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## PRAYER REQUEST

On 17 September, Kevin Gallays, Vice President of the National Council of Canada, was involved in a major accident while riding his bicycle.

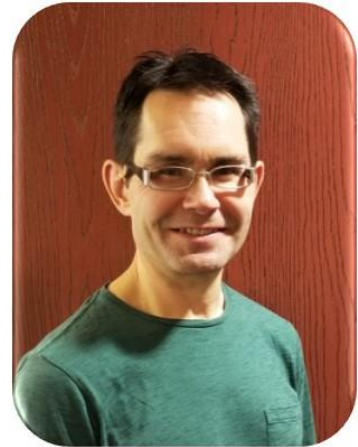
Kevin has been in the intensive care unit ever since. He has a long recovery process ahead of him as he suffered a very serious head injury. His wife Mireille speaks to him daily but does not know if he can hear or understand her.

Three masses will be said at the Gallays Parish Church, St. Boniface Cathedral, Manitoba, on October 25, as well as on November 13 and 15.

Please pray for Kevin's speedy recovery.

Cards and greetings may be sent to Mireille at the following address:

Mireille Gallays  
125 avenue Essex  
Winnipeg MB R2M 0G1



*Claude Bédard, President  
National Council of Canada*



## UPDATE EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY AID

In the August 11 National newsletter, we had shared information about the August 9 new round of funding available under the “EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY AID”:

<https://app.cyberimpact.com/newsletter-view-online?ct=JFkpR9Cf-xRLTwOh5qXig1VORuN8SuTFyh8Xb3Jm7b8cozggpp5WxGvX-QvHlgXHzNM7ctaBGKdnoshzYMODfwQ~~>

With the federal election now behind us, the organizations working directly with the federal government to distribute these funds have now started releasing their respective application forms.

For Second Harvest, the funding is available to the locations that are already signed up with the Second Harvest Food Rescue App. Note that a conference/council can sign up via this registration process:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qbpo\\_rYJFUmaXyN71iz6WVOhWrgVdS1Erf7gDoGYpFVUNUU0TIJFTDc0S1IWRTVONENMUjIJSTA2VyQIQCN0PWcu](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qbpo_rYJFUmaXyN71iz6WVOhWrgVdS1Erf7gDoGYpFVUNUU0TIJFTDc0S1IWRTVONENMUjIJSTA2VyQIQCN0PWcu)

For Second Harvest, the application submissions are due by October 11th. Second Harvest will review the submission, and those eligible will then receive an order form to order the food – with the anticipated delivery date January or February 2022. Direct access to the application form at:

<https://ncv.microsoft.com/3Q4ZbIE4E0>

The Food Banks Canada application form for the Emergency Food Security Aid is available at the following location. Their application deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

<https://www.foodbankscanada.ca/2021-Emergency-Food-Security-Fund.aspx>



## WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

The Fifth World Day of the Poor (WDP) will be observed on 14 November 2021. This year's theme "*Open the Doors of My Heart*" is a summons to the responsibility and commitment as men and women who are part of our one human family.

The national action campaign on *Safe, secure and affordable housing is a human right* launched on February 7, 2021, the feast day of Blessed Rosalie Rendue, is aligned with Pope Francis' message, that everyone deserves to have safe and adequate housing for their families. This fourth WPD national campaign is an opportunity to collectively raise the visibility of the SSVP in Canada, and to appeal to potential benefactors, to let them share the gift of assisting persons in need.

The tools for members are available at

<https://www.ssvp.ca/world-day-poor-tools-members>

*Richard Pommainville, Executive Director  
National Council*



## APPEAL OF THE MONTH – NICARAGUA – A VITAL MEDICAL PROJECT

Each month, the CGI's Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) selects a particularly worthwhile Society project which is badly in need of funds and invites the Society throughout the world to support it directly.

### Background

With a population of about 7 million in 2021 (60% are young people), Nicaragua, in Central America, is one of the poorest countries in the world, with diverse cultures and ethnic groups, and a majority of Catholics. The National Council of Canada is twinned with the National Council of Nicaragua.

Currently, the SSVP Nicaragua is made up of 24 conferences. In addition to home visits, they undertake projects to support vulnerable communities (e.g. drinking water and roof repairs).

Since 2020, the SSVP Nicaragua National Council operates a healthcare home which supports 400 people on a weekly basis (children, youth, adults and the elderly), by providing medical care and shelter they could not otherwise afford. This healthcare home also houses family members and patients discharged from the nearby general public hospital.

### The Appeal

With the increase in health problems due to the pandemic, which is badly affecting Nicaragua, the National Council regards the center as an essential service for the poorest.

The operating cost of this center falls entirely on the National Council, which has insufficient funds to keep on providing the service required to meet the demand of 400 needy people. The shortfall is about €1800 per month (€ 22,000 per year) to meet essential needs (food, clothing and medicines).

### How to help

Conferences or councils that wish to make a donation can send it directly using the online link on the National Council of Canada website, as follows:

<https://www.imakeanonlinedonation.org/ssvp-national/>

Donors are requested to use the Appeal of the Month - Nicaragua / Appel du mois - Nicaragua, and follow the instructions. The funds will be transferred to the CIAD.

The CIAD strongly encourages members, SSVP Conferences and Councils throughout the world to support this Appeal. Please send what you can! Your generosity will enable the Society Nicaragua to keep on providing medical support and a place to stay during treatment for those poor patients who suffer from serious diseases and live far away, and their relatives.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.



JEAN CHABOT  
PRESIDENT OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE IN CANADA  
1846-1850



Mr. Chabot was born in Saint-Charles de Bellechasse on October 15, 1806, and died on May 31, 1860, in Québec City. He was admitted to the Bar on February 27, 1834 and soon became one of the leading lawyers in Québec City.

He was a member of the Québec City Legislative Assembly from 1843 to 1851, and was the first President of the Notre-Dame-de-Québec Conference, founded on November 12, 1846. It is worth noting that he was the only politician in office to have held a position of responsibility in the upper echelons of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada.

Under his leadership, in less than three years, the Society had nearly a thousand members in nine conferences, which were grouped into one Council in February 1847. In addition, in 1848, the Society decided to set up two savings banks, the purpose of which was to encourage the poor, who, despite their misery, could often put aside a few pennies, to grow their savings.

In 1851, Mr. Chabot was appointed judge of the Superior Court, a position he held until his death in 1860.

*(Source: Dictionnaire biographique du Canada and La Société de Saint-Vincent de Paul à Québec, Éditions GID, Réjean Lemoine, 2011, pages 34-37 and 53)*



## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

COVID-19 did not prevent some important volunteers of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Shawinigan from being recognized. Four members of the Shawinigan SSVP received the Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Seniors from the office of the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, the Honourable J. Michel Doyon. This medal is awarded in recognition of volunteers whose work began before or continued beyond the age of 64, and contributed to the well-being of their community sector or to the achievement of the mission of the SSVP of Shawinigan.



Recipients : Micheline Flageol, Daniel Brousseau, Alain Boucher, Fernand St-Arneault

*Alain Boisvert, President*

*Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Shawinigan*



## A CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORLD

Our spontaneous impulse is to protest, condemn, and point out the world's faults, its sin, its injustice, and its indifference to God.

But the world is still God's creation, still lives under God's primal blessing, and is still loved by God. Like the original chaos, so full of both life and potential, our world today is still spinning and creating itself under the influence of God's breath. Its marvelous achievements reflect both God's greatness and human cooperation with God's power. The world still honours both God and humanity.

But it also has a very mixed reality. On the one hand, the world is full of goodness, generosity, sincerity, creativity, imagination, and ingenuity. Daily, we see real advancement in moral sensitivity, knowledge, art, and technology.

On the other hand, it is also full of infidelity, sin, injustice, greed, individualism, and many other rampant forces that constitute a virtual conspiracy against the poor, the family, sexual integrity, and compassion. It is a world within which progress itself often comes at the expense of the poor and progress itself causes us to be blind to those who fall through its cracks.

We must learn to comfort and bless the world's life and goodness even as we disturb and challenge its injustice and infidelities. We must comfort it in its pain, affirm its goodness, and help it direct its powerful life forces and energy towards the transcendent, towards God, towards community, towards justice, and towards compassion.

We must bless the world by letting it know that God still looks at it and says: 'You are my beloved Child in whom I am well pleased', even as we prophetically challenge it to see the poverty of its practical atheism, its lack of community, its consumerism, its greed, its obsession with comfort and the things of this world, and especially with its failure to see the poor.

*Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

### ABOUT RON ROLHEISER, OMI

*Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.*

*He is a community-builder, lecturer and writer. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world and his weekly column is carried by more than seventy newspapers worldwide.*

*For more information, please visit his [website](#).*







## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

In the August 2021 newsletter, I discussed social justice and what it means. I introduced the term systemic change and would like to elaborate on it.

The Vincentian Family in North America, of which we are a branch, describes systemic change as follows:

“Systemic Change among those living in poverty involves beyond providing food, clothing, shelter, and more, and aims to alleviate immediate needs. It enables people themselves to engage in the identification of the root causes of their own poverty and to create strategies, including advocacy, to change the structures that which keep them in poverty. Systemic change requires transforming attitudes.”

If we look at poverty in a holistic way, we can see that everything that affects poverty is connected. If a person does not have employment, education, healthcare, adequate housing and food security, then it can affect all other factors in a negative way. We as Vincentians possess the ability through our home visits and other engagement opportunities with persons in need to take action against unjust structures in an effort to help them escape the poverty cycle.

Frédéric Ozanam, a great supporter of social action, made this observation in 1848:

“The knowledge of social well-being and reform is to be learned, not from books, nor from the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor man’s garret, sitting by his bed-side, feeling the same cold that pierces him, sharing the secret of his lonely heart and troubled mind.” Ozanam also told us that... “The order of society is based on two virtues: justice and charity...Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked. It is justice’s role to prevent the attacks.”

As we further develop the various sub- committees discussed previously, please allow your attitudes to be transformed from only charity to both charity and justice. There will be many opportunities to become engaged at the national, regional and your local council/conference level. I would encourage every conference to ensure there is adequate time at all meetings to discuss social justice issues.

There are a number of areas listed below that may interest our members. If you would like to become involved in or require further information on any of these topics, please contact me at [ssvpjp@gmail.com](mailto:ssvpjp@gmail.com).

- Systemic change
- Advocacy
- Housing/homelessness-National housing campaign
- Seeds of Hope
- Criminal Justice reform
- Prison ministry
- Indigenous issues
- Food insecurity

- Basic income
- Youth
- Environment/climate change
- Systemic racism
- North of 60
- Refugees
- Migrant workers
- Other

### **Prison Ministry Note**

We will be holding a zoom meeting on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> for current and interested members regarding prison ministry. If you or any of your members would like to attend this meeting, please let me know and we can include you in further information and send you the agenda.

*Jim Paddon, Chair*

*National Social Justice Committee*



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q: Can a Conference accept a targeted donation with an ask to help a particular person in need or family?**

**A:** The answer is "no." It is not proper for a conference to accept a restricted/directed donation from a donor who wants the donated funds to go specifically to an individual or family. We should not accept these types of donations.

**Q: When is it acceptable to accept restricted/directed donations?**

**A:** It is appropriate for conferences to accept restricted/directed donations that are identified for targeted activities of the conference, such as assistance for food security, education assistance, etc.