

Vincenpaul

The Magazine of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
Volume 42 No. 2 - Summer 2016

Canada

Toronto 1851

Halifax 1853

Vancouver 1914

Québec 1846

Ottawa 1880

Montréal 1948

Chicoutimi 1899

Brandon 1963

Prince Albert 2000

Yellowknife 2005

Victoria 1916

St. John 1970

Charlottetown 1996

Calgary 1983

Gjoa Haven 2008

Edmonton 2000

Tuktoyaktuk 2007

Moncton 2015

Hamilton 1865

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Canada
Serving the neediest Canadians since 1846

En Route with History

**A COAST-TO-COAST JOURNEY OF OUR COUNTRY MEETING VINCENTIANS AND LISTENING TO THEIR STORIES
CUMULATING IN A BOOK MARKING THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY**



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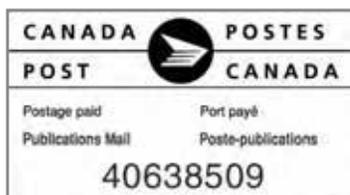


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Author and traveler Louise Larivière is amazed to see, when departing for Halifax, that the title of the project has just appeared on Via Rail’s signs in Montreal Central Station! See text pages 4 and 5.

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Message from the President

Dear brother and sister Vincentians,



Several among you are seeking not only to recruit new members, but more specifically, to keep them. We have made this the main topic of our latest Vincenpaul, and I invite you to read that issue, if you have not done so already. You will find a few examples

that will inspire you to organize successful recruitment campaigns. In my opinion, we must lay the cards on the table at the very first meeting, explaining to the future members **who we are and what we do**.

During training sessions I attended on that topic, the various trainers were unanimous in saying that when we provide good information to our recruits, they tend to remain involved for a longer period of time.

You are therefore invited to use certain tools that are made available to you, ensuring that all important items are covered during that first meeting. First of all, on page 11 of the book *The Rule and Statutes* of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada, you will find our mission statement and our values. Following that, on page 12, there is a description of our logo and its meaning. To complete your tool box, you may also use the Interview Checklist form (9.10), available in the Operations Manual on our website, at www.ssvp.ca. By using those tools, you will greatly assist new recruits, because they will know from the start that in the Society, the listening and the human contact are as important as the help we provide.

Now, I would like to talk to you about the celebrations for the 170th anniversary of the Society in Canada.

The first conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada was founded on November 12, 1846. It was located in the Notre-Dame de Québec cathedral (today the basilica). At the beginning, the conference helped mostly widows with children without revenue. One hundred and seventy years later, the Society in

Canada is present in all provinces, as well as in the North West Territories and in Nunavut. With our 863 conferences and 116 councils, we are one of the most important organizations in the country with respect to helping the less fortunate.

So this year (2016), we will celebrate the 170th anniversary of the foundation of the first conference in Canada. November 12 falling on a Saturday, I think that it would be most interesting if the Society's 14,000 members would all make a special gesture to highlight that anniversary.

I suggest the celebration of a mass where most functions would be performed by Vincentians, followed by a meal during which everyone could share and celebrate together. I think that it would be quite a feat if all conferences in the country would make such a gesture of solidarity on that special day. You have sufficient time to find the formula that best suits your conference, but please, assign someone to this task as soon as possible, to ensure a celebration that will be out of the ordinary.

To mark this anniversary, the National Council has decided to publish a book depicting the important moments of the Society in the country. We do not have a national document on the history of the Society and we think that it is now time to gather all the information before it is too late. The format of the book will be similar to what is published when a parish or a municipality wishes to commemorate an important anniversary. Several activities are planned in order to complete this project and I thank all Vincentians for their cooperation.

In conclusion, do not forget to register for the Annual General Assembly of the National Council that will take place from June 16 to 19 in Vancouver, BC. It is a great opportunity to meet Vincentians from all over the country to discuss, experience spiritual moments, share and celebrate together. You will return home with fully charged batteries and a head full of ideas, initiatives or projects for your conference or council.

Looking forward to meeting you there and wishing you a good summer,

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

“En Route for History”

A JOURNEY, A BOOK, STORIES AND CELEBRATIONS!

The members of the Conference de Notre-Dame first time met on November 12, 1846 at 7 pm at the Saint-Louis Chapel part of the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Québec. This historical moment saw the birth of the Saint Vincent de Paul of Canada. On January 7, 1847 the Quebec Particular Council already included seven Conferences. Those were challenging times and there was a crying need to organise poverty relief. However one of the main reasons for this impressive growth within the Society was a man whose devotion became a great source of inspiration to others: Doctor Philip Painchaud. Dr. Painchaud, whose resemblance with Frédéric Ozanam was quite striking, became the first President of the Conference in Québec.

It was during a trip to Paris in 1845 that Joseph Painchaud got enthralled with the Vincentian mission and spirit. He became a member of the Saint-Séverin Conference and attended all meetings and séances. His knowledge of the “Manual” was flawless which proves he attended meetings and general Conferences’ assemblies on a regular basis. Man of great piety, his faith inspired other Vincentians who with him founded the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in Canada. History was being written...

In November 2015, the Regional and National Councils met in Ottawa and it was then decided to go ahead with an ambitious project: a book being at the same time a walk down memory lane but also, a look into a more contemporary SSVP. The main objective was and still

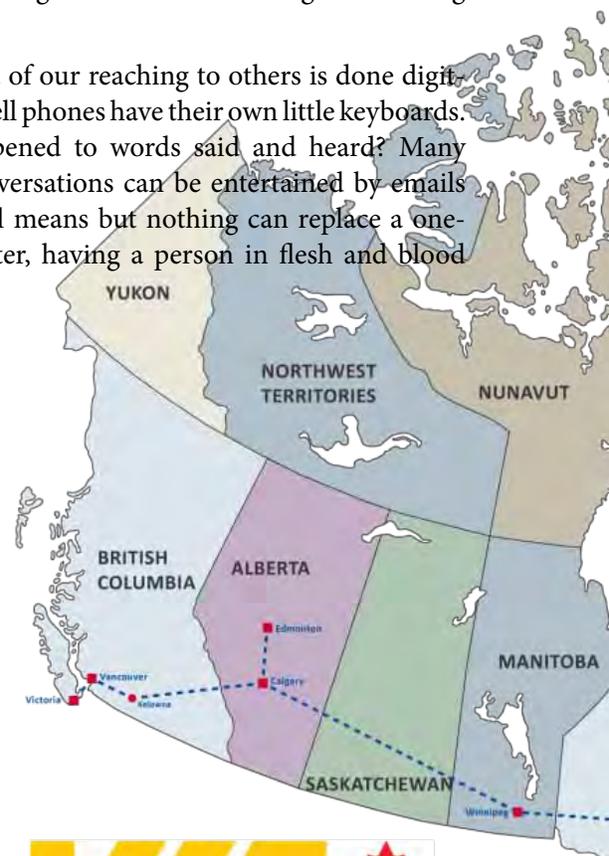
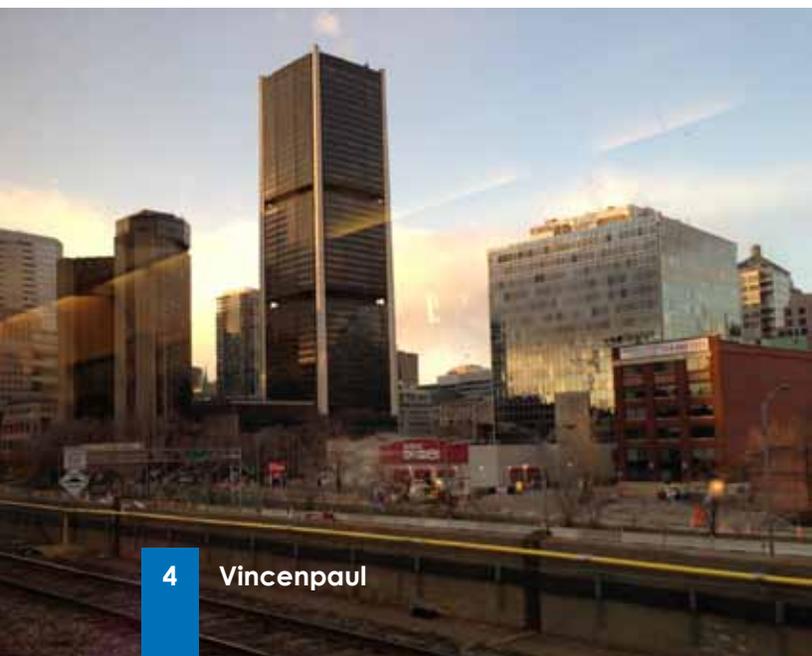
is to celebrate the 170th anniversary of the Society. I was asked to write the book and therefore run the research upstream.

If the history of the Society holds an important part in the book, the initiative aims to praise the Vincentian spirit nowadays in order for the general public, volunteers and Vincentians to find practical information on activities and programs implemented across the country.

A « Book Committee » was put in place in order to unite the strengths of Vincentians in all the Regions in Canada. This committee is meeting through phone Conferences on a regular basis. Soon we realised that grassroots work was needed to collect information from members, conferences, Particular Councils etc. This is how “En Route with History” came about: a journey where I would literally cross the country, a 6 000 km itinerary done by train, part of it by plane car buses or whatever it would take to reach destinations! Needless to say we needed help. We put a sponsorship request to **Via Rail** that kindly offered to provide train tickets; there were other contributions amongst which, Vincentians themselves offering to become hosts or guides during the trip.

Nowadays a lot of our reaching to others is done digitally; even our cell phones have their own little keyboards. Whatever happened to words said and heard? Many interesting conversations can be entertained by emails or other virtual means but nothing can replace a one-to-one encounter, having a person in flesh and blood

Leaving Montreal QC, towards Halifax NS



“En Route for History”

in front of you. His voice, his body language, his facial expressions are often the best introduction to an article. Once the « En Route with History » project confirmed, I felt more confident I could have access to stories while having both written and visual material to complete the work.

Bags packed, cameras, notebooks in hand I left Montreal on Sunday April 3rd on the 7 pm train to Halifax. First destination: the Atlantic Regions. I was to arrive first in Halifax, then a quick plane ride to Newfoundland, back to Halifax, a car ride to Truro, back on the train to Quebec where on Saturday April 9th I would start the first visits where it all started in 1846: Québec City. All in all, a 7-day journey East before starting a 21-day stretch from Montreal to Vancouver-Victoria.

Keeping the beat was a challenge, so was the writing. Via Rail stepped in as “En Route with History” major partner mainly because the project had an historical connotation. I had also committed to write part of the book...on the train. Each day I was to review my notes cumulating in short stories being posted on Facebook & Blog later to be developed into chapters in the book. Needless to say days were busy but those moments meeting Vincentians were also priceless. One forgets about tiredness when learning from others more so, when the history of an organization such as the Society is unfolding under your eyes. In real time.

Complementary assignments were scheduled in May with production (including proofreading, translation, design...) to start in June. A total of 800 books – 400 in French and 400 in English - will be going to print in the fall. An e-book is planned. I gave my rights to the National and Regional Councils, it will be their decision to give or sell the book. The launch is due in November 2016 in time for celebrations.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to people who on a volunteer basis, contributed to the making of the book starting with members of the Book Committee. My gratitude goes also to the team making this book possible: graphic designer, proofreaders, translators, printer and all of those dedicated to make this project a success. Finally but none the least, a very warm thank you to SSVP members who were patient enough to tell me what they already know: how to be a true Vincentian in 2016. THANK YOU »

Saturday November 12, 2016 will be an important day as it will be 170 years after Dr. Painchaud introduced the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to Canadians. A day to celebrate the devotion of hundreds even thousands of Vincentians whose dedication maintained SSVP alive through time. Who knows, perhaps it will be an opportunity for me to meet again with those new friends made along the way.

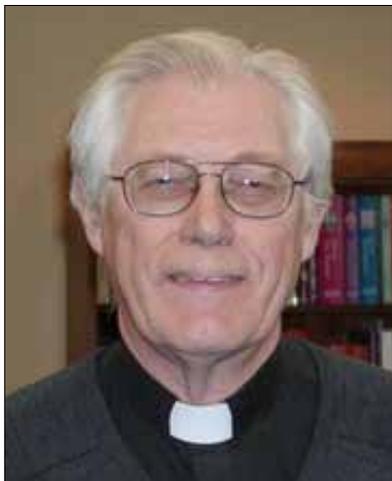
Louise Larivière, www.louise-lariviere.com



The Narrows, St. John's Newfoundland, the furthest point east of North America



THE PLACE OF YOUTH IN THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL



A University chaplain, now deceased, whom I respected very much, used to define his role as *loitering with intent*. I believe his definition goes to the heart of what it takes to bring the message of Christ to young people. Indeed, youth has the ability to simply *turn off* the hollow phrases and sheer nonsense that some adults are truly expert at dispensing. Perhaps the greatest source of hope with regards to society at large is this aspect of youth seeking authenticity.

To be able to influence youth one must take the time to know them. In one of the parishes where I was privileged to serve, I had the good fortune to have a special volunteer. He was a young man who had developed the art of *wasting time* with youth. The parish rented a gymnasium every Friday evening and our man was always present. Sports took place, but also, much authentic spiritual communication.

For those of us, who have the precious opportunity to present homilies, Sunday after Sunday, to captive audiences, a great test is to ask: *Is my message something that will speak to youth?* If the answer is positive, chances are that the homily will speak to all ages.

To interest youth in the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, the royal road is involvement. School food drives are a start. Then there is sorting and distribution. Then there is helping plan creative and new ways of bringing hope and new life to those in need.

A time that is preferential for involving youth in the building of God's Kingdom, is when they receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Coordination with parishes at such times ensures that involvement with the St Vincent de Paul Society will be favored.

In 1908, Lord Baden-Powell published his important little book, *Scouting for Boys*. One of his teachings was that when scouts camped somewhere they should leave the site in better shape than when they had found it.

The St Vincent de Paul Society can take this idea and propose that the social context that we find, with its many instances of injustice and need is a context that we must continually improve and try to make better than when we first found it. This great adventure cannot be accomplished without young people. Concern for youth must be an imperative for all Society of St Vincent de Paul Conferences.

**Msgr Peter Schonenbach, Spiritual Advisor
National Council**

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

PROMOTION TO COUNCILS AND AGA 2016

The number of *External Twinning* is increasing in Canada. This is the result of concerted efforts aimed at promoting, this *Special Work* with Councils and Conferences, a better understanding of the program and the great poverty affecting the populations of the 10 countries assigned to Canada by the International General Council. Vincentians know that the force of their prayers, the exchange of fraternal correspondence and financial contributions, according to their means, can do a lot to rekindle hope and joy by twinning Sisters and Brothers.

The expansion plan for this year targets mainly Councils. Central Councils (13) were solicited in the fall of 2015 and several of them responded positively. Particular Councils are currently contacted to engage in a *twinning* partnership. Some Councils may not have the human and financial resources to sustain a *twinning*. I recommend that Presidents ask reporting Conferences to join forces and engage in the program. It is a beautiful opportunity to strengthen ties locally and to concretely show our solidarity with Vincentians of developing countries. I encourage Particular Council Presidents to consider this option when discussing a new *twinning*.

The Annual General Assembly of the National Council (AGA) will be held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver in June. A workshop on *twinning* will be presented by the Chair of National Twinning and the Administrative Assistant – Twinning, followed by a presentation and exchanges with participants by Vincentians involved in the program. I invite the Vincentians attending the AGA to join us for what should be a most interesting workshop.

Pope Francis, in this Year of Mercy, invites Vincentians to join the worldwide community of love and solidarity to relieve poverty and hunger, and create links of friendship with the less fortunate. This is the goal of *twinning*. Why not join the program and spread goodwill and love to those most in need.

Serving with Joy,

**Clermont Fortin, Chairperson
National Twinning**

My name is Benjamin and I am twelve years old.

For years the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has been changing the lives of thousands.

It changed my life, because for the past five years, I have noticed all the needy people just in our city.

I want to prevent the need as much as I can.

I think about all I have and what little they have.

I can give two or three hours a week to help these needy people.

I thank God, that I have such a great and good grandfather who showed me how to do things here at the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Holy Name Conference.

It has changed my life a lot.

I want to help out as much as I can because if I was in need, they would help me out.

All the people, the members, I know here are always in a good mood. Not one single person I know here I dislike.

Also, I thank God I have such a good group of people to belong to, who are willing to help out the needy.

Thank You!

*Benjamin McKinley
Holy Name of Mary Conference
Windsor Ontario*

Social Justice

2016 marks a very positive time in Canada and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for our social justice committee and our efforts to both educate and to take actions that address the injustices related to those living in poverty. While we are living in difficult economic times, we also have the ability to easily identify the causes and especially the effect that poverty has on all of us. If we believe that a nation is judged by how it takes care of its most vulnerable citizens, then we have an obligation to our Vincentian mission to **“Make us responsive to the Christian calling to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived, so that we may bring them your love.”** I would suggest that this obligation is actually more, it is a covenant we have, as Vincentians, with Jesus to follow Him and to always be open to doing more for those in need.

Charity alone is not enough. While charity provides immediate and temporary relief to those whom we serve, how many times during a home visit do we wonder why these friends continue to live in poverty, why there is not more help available, or why can't they help themselves. Social justice enables us to build on the trusting relationship we have with victims of poverty to look at answers to these questions and concerns about their future. Rather than ask ourselves why people living in poverty can't do more, or why they keep returning to us for help, let's ask ourselves why we are not doing more, why can't we be their voice, why can't we develop strategies and projects that enable us to do more and to give our friends something they dearly need..... **HOPE.** There is a need to be effective advocates about poverty to our membership, the public and to governments at all levels. We also need to talk with and listen to those we serve in order to include them in future actions and the development of possible projects that lead to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Our social justice committee now has representatives in all regions of Canada with the hope of developing this network by encouraging every Council and Conference to have a social justice rep. We have had a couple of changes/additions to our regional reps. Our regional reps are, Atlantic region-Parnell Kelly, Quebec region-Pierre Morissette, Ontario region-Corry Wink, Western region-Heather Schilling and BC/Yukon region-Gord Stuart. Please contact your regional rep for information

and support in developing social justice in your area. You may also contact me jpsvp@hotmail.ca or the national office for the contact information for your regional rep.

Social Justice and Youth

Frederic Ozanam and his group of friends were 20 year old students when they started our humble Society in 1833. Ozanam was also a very outspoken advocate for a number of issues which would be considered social justice in today's world. Social justice activities can act as a great recruiting tool and attraction to our youth. I encourage any recruitment activities or interaction you may have with students or schools to include and focus on the topic of social justice. **Youth today desire to make a difference and to take positive actions that will lead to possible changes in the way we and governments address poverty.**

Social Justice and the Environment

Our Society also has an obligation to address topics such as our environment as it too can have a negative effect on the lives of those we serve. Pope Francis clearly addressed this in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'* (On Care for Our Common Home). Pope Francis places an emphasis on how the environment and climate change can affect the poor as well as the obligation we have to address this complex issue.

“Changing Times” is our national social justice online newsletter, which can be found on the national website. We welcome comments and submissions.

I thank our regional reps for their interest and involvement as members of our national committee. Please support our efforts in your region.

**Jim Paddon, Chairperson
Social Justice Committee.**

Education/Formation

Meet the Committee

Following our November meeting, we have made our goal to go back to our regions to find out how training and education needs were being met and what gaps may exist. It was heartening to learn that most areas do have training programs that meet specific needs and gaps in their areas. And all areas are looking for ways to increase and expand their training delivery to all Vincentians and at all levels.

Our committee members are:

- Kathy Weswick – BC;
- Carol Attrux and Lynn L'Heureux – Western;
- Mary Grad – Ontario;
- Madeleine Grisé-Lafrance - Quebec;
- Judy Peddle – Atlantic.

Some excerpts from the reports:

“Do new member training at half-day sessions including lunch; Introduced a procedure book ‘**Cartable des Conferences**’ to all Conferences”:

“Giving workshops as requested, usually on home visits; Developing a plan for serving Refugee families”:

“Give new member training at individual Conference services such as food banks, school support programs and special collection projects;

We are reforming and reinventing ourselves”: “Practical ‘how to’ training is done at Conference and Council levels;

Hold development days twice a year, and regularly have guest speakers;

Think that we could all benefit from courses on fundamentals of Vincentian service including spirituality”:

“Have a core group of trainers who offer workshops on SSVP formation, conference and council roles, including home visit and other methods of reaching those in need”.

As well as soliciting and vetting the workshop applications for the 2016 AGA in June, our education committee members will give three of the workshops at the AGA:

- one on methods for recruiting, orienting and training new members called “**You Have New Members – Now What?**”
- a review of delivery methods and styles for a “**Train the Trainer**” workshop;
- a workshop in French on “**Pauvreté, problème personnel ou problème de société?**”

We hope to see and meet many of you there.

Mary Grad, on behalf of the Education/Formation Committee



Like our Facebook page: **SSVP Canada** and join our Facebook groups:

- **SSVP Canada Activities-Activités**
- **SSVP Canada Twinning-Jumelage**

North of 60 Project

This article was taken from Changing Times, Vol. 1 - Issue 1

If you wish to join the Changing Times newsletter mailing list please submit your name, email, home Conference and location to sarah.ssvp@bell.net.

NUNAVUT EXPERIENCE: OCTOBER 19-28, 2015

THE INUIT PEOPLE

For the greater part, the Inuit people are concerned, hopeful, deeply family and community rooted. They have been tossed into our southern culture/values which are rooted in the Inuit ways. The elders are deeply respected and adhered to, and because of this pivotal relationship things won't change for a while YET. There is so much hope and faith in our southern actions of help.

Father Marcin and I began to express our southern help as, sharing... that those who have more in the south would like to share with the people of north in need.

There is an inherent belief that the south is wealthy and we can 'simply' give to the north. We can however it must be done as sharing rather than doling out goods. We need to remain in their lives as people unto each other – more than a shipment of goods.

There is also a deep rooted belief and support system in their Catholic faith. In Rankin, the Catholic Church, through Fr. Marcin, has worked very hard to rebuild trust and make the church truly 'their' church - a place to pray, sing together, and most important, see that the Church has not abandoned them.

The Inuit as Family and Community

Family is incredibly important... and in some way everyone is related. Using food as an example: when the cheques arrive, food is purchased and eaten until gone. Then a family will travel to a relative's and share in that food until gone and this cycle continues. This is the old way, the way of the elders. If you have, without question, you share, without regard for tomorrow when hunger will exist again. Family does that for each other! Our assistance will not cure this thinking. As the youth become educated to wiser means – their families might hold to better ways, better hope. Time and our continued presence will encourage better practices.

When a family is waiting for housing because none is available, families move in with relatives. A 3 bedroom home often has a full family per room ... causing all too often greater stress on food supplies and unsafe relationships.

The schools have a breakfast program that greatly helps families. Often children get up themselves and go to school to have food. There is an after noon snack before going home. All children go home for lunch – some get to eat, some come home to parents still in bed.

THE QUESTION

“How Do You Believe the South Can Help in the North?”

I met with social workers, principals, guidance counsellors, a women's sewing group, community agencies who shared the same problems, and told of the depth of the hardship... conversations flowed. Each group's first statement was of thanks for wanting to help and recognizing the need.



Father Marcin, one of the many people
Pegg met with on her journey north.

North of 60 Project

NUNAVUT EXPERIENCE: RANKIN INLET

Rankin Inlet is the hub of the Kivalliq Area – everything runs by Rankin. The opportunity for work is greater here than in most communities – thus many people try to ‘make it’ in Rankin but the spaces are so limited.

There are governmental jobs, paying a very good salary, offering a life style for some equal to or better than some residents of Ontario. These jobs have an attached northern allowance that alone surpasses the average salary of the Inuit people (these jobs are taken by the non-Inuit).

Housing

Housing is very limited. It is difficult to build on rock and getting heavy supplies from the south only happens three times a year. The conditions to be accepted for a housing unit have caused heartache. Firstly, you must be 18 and own no property anywhere else in the north. Some Inuits have had to surrender ‘family land’ in order to qualify in the city. The wait time is on average a 6 year wait ... Assisted housing is supplied with washers, dryers, and micro- waves, but they must provide beds, dishes, etc., and all electronics... All are very costly.

There are families in Rankin who own their homes. They face an added problem - electricity. In order to have running water, sewage pipes, the pipes must be wrapped with wires to keep the pipes from freezing. Even here, choices are made where money is spent.

Country Food

Hunting and fishing are very difficult for the peoples of Rankin. A trip can be a 4+ hour ride away. Gasoline is priced annually – no variance (currently \$1.29). The quality of outer wear, to be able to remain outside, is imperative and very costly.

There are NO TREES, thus making a sled is a task... The elders long for country food...

Youth Hardship

The children are inside for a long winter. Most homes have all the video games, huge TV’s to help overcome the boredom. A youth centre attached to the church would really help for the Rankin youth. A place to safely grow within a positive, supportive environment, a place that could provide lunch for those with none, after school sewing (desperately needed), movies, a few basketball hoops ** This may sound outrageous – but a structure like this would help with many of the difficulties faced daily.

Rankin Inlet

Population approximately 3000

Features:

- 2 Food Stores: Co-Op & Northern
- 2 Quick Marts with attached Tim Horton’s Coffee Bar
- Elementary, Middle & High Schools
- Technical School,
- Arctic College (Business); Nunavut College... Satellite
- Ice Rink / Radio Station is on the upper level
- Health Center; Library (books, 7 computers)
- Catholic Church with Fr. Marcin as their parish priest



North of 60 Project

NUNAVUT EXPERIENCE: WHALE COVE

Whale Cove is situated directly on the water. Although there are many similarities to Rankin Inlet, there are as many differences. There are next to no opportunities for work.

Hunting is somewhat easier because the animals come in closer, however money is tighter and the expenses are basically the same.

Hardships

The availability for clothing is absurd. The Co-Op has VERY little to offer. The women are amazing sewers and knitters; however purchasing material is very expensive.

Affording the materials to hunt and/or fish is a true hardship for the men. It is their duty to provide the country meat – especially for the elders.

Travel can only be done by plane, even if it's a trip to Rankin for supplies.

Vehicles: Hondas, ski-dos, are vital to the community. Maintenance and gasoline are costly. Once more a sled is a priority but difficult to obtain. Only some families own ski-dos, vehicles are a rarity.

Housing

Housing is very limited. It is again common to have more than one family living in a unit. An example – a family of 7, in a 2-bedroom unit, accepted her sister, brother-in-law and 8 children. In time, the sister and family will be added to the housing wait list. Again, if you are a recipient of a housing unit you are lucky.

In Whale Cove, water is supplied almost daily, sewage is suctioned on an almost daily basis, and oil is delivered on an as needed basis. Owned homes exist, but are rare and difficult to maintain.

Whale Cove

Population approximately 400

Features:

- 1 General Store: Co-Op
- Combined elementary / high school
- Health Center

Food

Country food is available but not sufficient to sustain a village. There are many, many hungry children. The school provides a big breakfast daily, and a late day snack. The most consistent food supply comes from Sister Dorica and Sister Fernande, at the church. The Sisters receive the children 5 days a week, from 3:45 – 9pm. In this time the children are fed soup, toast with peanut butter, and Tang upon arrival. Games, mass, and crafts are done and the children are fed cereal, before they go home. What is done at school and the Sisters' Mission is a huge food help. Again we need to adopt the mission.

The sisters have VERY little room for storage. If we could afford to buy a small sea container – Sister could do more than after school food for the children.

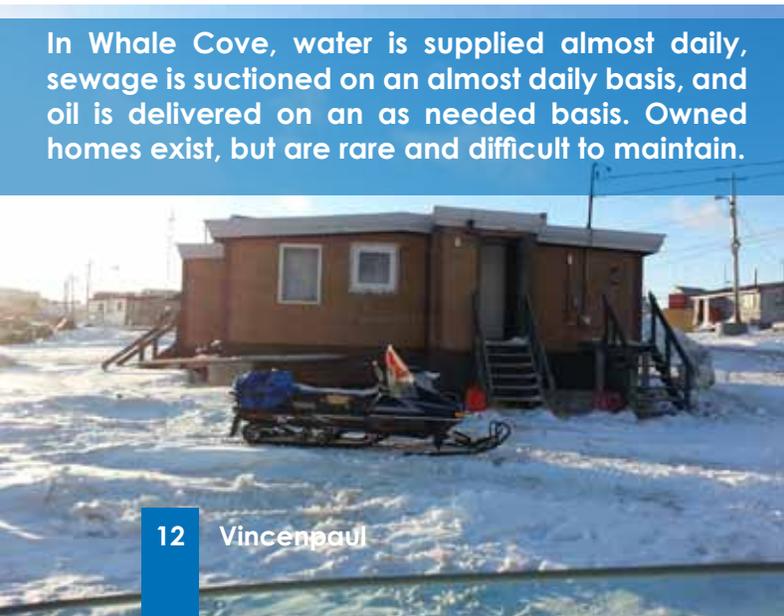
The adults will accept going hungry but not for the children. Sunday mass is completed with soup, buns, and bannock. Tea and Tang is an important part too.

Whale Cove does not have a resident priest. Several weeks can pass without a mass, but a prayer service always happens.

There is very little for the youth... actually next to nothing. The area has RANGERS – an organization that teaches the teenagers the country ways.

My recommendation for Whale Cove is to adopt the Sisters' Mission. This way the children would be fed daily and families on Sunday. The sisters have asked for food help, games, colouring tools, colouring posters, games, easy read books. Nothing would go amiss if we did this for the sisters.

**Pegg Leroux, North of 60
Ontario Regional Council**



North of 60 Project

SPRING 2016 UPDATE

ONTARIO

There is much good news to report from Ontario!

There are 6 skids, (4 X 4 X 3.5 /unit) waiting to be delivered to Rankin Inlet. This has become a reality due to newly found connection with St Timothy's Conference in Winnipeg. They have been able to arrange the pivotal ground transportation to Winnipeg Airport for 'lift-off' to Rankin Inlet. This mini project will be timed with a return visit to the North in May. The purpose of this trip will be to help the Rankin Community along with FR. Marcin, to formalize their SSVP Conference and assist in their set up plans for food/clothing distribution.

A visit is planned to Whale Cove. Hopefully I will be able to attend their Conference meeting and share in their progress to date.

Both communities will be glad to hear that each will receive a 20 ft. sea container this coming summer. There are details still percolating, but it will happen. There is much work yet to be done. Thanks to donations being generated from Ontario Conferences, community support, and for newly forming business connections, all so desperately needed, our Northern Brothers and Sisters will be served with love, respect, justice, and joy.

**Pegg Leroux, North of 60
Ontario Regional Council**

WESTERN REGION

The planning for the loading and shipping of 10 sea containers is well underway. Thanks to the continued support of the Edmonton area Catholic Community, parish donations of food and clothing continue to be the backbone of this project.

Corporate support from the Inuvialuit Corporation and their subsidiaries Canadian North Airlines, NorTerra and NTCL, as well as the trucking industry support from Landtran Logistics Inc., Continental Cartage and Northern Industrial Carriers, makes the project financially possible. Trucking to Hay River, barging up the Mackenzie River and transferring to ocean barge at Tuktoyaktuk is a trip that takes a few months. Sea cans are loaded in the spring time and delivered just as the winter is settling in.

Warehouse space from Amnor Group Inc., food support from Okanagan Gleaners and building material supplied from All Weather Windows allow the Edmonton area North of 60 Vincentian team to work with the Arctic Communities and provide for those in need.

**Peter Ouellette, President
Western Regional Council**



Canada's Councils in Action

ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

TESTIMONY FROM A YOUTH MEMBER IN ST. JOHN'S, NL

I first started volunteering with my grandmother during the Christmas season when I was in grade 6. I helped assemble the many Christmas hampers needed by people in our community – I remember thinking I enjoyed the feeling so much.

Along with my grandmother who is a regular member, I returned the following year to help assemble the hampers again and also helped the day the hampers were picked up by all the people that needed them. I received many hugs that day as I helped people to their cars with the hampers that would make their Christmas a little brighter.

Realizing that people must need a little help at other times during the year, I started occasionally going with my grandmother to the Hut. To help out in any way I could. Everyone needs a little help now and then and my Saturdays at the hut are just my way of helping out.

We occasionally attend special events, like serving a meal at “The Gathering Place”. The Gathering Place offers services to people who are homeless or live in less than desirable housing conditions. I have met a lot of interesting people both those who are helping others and those who just need a little help.

The bit that I do has made me aware of how fortunate I am to have a family that loves me and takes care of me. I plan to continue helping out in any way I can for many years to come.

Leah Constantine
Corpus Christi Conference, St. John's NL



Members of Corpus Christi Conference at The Gathering Place where a meal was hosted and served by Newfoundland Vincentians. (L-R) Lorraine, Janice, Leah (youngest member 16 yrs) and Margie (oldest member 90 yrs).

Canada's Councils in Action

QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

CARAVAN PROGRAM IN QUÉBEC CITY

The caravan program of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Québec is a unique work by the Québec city Central Council. Through an offering of meals, snacks, food, and hygiene and clothing donations, the program aims to meet the basic needs of young people who use the service.

The caravan program has two motorized vehicles; one is called “Le Marginal” and the other one, “La Bohème”.

The Marginal

“Le Marginal” has been operating in the Québec national capital since the beginning of the 90s, unconditionally opening its door to young people between 12 and 35 years of age, who live in the street or experience difficult times. Services are offered two evenings a week, on Tuesday and Friday, and one afternoon a week, on Monday. The mobile service allows going to people, a bit like Conferences which make home visits. Every time that “Le Marginal” hits the road, it carries a team of two social facilitators, two or three volunteers and sometimes a few trainees as well. The social facilitators ensure follow-up with youths who use the service. He or she calls upon various intervention techniques according to specific needs and problems, such as isolation, mental health and precariousness. The approach prioritized by the facilitators is called the “harm reduction approach”, consisting of informing, raising awareness and fostering accountability, rather than sanctioning, punishing or excluding the person. As for the volunteers, they take care of serving meals, doing active listening, and supporting facilitators. They play an important role in the team's work.

The Bohème

On the other hand, “La Bohème” works in several districts of the city of Québec, offering services to young people aged 12 to 25. Those youths, who are at risk of delinquency, come to the motorized vehicle to discuss with facilitators. They also play board games and participate in various animations in an intimate atmosphere. Most of the time, this caravan moves around in partnership with other organizations, such as Rap Jeunesse.

According to the annual activity report of 2014, the caravan program made 139 outings, served 6,160 meals, gave 10,656 food donations, and made 2,276 interventions.

The Caravans Team



Mathieu Dechêne, Carole Bellefeuille, Pascale Bouffard, Sylvie Gingras and Pierre Morissette



Canada's Councils in Action

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC YOUTH CONFERENCE – HOLY FAMILY PARISH, LONDON ON

Our eighth year has proven to be our best year so far. We have been overloaded with youth from many parishes joining in on the volunteering events this school year of 2015-2016. Our impact on the London community has been noted and our youth have been moved to compassion while working with our poor and marginalized.

We have had at least 6-8 events per month and many wonderful opportunities for our youth to interact and build community with the poor. We are still holding our 3 regular sites each month, McGarrell Nursing Home, L'Arche Community Living and Ronald McDonald. Our group has been to the St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre Soup Kitchen 4 times so far this year and each and every time the young people attend, they are so thrilled with their experience that they want to attend again and again. This site fills up quickly when we have it available as an event. The 100 Bagged Lunches we make prior to the P.A. Days are so successful that we can finish them in less than 1 hour; incredible. We also visit the SSVP Store as well when we have an overflow of youth on P.A. Days.

The most moving experience of this year has to be our cleaning of the grave sites of the impoverished soldiers at the "Last Post" area in the Woodland Cemetery in London, Ontario. We had the privilege of scrubbing and cleaning the grave stone and area in preparations for the Remembrance Day Celebrations. The soldiers who were laid to rest in this area were destitute and without means for a decent burial. The Government of Canada through the "The Last Post Fund" donates to give these men and women a decent and honourable resting place for eternity. We just felt it to be our responsibility to do our part to respect them for what they gave up for all of us.

We have so many more events this year and many miles to travel in faith with our young people. We are truly blessed with the energy and generous hearts of our youth and parish supporters but we are most grateful to the parents who share with us their children, giving us the opportunity to make them into Disciples of Christ. We all must say YES when we are called to serve, and to do this with love, respect, justice and joy. God bless, in Christ.

Lil Mulder – Youth Adviser



Canada's Councils in Action

WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL IN ARCTIC

The SSVP **North of 60 Project** has been growing larger each year and we continue to build momentum - providing food and other products to those in need living in Canada's far North.

Our Corporate support is a strong part of our success, with most recently a donation from Canadian North Airlines of free travel for our Vincentians to do Community visits. This is the way we will know better what they need. This is the way they will know our Society.

The sea containers are packed and leave Edmonton in June, then trucked to Hay River and sail by barge up the Mackenzie River and along the Beaufort Sea. We provided support to nine Communities in 2015. The logistics, trucking, barging and sea containers are donated.

This last year, parishioners in the Edmonton Catholic community donated 40 used sewing machines and they were distributed around the Arctic. In Tuktoyaktuk, Sister Fay Trombley says she gave the sewing machines to the Elders. They all know how to sew.

With the assortment of attractive fabric that was shipped along with the machines this year, the youth wanted to learn. Young people have worked with the Elders and sewing lessons have begun.

We can always use more sewing machines and fabric. Can you help?

Peter Ouellette, President
Western Regional Council
p-m-o@telus.net



YOUTH CONFERENCE IN CANMORE, AB - PART OF THE CALGARY CENTRAL COUNCIL



Just outside of Banff National Park, this SSVP Youth Conference has big plans for 2016 and these include The Coldest Night of the Year Walk with the Calgary Homeless Foundation, Community Food and Friends Supper, and Plunge with The Mustard Seed. This Conference is active.

During the Christmas Season the student members of the Conference joined forces with the St. Basil School Youth Conference in the delivery of hampers to families in Calgary. Their Angel Tree Campaign raised money and in-kind donations valued at over \$15,000 to sponsor twelve families in need of support in the Bow Valley area.



Canada's Councils in Action

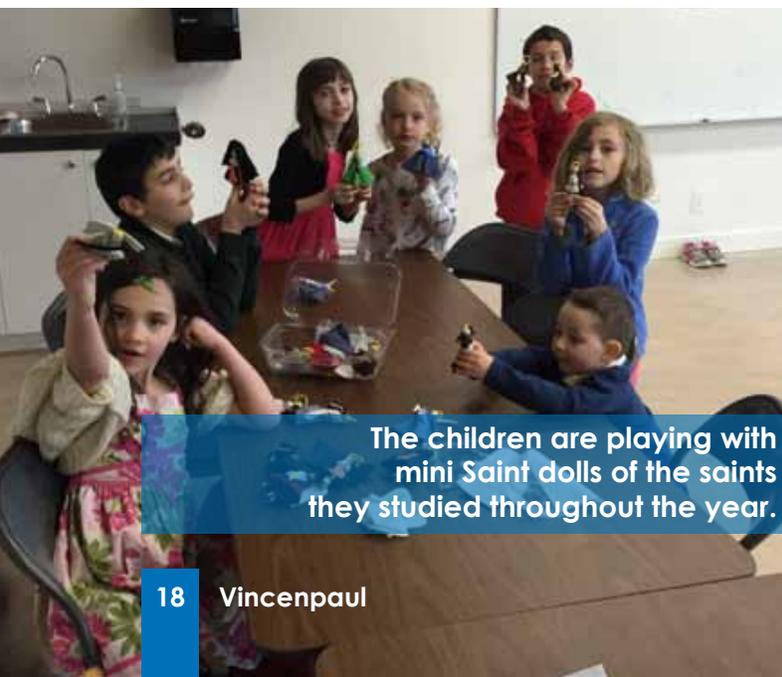
BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL

New Youth Program

The SSVP Conference at Holy Family Parish in Vancouver has started a program for children 4-8 years of age. This program runs about 4 hours, once a month, on Saturdays from Sept to May. The children of this group call themselves Frederic's friends, after the founder of SSVP, the Blessed Frederic Ozanam. The goal is to assist parents in fostering a love of neighbour within their children. Its aim is also to build friendships within the community among children attending Catholic schools, PREP programs, public school, home school and those whose families are attending RCIA. It is hoped that it will also draw fallen away and non-members into the church through activities held within their communities. The program has been running for about 3 months and has been well attended, attracting about 25 children to its inauguration. There is craft making and sports activities as well as learning about our Catholic faith. Acts of service are practiced and lead by Youth Mentors. The parish Priests are an important component of these meetings. The motif in this group at Holy Family is based on the passport of Saints. A small passport is prepared for each child, and each month is dedicated to a particular Saint. The passport serves as a guide to accountability, with a particular act of service and/or award. As a show of solidarity and care for the poor, each child pays their monthly dues of 50 cents or a donation of canned food. As these children mature into teens they often become mentors themselves, passing on the values they have learned to the younger children.

Canada Learning Bond

The local Conference of Our Lady of Guadalupe, of the North Vancouver Island Particular Council has taken on a project of the Canadian RESP, the Canada Learning Bond. On the local level, all the families with children 15 years of age and younger, who receive food hampers are given information on setting up an RESP. This is an ongoing project which accesses free monies offered by the government for post secondary education. Seminars are being offered to spread the word and relay information. Our Lady of Guadalupe hopes to impart this information to all the Particular Councils and Conferences in B.C. and the Yukon.



The children are playing with mini Saint dolls of the saints they studied throughout the year.



The children "Frederic's Friends" are taking care of the new flower garden at the front of the Church.

AGA 2016 - Workshops

NORTH OF 60 – VINCENTIANS IN ARCTIC CANADA

Presenters: Peter Ouellette and Pegg Leroux. Peter is the Western Region President, and has spent the last few years understanding and serving the needy in the Arctic. Pegg is an Ontario Particular Council President, and a member of the Ontario Social Justice committee. Pegg has visited communities in the North, most recently in Whale Cove; and is developing strategies to help those in need in our northern areas. **Description:**

A review of the needs of the North with Vincentians from the Arctic. They will also talk about present and future means and methods being explored now to help out in these northern areas.

BUILDING BLOCKS TO HEALTHY CONFERENCES & COUNCILS

Presenters: Phil Bondy, Ontario Regional Store Chair and Ontario Regional trainer; and four facilitators, Linda Dollard Ontario Regional President-elect, Anita Reansbury Brantford Particular Council President; Pat Lenz Brantford Particular Council President-elect; and a fourth person tba. **Description:** Have you ever struggled to recruit, struggled with succession planning. Have meetings become routine and predictable. Join us in this interactive workshop to learn how to confront these issues and break the cycles of frustration.

TWINNING AND REAL LIFE STORIES

Presenters: Clermont Fortin National VP for 12 years and presently National Twinning committee Chair; and Kathy Weswick BC Rep on the National Education Committee. **Description:** Providing details on the Twinning program and its various adaptations, and sharing stories from Vincentians on their Twinning experiences.

YOU HAVE SOME NEW MEMBERS – NOW WHAT?

Presenters: Mary Grad National Education Committee Chair and Judy Peddle National VP and Atlantic Rep on the National Education Committee. **Description:** A discussion on methods of recruiting, orienting and training new and existing members; and why we should be including fellowship, spirituality and family connections, as well as procedures and rules, when interacting with each other and our friends in need.

TRAIN THE TRAINER

Presenters: Lynn L'Heureux western Rep for over 10 years on the National Education Committee; and Kathy Weswick BC Rep on the National Education Committee **Description:** A hands-on session to give the do's and don't's of presenting workshops and training sessions to Vincentians. We will have handouts to help you prepare for your sessions back home. You will learn how to adapt these common concepts of training for your own situations in your areas.

SPONSORING A REFUGEE FAMILY

Presenters: Eric and Cheryl Andres – Eric is President of St Matthew's conference in Surrey BC and is a retired teacher. Cheryl is secretary of St Matthew's and is also a retired teacher. **Description:** We will discuss the process from pre arrival through arrival to past arrival and into the long term. This family has now been with us for over half a year. We are family, we walk together with them in their journey.

GROWING UP IN POVERTY

Presenter: Corry Wink – Corry's career was as an adult literacy teacher. Corry presently volunteers in non-profit housing organizations and for New Canadians Services. **Description:** this workshop will explore how the deprivations of poverty hinder a child's development and make it difficult for them to take their rightful place in society. Growing up in poverty is an important structural cause of poverty.

BEYOND WRITING LETTERS; A NEW MODEL FOR ADVOCACY

Presenter: Corry Wink – Corry's career was as an adult literacy teacher. About three years ago Corry decided to make learning about effective advocacy the focus of her anti-poverty work. **Description:** Traditional ways of interacting with elected officials are not adequate for accomplishing the social changes that we need. We will discuss current methods of having input to the legislation that can bring about positive change.

SUCCESSFULLY COMPETING IN THE THRIFT STORE GAME

Presenter: Trudi Campen, background in Business in Thrift Store management and consulting. Thrift Store consultant in BC since 2011.

Description: A fast paced information session on how to operate a Thrift Store successfully and still strive to apply Vincentian values and aims to our operations.

REJUVENATION

Presenter: Bryan De Pape, Past President of St. Mark's Conference, Aylmer QC; Past President of Aylmer Particular Council QC, Current Vice-President of Ottawa Central Council; Current Secretary of the Ottawa Saint Vincent de Paul Stores; Current President of Holy Cross, St. Peter's, St. Bernard Conference.

Description: This workshop describes the process and content of the efforts made by the Ottawa Council to rejuvenate existing conferences and build new conferences. Ottawa has increased the number of active conferences by 9 in the last 2 years and has an objective of doubling the number of active conferences in the next 3 to 5 years. This workshop describes this initiative.

In Memoriam

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

- Donald McGaffee**, St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Windsor ON, January 28, 2015
Phil Dutton, St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Windsor ON, February 7, 2015
Lucy Marie Kurst, St. Joseph Conference, River Canard ON, March 6, 2015
Marie Hunter, St. Cecilia Conference, Calgary AB, 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 CB, May 2015
Trish Yates, Brant Particular Council ON, May 26, 2015
Jackie Garant, St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Windsor ON, July 10, 2015
Roland Binette, Conférence Sainte-Louise-de-Marillac, Montréal QC, July 13, 2015
Lorrain Muise, Brant Particular Council ON, July 15, 2015
Pat Zahrybelny, St. Mary's Conference, Brantford ON, July 17, 2015
Louis-Marie Normandeau, Conférence de Repentigny QC, July 26, 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
Roland Lauzon, St. Anne Conference, Tecumseh ON, August 19, 2015
René Martel, Conférence Saint-Pascal-de-Maizerets, Québec QC, September 7, 2015
Guy Fortin, Conférence St-Jérôme de l'Auvergne, Charlesbourg QC, September 18, 2015
Garry Stanhope Richardson, Christ the King Conference, Comox Valley CB, September 26, 2015
Else Maria Forster, Christ the King Conference, Comox Valley CB, September 29, 2015
Gloria Clendinning, All Saints Conference, Coquitlam CB, September 29, 2015
Jacques Poirier, Conférence Notre-Dame de l'Eau Vive, Gatineau QC, October 14, 2015
John Ryken, Blessed Sacrament Conference, Chatham ON, November 16, 2015
Paul Dole, St Theresa of the Child Conference, Ottawa ON, November 19, 2015
Catherine Bedard, Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference, Windsor ON, November 27, 2015
Dorothy Ardito, St John Vianney Conference, Barrie (Simcoe County PC, Huronia CC) ON, December 4, 2015
Jean-Paul Benoît, Conférence de Saint-Luc, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu QC, December 9, 2015
Peter Thompson, St. Mary's Conference, Collingwood ON, December 21, 2015
Germain Dugas, Conférence Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain, Laval QC, December 21, 2015
Rose Tytgat, Holy Name of Jesus Conference, Essex ON, December 30, 2015
Fernand Sabourin, Conférence Sainte-Cécile, Montréal QC, January 17, 2016
Denis Fiset, Conférence Notre-Dame-de-Foy, Ste-Foy QC, January 24, 2016
Joe Richard, Christ the King Conference, Courtenay BC, January 31, 2016
Denise Cayer, Conférence Saint-Bonaventure, Montréal QC, February 9, 2016
George Dorscher, Corpus Christi/Ascension Conference, Calgary AB, February 13, 2016
Eva Bédard, Christ the King Conference, Comox BC, February 19, 2016
Ron Criss, Our Lady of Fatima Conference, Coquitlam CB, February 20, 2016

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