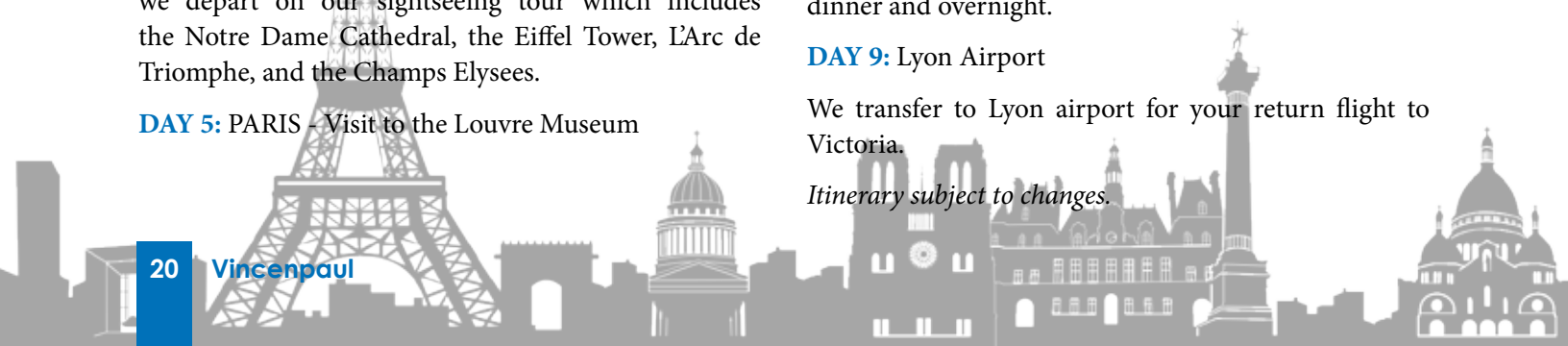
DAY 8: Paray Le Monial – Taize – Lyon

Tour of Paray Le Monial where we will visit the Chapel of the Visitation where Jesus exposed His Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque during a number of apparitions. We will visit the Reliquary of St. Margaret containing her relics, located underneath a wax figure of the saint. In the afternoon, we depart for Taize, one of the world's most important sites of Pilgrimage, bringing in over 100,000 young people from all across the world each year. We will then continue on to Lyon for dinner and overnight.

DAY 9: Lyon Airport

We transfer to Lyon airport for your return flight to Victoria.

Itinerary subject to changes.



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Time to renew your subscription

Please send this form and a \$20 cheque to:		New subscription:	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please inform us of any change of president or change of address

President change

Please send this form to: SSVP National Council, 2463 Innes Rd., Ottawa Ontario K1B 3K3			
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Thank you for your collaboration



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