



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, Elections, and Strategic Plan 2021-2024

September 9 is an important day for Vincentians, since it is the feast day of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is inspired by the principle of service to persons in need; this charitable activity is the main characteristic of the Society. Frédéric Ozanam said, "I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity." Frédéric dreamed of establishing a network of charity and social justice that would cover the entire world. He knew that faith must be translated into action and that, like the apostles, Vincentians must evangelize through the practice of charity.

At the Frédéric Ozanam beatification ceremonies on August 22, 1997, Pope John Paul II stated:

*Frédéric observed the real situation of the poor and sought to be more and more effective in helping them in their human development. Charity and justice go together. Frédéric had the clear-sighted courage to seek a front-line social and political commitment in a troubled time in the life of his country.*

*...So it is that we can see Frédéric Ozanam as a pioneer of the social doctrine of the Church which Pope Leo XIII would develop some years later in the encyclical 'Rerum Novarum' (On the Condition of the Working Classes).*

Within the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we find the principle of subsidiarity (the role of governments), and the principle of participation.

In the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that

*"The principle of subsidiarity grants freedom to develop the capabilities present at every level of society, while also demanding a greater sense of responsibility for the common good from those who wield greater power." (no. 196)*

Participation "is expressed essentially in a series of activities by means of which citizens, either as individuals or in association with others, contribute to the cultural, economic, political and social life of the civil community to which they belong." (See 1 Cor 12:14-16) Participation is a duty to be fulfilled consciously by all, with responsibility and with a view to the common good. (See Mt 14:16)

These two principles are currently very applicable as Canadians have been invited to participate in an election on September 20th to elect their representatives to the Canadian Parliament. Our representatives are empowered to advance the society on social and economic issues, health, culture, security, human rights, etc., issues that are relevant to the mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. It is important that all those eligible to vote take advantage of this right to participate, a right that is often taken for granted and is not accessible to many people around the world.

As a reminder, as written in the Rule and Statute:

*The Society does not identify with any political party and always adopts a non-violent approach to any situation. The Society encourages Vincentians to participate fully in public*



*life in such a way as to bring Christian values to political matters, but no conference or council can endorse any candidate for election to a political post.*

As well, in a context of participation, the National Council is pleased to share with you its new 2021-2024 strategic plan, setting high goals and objectives for the Society ([link to plan](#)). It is our hope that all conferences and councils will adopt one or two of these goals and objectives, forming the core of a strategic plan for the conference or council, based on need.

*Richard Pommainville, Executive Director  
National Council*



## HAITI - AUGUST 14, 2021 EARTHQUAKE AND EMERGENCY RELIEF

As you already know, a magnitude 7.2 (Richter scale) earthquake struck southern and southwestern Haiti on August 14. To date, there are more than 2,200 people dead and 13,000 injured. The number of public and private properties that have been destroyed or badly damaged is estimated at 130,000. Hospitals and clinics in the area are overwhelmed and lacking medical supplies and space. Almost two million Haitians live in the disaster area. International aid is being organized to help the victims.

This earthquake happened during the hurricane season. A tropical storm hit the affected area days after the earthquake. It caused landslides and floods, making it difficult for rescuers to search for survivors under the rubble. These two tragedies come on top of the political crisis shaking the country following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 and the insecurity caused by the activities of criminal gangs that operate with total impunity. Haiti is the poorest country in our hemisphere.

### The Society and Haiti

Canada has 33 active twinning arrangements in Haiti. I have exchanged emails with Brother Hugues Vidal, President of the Superior Council of Haiti (CSH), since the tragedy. He assures me that the August 2021 twinning funds can be transferred and that they will be distributed to the recipient twins in a safe and timely manner.

### Help from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to disaster victims

The International General Council (CGI-CIAD) has confirmed the transfer of 5,000 Euros (CAD \$7,420) to the CSH. President Vidal made contact with Vincentian leaders in the affected region. An emergency relief plan is in preparation. SSVP Canada sends CAD \$1,800 to Haiti's Superior Council quarterly as emergency relief. These sums of money are drawn from the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund established after the earthquake of January 2010.

Following this large-scale disaster, the assistance to Vincentians and families affected by this tragedy will be extended over a long period. The Society's emergency aid focuses on the recovery of families and people in need, once humanitarian aid has been provided by major world organizations (Red Cross, MSF, UN, foreign government aid, etc.). The National President, Brother Joseph Claude Bédard, launched a fundraising appeal to help SSVP Haiti. 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 **Haitian Disaster Relief / Aide aux sinistrés d'Haiti** option, and follow the instructions.

The Vincentians and people of Haiti need our prayers and moral support.

*Clermont Fortin, Chair*

*National Twinning Committee and National Emergency Relief Committee*



## HOW TO SECURE A LEGACY GIFT FROM YOUR MAJOR SSVV DONORS

Canadians are living longer and healthier. However, Canada is getting older. Today, nearly one out of every five Canadians is over the age of 65.<sup>1</sup> This trend we see across Canada is also one we see in the pews of Catholic parishes across the country. It's a trend that will soon lead to what some commentators have called "the greatest wealth transfer in history", as billions of dollars are transferred from the baby boomer generation to their children and grandchildren via inheritance.

It is hard to talk about death but it is a reality we will all individually face. Why are we bringing this to your attention? Because, for the sake of those we serve and the future of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, we have to pay attention to the growing importance of charitable donations through wills. They are an opportunity for our most passionate supporters to continue assisting persons in need beyond their own lifetime. That's why it is important we raise awareness among our leading donors of the opportunity to designate the Society as a charitable donation recipient as part of their wills.

Many Canadians do not realize the extraordinary opportunity their wills provide for offering a generous gift to their favourite charities. We call these donations through wills "legacy gifts", as they can leave a powerful legacy of making the world better even after we are gone. Consider that designating just 5% of an \$845,000 estate—the current Canadian average—would result in a whopping \$42,000 gift, vastly more than most Canadians would ever give in their lifetimes! That's an incredible opportunity to make an impact. That impact also includes tax-savings opportunities right now, so Canadians can preserve a larger part of their wealth for their children, grandchildren, and other loved ones.

Put simply: Wills are going to be an increasingly large portion of total charitable giving in Canada in coming years, with many advantages for those who include charities as part of their Wills. It's critical for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to proactively seek out opportunities for legacy gifts from long-standing supporters, sharing with them these beneficial opportunities.

To that end, I'm excited to share that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has joined the **Will Power** campaign. Will Power is a national public education effort designed to inspire more Canadians to make a significant impact on the causes they care about, with a gift in their will to charity. The aim of the campaign is for at least 8.5% of all Canadians designating a charity as part of their Will, which would represent \$40 billion for important causes across the country. Please refer to the Will Power National Portal as a reference <https://www.willpower.ca/charities/society-of-saint-vincent-de-paul/>

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<sup>1</sup> [Statistics Canada](#)

We've created simple tools to empower you as a Vincentian leader to encourage your leading supporters to consider designating the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as part of their wills. In this **email** you will find:

1. A draft, template letter you can send to your most loyal donors, asking them to designate the Society in their wills. This letter can also be sent via email;
  - *We recommend sending this letter to any donors who have donated to the Society consistently for several years, and who give a significant amount. That said, even modest donors might consider giving a sizeable legacy gift. Think about who your most passionate and consistent donors are—these are most likely to be supporters who would be most interested in offering a gift to the Society through their wills!*
2. A template message you can insert as a postscript or short paragraph in another regular communication with your donors—for instance, a thank-you letter accompanying their tax receipt, or a letter as part of an annual appeal.
  - *We have written two messages for you—one asking them to consider a legacy gift, the other specifically highlighting the tax benefits of a legacy gift. Think about which might be most attractive for a donor.*

These templates are meant to make the process of seeking legacy gifts easier for you. They are not meant to be a comprehensive suite of tools for seeking legacy gifts. Consider what approach might work best for your conference or council. For instance, if you have deep, personal relationships with your most loyal donors, you might want to set up a phone call or meeting over coffee to discuss a legacy gift. You might also consider discussing legacy giving with your fellow Vincentians at a conference or council meeting. Whatever approaches work best for you, our hope is to make the process as easy as possible—and to help you secure the incomparable benefits of legacy gifts for the future of your conference and council.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by sending me an email. As well, I would be more than happy to connect with you, your conference, or your council and offer a more detailed presentation on the importance and potential impact of legacy giving through wills.

Thank you for participating. I'm so excited to work with you to secure the financial future of our Society across the country, and together, support our work for Canada's most vulnerable people for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Richard Pommainville  
Executive Director  
[exdir-dirgen@ssvp.ca](mailto:exdir-dirgen@ssvp.ca)



[Template letter/email to major donors](#)



[Template postscript \(P.S.\) and/or short paragraph message for inclusion as part of another donor communication](#)

## Template letter/email to major donors

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Dear [NAME],

You have been one of our most loyal supporters of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at [CONFERENCE OR COUNCIL LOCATION] these past years. You have been a passionate supporter of our Mission to serve the poorest and most vulnerable members of our community. We would like you to continue making an impact on this mission for many, many years to come. To that end, I'm writing to ask if you would be willing to make a legacy gift to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Making a legacy gift is incredibly easy, and there are a couple of simple ways you can do so:

1. Contact your estate planner or lawyer about adding a charitable gift to the Society as part of your will. All you will need to share is our charitable number, which is [INSERT YOUR CONFERENCE'S CHARITABLE NUMBER OR THE CHARITABLE NUMBER OF THE SSVN NATIONAL COUNCIL: 132410671 RR0001]. If you haven't yet taken the time to write a will, you can visit [www.willpower.ca/profession/lawyer](http://www.willpower.ca/profession/lawyer). There you will find a list of lawyers in your community/province who can help you. Alternatively, you can find an online will service by visiting <https://www.willpower.ca/will-writers/>.
2. Naming the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as a partial beneficiary of your life insurance policy. As above, you can contact your life insurance provider directly and share our charitable number.

Why consider doing this? Your generous gifts to the Society have helped us make life better for those struggling in our community today. A legacy gift will empower us to make life better for those struggling years from now. By helping us secure the future of our services, you are ensuring that the Society's volunteers can uplift persons in need, wherever they are—in their homes, on the street, in shelters, in hospitals, or in prison—for decades to come.

As well, many Canadians aren't aware of the [incredible tax savings made possible by legacy gifts](#). Inheritance taxes in Canada can be enormous, leaving less for your children and loved ones. Strategically giving a portion of your estate to a charity—creating a sizeable charitable tax receipt—and then replenishing your estate through a life insurance policy is just one example of how legacy giving can be used to your advantage for tax planning purposes. Ask your estate planner or lawyer for further details about this. You can also visit [www.willpower.ca](http://www.willpower.ca) to learn more.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us "You will always have the poor with you." Through your legacy gift, you will help ensure that the poor will always have the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

God bless you and thank you for your consideration, [NAME]. If you have any questions, please give us a call at [PHONE NUMBER]. Whether or not you choose to make a legacy gift, we are so grateful for your gift and your ongoing participation in our mission. We couldn't do this work without people like you.

Sincerely,

**Template postscript (P.S.) and/or short paragraph message for inclusion as part of another donor communication (i.e. a thank-you letter accompanying a tax receipt)**

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[CONFERENCE/COUNCIL PRESIDENT]  
[CONFERENCE/COUNCIL]

*General message:*

P.S. Have you considered giving a legacy gift to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul? It's as easy as contacting your estate planner or lawyer and asking them to add the Society as a beneficiary in your will. Simply share our charitable number [INSERT YOUR CONFERENCE'S CHARITABLE NUMBER OR THE CHARITABLE NUMBER OF THE SSVP NATIONAL COUNCIL: 132410671 RR0001] with them or visit [www.willpower.ca](http://www.willpower.ca) to learn more about the benefits of giving to charity through your will. As a generous donor to the Society, you have made possible our mission to serve the poorest and most struggling members of our community today. A legacy gift to the Society will help us serve them for years to come. Please reach out to us if you have any questions!

*Message specifically discussing tax benefits of a legacy gift:*

P.S. Have you considered giving a legacy gift to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul? It's as easy as contacting your estate planner or your estate planner or lawyer and asking them to add the Society as a beneficiary in your will. Simply share our charitable number [INSERT YOUR CONFERENCE'S CHARITABLE NUMBER OR THE CHARITABLE NUMBER OF THE SSVP NATIONAL COUNCIL: 132410671 RR0001] with them. Legacy giving can offer enormous tax savings benefits, allowing you to leave more for your children and loved ones, while supporting your favourite charities. Learn more by visiting: <https://www.willpower.ca/tax-benefits-of-charitable-gifts-in-wills/>.





## UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A Fund Development Committee was created in June 2021, whose objective is to identify and develop communications and fund development strategies to be used by the multiple levels within the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada. This committee was created after hearing from members across Canada during the 2021-2024 strategic plan development that we need to diversify funding sources with the identification of different fund development opportunities and identify initiatives to further support our Mission.

Our committee currently consists of Brendan Steven and Peter Albano from the Ontario Region, Peter Ouellette from the Western Region, Deborah Joyce from the BC and Yukon Region and National Council, Richard Pommerville from National Council and myself as Chair. We have now met virtually three times, with our next meeting scheduled for later in September.

We have prepared templates for the Will Power Campaign, which is launching across Canada in September and provides information on how a legacy gift left in your Will can make a difference. There is more information included in the article from Richard on how councils/conferences can share this information with donors.

We are working on a “Donor Welcome package” toolkit that will include templates to be used by councils/conferences to engage and steward donors. We plan to create short videos to be part of this toolkit, with the hope that one video will highlight stories from people who have been helped by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and later became members. If you are one of those people, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to me at [Linda Dollard](#).

It is Vincentians’ good works that encourage others to give of their time and money. We need your stories. It is the story that promotes and strengthens our Society.

We also plan to work on toolkits for councils/conferences on how best to approach foundations and how to engage major gift and monthly donors.

There is still time to join our committee! Should you be interested in joining us and you have fund development expertise or experience with fund development communication strategies, donor engagement/stewardship or identifying and approaching foundations or government programs, please contact me at [Linda Dollard](#).

This is a great opportunity to identify ways to raise funds by the multiple levels of the Society to carry out our Mission!

*Linda Dollard, Chair  
National Fund Development Committee*



## GOING OUT IN SEARCH OF MISERY

*" The blessing of the poor is the blessing of God . . .  
Let us go to the poor. "*

(Frédéric Ozanam, March 1833)

The shock in the life of Frédéric Ozanam, resolutely Catholic, was to recognize that the conditions of the workers and proletarians of his time were more to be pitied than the state of the slaves of antiquity, after 18 centuries of Christianity.<sup>1</sup> Too few of its adherents paid attention to the misery of their contemporaries and mobilized to alleviate it. It was an imbalance that he set out to correct. So, soon after its start on April 23, 1833, the young conference established "that it was to be secular and have as its goal 'the relief of individual woes through personal encounter with the poor'".<sup>2</sup>

Thanks to Sister Rosalie Rendu, whom they followed to the Mouffetard district of Paris, Ozanam and his companions became aware of the misery (promiscuity, unhealthy housing, disease, high mortality). Visiting the places where the poor lived revealed the extent of their needs. This required an effort, but it allowed them to identify the symptoms before bringing remedies. From then on, their lives became oriented towards helping the poor.

In 1833, Ozanam was studying law. A man of remarkable erudition, he could correspond in six languages. In 1839, he obtained his doctoral degree in literature, then the aggregation to become a professor of comparative literature at the Sorbonne. Married in 1841, he became the father of a daughter in 1845. He was also involved in politics, passionately republican with a bias for the workers. He could be described as a Christian democrat with socialist ideas. He ran unsuccessfully in the legislative elections of 1848. From 1849, his health began to deteriorate. Seeing his resistance diminish, he was struck by illness and died in Marseille on September 8, 1853. His departure to the Father takes place on September 9.

Frederic Ozanam was beatified in Paris on September 9, 1997.

### Prayer on the occasion of the feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam

*God, who raised up the Blessed Frederic Ozanam, burning with Your Spirit of charity, to promote lay associations to assist the poor, grant that we may follow, after his example, Your commandment of love to be a leaven in the world in which we live. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.*

**Amen**

*Alain Besner, National Spirituality Committee  
Quebec Regional Council*

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<sup>1</sup> Letter to Léon Curnier, Paris, February 23, 1835

<sup>2</sup> Madeleine des Rivières, Ozanam; un savant chez les pauvres, Montréal, Bellarmin, p. 44



## SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL FEAST DAY MASS BROADCAST

September 27 is Saint Vincent de Paul Feast Day. This year, the Holy Redeemer Conference in Ottawa is hosting the national broadcast of the Feast Day Mass. It will be recorded on Saturday September 25, in conjunction with the Holy Redeemer Parish's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the SSVP conference 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For this celebration, the celebrant will be Msgr Peter Schonenbach. Msgr Schonenbach was the founder of the Holy Redeemer Conference and has had a great impact on the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Ottawa, including as well being Spiritual Advisor for the National Council of Canada for many years.

Livestream on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:00 am (Eastern).

**Watch via livestream on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/holyredeemerkanata>

**Watch through the parish website:** <http://www.holyredeemer.ca/index.cfm>

[click on Our Parish and from the drop-down list click on - Click here to watch mass.]

**Event coordinator is Bernie Hartlin:** [bernie-on-ca-ssvp@rogers.com](mailto:bernie-on-ca-ssvp@rogers.com)



## NEWS FROM SSVP IN JOLIETTE

### Launching the Opération Bonne Mine 2021

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Joliette is launching Opération Bonne Mine, an assistance program that is much appreciated by parents of underprivileged families as the new school year is about to start.

For several years, the SSVP has been providing financial assistance to cover part of the cost of purchasing school supplies. This assistance takes the form of vouchers that can be exchanged in stores or directly at school.

### School supplies collection

This year, the Galeries Joliette shopping center is partnering with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul by organizing a collection of new and used school supplies (clean and in good condition). Those items include school bags, lunch boxes, pencils, notebooks, etc. The supplies will then be given by our volunteers to families in need, along with vouchers for the purchase of school supplies.

### A Society who works on behalf of youth

Mario Vadnais, President of the SSVP, points out that the Society is active not only at the beginning of the school year, but also throughout the year. In order to encourage student retention, the St. Pierre Conference also organizes in September a gala to reward some forty students who have made significant efforts on their path to success. This program will be extended to other parishes once the pandemic is behind us.

Volunteers from the Notre-Dame-des-Prairies Conference knit hats and mittens throughout the year to distribute to schools, for needy youths during the winter season.

Dozens of families have taken advantage of the [seeds of hope](#) program in collaboration with the Caisse Desjardins de Joliette et du center de Lanaudière to allow their children to benefit from a registered education savings plan and related government grants at no cost.

The number of school dropouts from underprivileged backgrounds is twice as high as in more privileged areas. It is therefore essential to intervene with young people in order to fight poverty. We will succeed by helping children develop self-esteem, motivation and perseverance.



## COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

### INTRODUCTION

It is with much happiness and pleasure that I reach out to all our friends and well-wishers through this medium. I thank the Heavenly Father for giving me the grace and blessings to serve in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and I write this letter with profound gratitude. Receive our warm greetings to you and all the generous donors for this assistance. May the good Lord continue to bless and prosper you all. Members of our national council join me in extending thanks to everyone. Your support and financial contributions are quite helpful to our needy and they too are always happy and grateful for this kind assistance.

Our island home is recovering slowly but surely after that terrible hurricane “Maria”, which left indelible memories. That catastrophe cannot be easily erased from our minds, as it stripped most, if not all, of some people’s possessions. We are now in the hurricane season again and most people are on edge.

COVID-19 is now the new normal. So far we have been blessed in that there are no cases right now, no community spread and no deaths because of the vigilance of the authorities. The vaccination program is rolling out well.

Our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has been serving the marginalized of this country for the past forty-eight years. We are so happy to serve voluntarily and we do so with joy, knowing that it is Christ himself we serve in the poor. We have no office and so we use our homes and our own resources. The bishop of the diocese is our spiritual advisor who is very supportive of our programs and activities and allows us to use his mailing address. As most of the church offices where our meetings were held have not been repaired since the major hurricane of 2017, we now conduct our meetings in a changing room of the cathedral chapel. Training sessions and council meetings are held at one of our Catholic schools.

We are still in the process of preparing plans and estimates to seek funding to build our office, meeting room and thrift shop. The bishop has allowed us to use an empty lot near the Roman cathedral. The cathedral is still under renovation and this is an enormous undertaking.

I am happy to serve as coordinator for this program and in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul generally. I have been a member of the Society for over 37 years and once served as national president for six years (two terms). I have been engaged in the twinning program for over six years now.

### ACTIVITIES

There are 25 conferences throughout the island and 16 are involved in the Canada Twinning Program, including our national council. In 1973, the first conference was founded in Roseau, the capital city, and the last to be formed was in St. Dominic of Atkinson, near the Carib Territory of our Indigenous people.

Our national council was established in June of 1983. It is presently twinned with the Precious Blood Conference of Scarborough, Ontario.



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the council was not able to hold its usual programs and activities, but our national executive meets monthly. What we missed most was our annual retreats. Messages to the council and general membership are communicated via What's App, telephone and email. Any written communication is dropped off at our thrift shop or at the bishop's office. We are hopefully planning to hold our annual general meeting later this year.

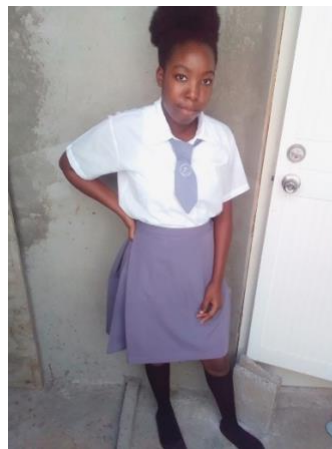
The national council runs a thrift shop in Roseau with one paid sales clerk. The manager and supervisors are all volunteers and members of the national executive.

Funds from this project go towards our scholarship program, the home for physically/mentally challenged in the southeast, "House of Hope", fire victims, medical care and other urgent needs.



Our corporate citizens play a great part in helping us achieve our goals and we pray for God's blessings on their businesses.

On behalf of all of us, I express sincere thanks to all who help make life a little easier for our needy in Dominica.







The twinning program is a great boost to our needy and we are so very grateful to the sponsors for their generous donations. You bring a smile to those who receive it and they always say, "Thank you, I am praying for my twin partner and for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul."



The funds go toward assisting the needy in various ways, such as those mentioned above, as well as for house repairs, agricultural supplies and help for disaster victims.



This work of charity on your part is very rare and it will reap for you a rich harvest from our Heavenly Father. We will forever be grateful and pray for God's richest blessings on you, your families and your work.

**OUR ISLAND HOME DOMINICA**



Dominica is a small independent island state lying between Guadeloupe and Martinique. Our people migrate a lot to “greener pastures”, hence the reason for our very small population. In the rural villages, the people do farming, mostly for the local market and some for export. There is also a growing tourism industry and there are a few business owners who render a good service and give employment. There is also a fishing industry, as most villages are located on the coast. With all the restrictions with COVID-19 around, the economy has slowed down a lot.



Settling on the coasts of the islands has its advantages and disadvantages. Visitors, as well as natives, enjoy the snorkeling, swimming, diving, boating and fishing, but when we get the storms, the destruction to property and roads can be devastating.

*Theodora Toussaint, Officer  
Twinning Program, SSVF-Dominica*





## SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2021

### Sub-committees

We are now forming several sub-committees in an effort to place an emphasis on specific areas under our national social justice committee. The Housing/Homelessness sub-committee has been in existence for over a year and has done great work on the current national housing/homelessness campaign.

The newly formed Advocacy sub-committee began with a Zoom call on August 18<sup>th</sup> for approximately 25 members who expressed an interest in this important topic.

The Multicultural Diversity sub-committee also started with its first Zoom meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>. This new committee will work on developing various resources and actions that all Vincentians can take to become a more diverse and inclusive organization.

We are also working on some actions related to Indigenous People in Canada, with further news about this initiative coming in the next SSVP news edition later this month.

The formation of a prison ministry sub-committee is also being worked on and we invite any members who are active in their community or have an interest in joining this effort to contact us at [ssvpjp@gmail.com](mailto:ssvpjp@gmail.com).

### Social justice survey

The recent survey that was distributed to social justice reps and supporters provided us with some valuable results from over 80 respondents. Some of the more important results emphasized the need for further education of the general membership on social justice issues. In addition, the idea of having short-term projects was cited as a good way to involve more members in social justice. The use of various forms of social media, such as webinars, Zoom meetings and Facebook, was also a recommendation.

Seventy-five per cent of replies said the interest level of their members was average to good. Another 63% agreed that a parish recruitment plan for more social justice members was a good idea. This is an area we shall work on further developing. Please see the chart at the end of this article for results of the survey.

### National social justice strategic plan

In our efforts to develop social justice as an equal partner to our charitable works, we are also preparing a strategic plan which should be completed later this year. The overarching theme will be systemic change and the four pillars are:

- Advocacy
- Special works/projects
- Membership
- Education

Please remember to read the next SSVP news edition later this month as we present further news related to Indigenous People in Canada.

*Jim Paddon, Chair*

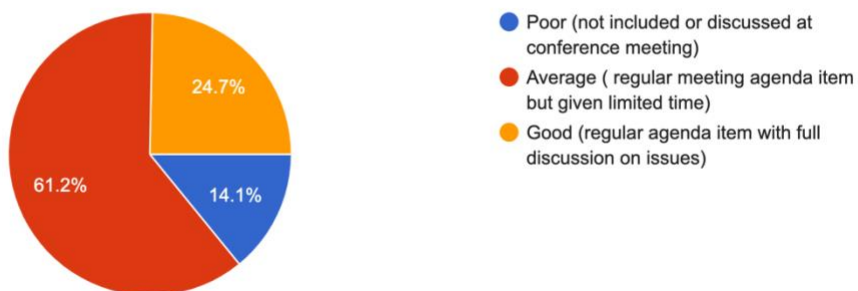
*National social justice committee*



## RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

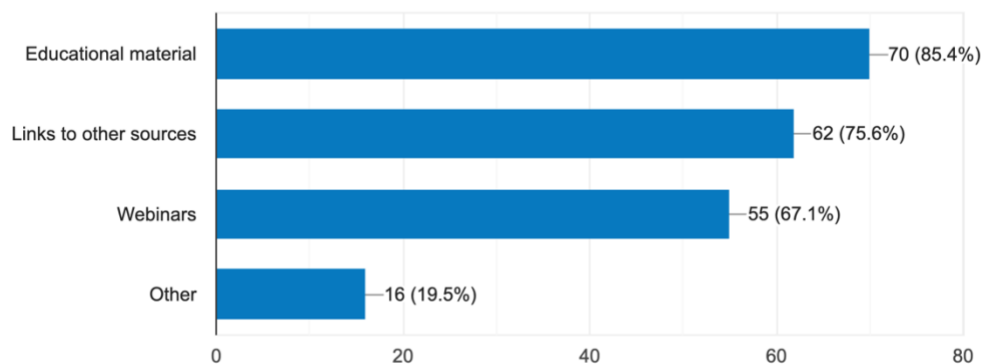
### 2. What is the interest level of your conference members in social justice?

85 responses



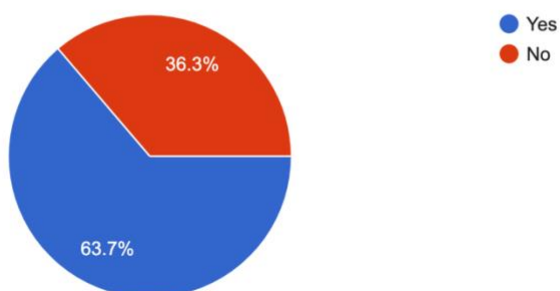
### 3.1 What resources can we offer?

82 responses



### 4. Do you believe a parish recruitment plan for new social justice members would be successful?

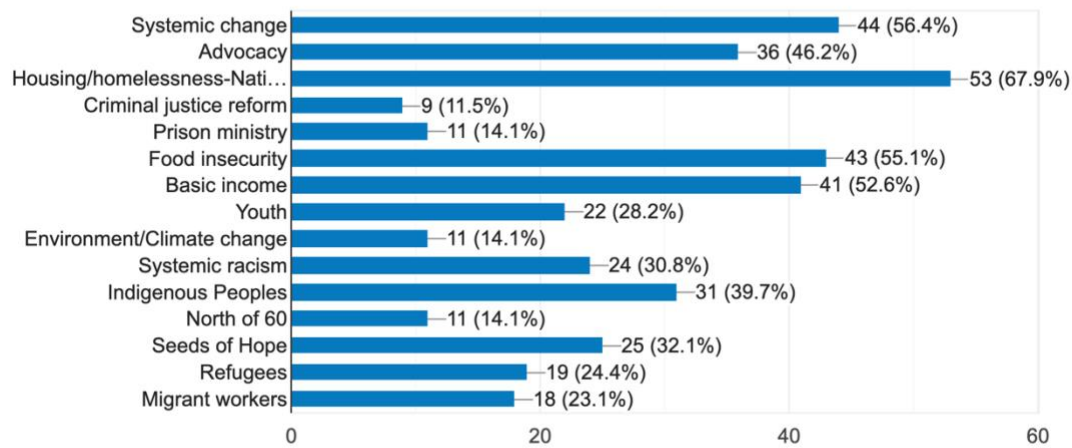
80 responses





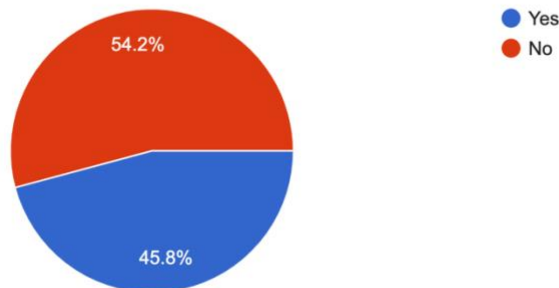
### 5. What social justice areas would you or are you interested in joining?

78 responses



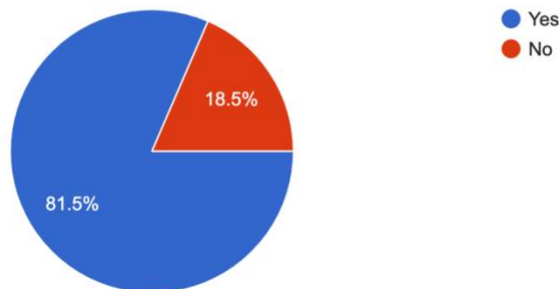
### 5.2 Would you be interested in joining a regional/national sub-committee on above topics?

72 responses



### 6. Do you feel supported and connected to higher levels?

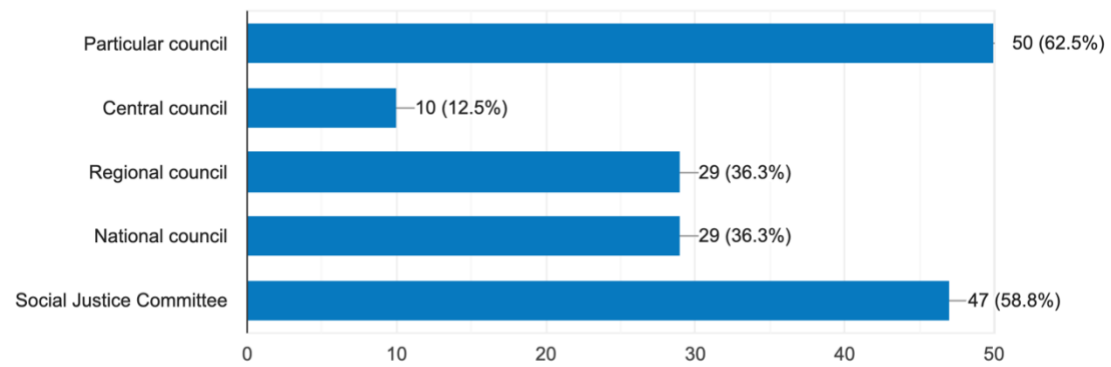
81 responses





### 6.1 Please identify.

80 responses





## QUESTION & ANSWER

### **Q: What are the major areas of responsibility for a Board?**

**A:** As servant-leaders, with the primary focus to be stewards of the organization, it is important to include the Duty of Care, the Duty of Loyalty and Duty of Obedience in the areas of responsibilities as the governing body on behalf of all members.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Duty of Care:** A Board member is expected to act as any ordinary, prudent person in similar circumstances. This requires diligent, attentive, informed participation, i.e., reasonable care when making decisions in stewardship of the organization.

The duty of care is evident in the following activities:

- The Board holds regularly scheduled meetings.
- Board members have received and read the bylaws and policies.
- Information is provided to the Board in a timely manner and in advance of meetings.
- Board members arrive at meetings prepared, having read the minutes and advance material.
- Financial reports are furnished on a regular schedule and are reviewed by the Board.
- The Board makes informed decisions based on information provided.
- Minutes accurately reflect Board votes and decisions, including dissent.

**Duty of Loyalty:** Board members are expected to act in good faith, giving undivided allegiance to the organization, when making decisions that affect it. They should not operate for personal gain against the best interests of the organization. When a conflict arises between the interests of a Board member and the well-being of the organization, the Board member should immediately disclose the matter and recuse from both the discussion and the decision-making. If the matter proceeds, the terms of any transaction with a Board member must be at least as favourable to the organization as that which could be obtained from a party with no ties to it. Board members should observe confidentiality regarding the Board's deliberations and decision-making, and respect and adhere to all Board decisions, regardless of whether they voted in favour of the motion. Only designated spokespersons (usually the President) may speak publicly on behalf of the organization.

**Duty of Obedience:** A Board member is expected to act in a manner that ensures the organization operates in keeping with its mission and bylaws and in accordance with the laws and regulations governing its formation and status. To maintain the public's trust as a non-profit organization, Board members must be fully conversant and compliant with the organization's mission, by-laws and policies, and ensure that the policies, goals and activities (including competent management of its funds and other resources) are executed in accordance with the mission.

It is under these duties that National Council of Canada recently adopted a series of Board governance policies; they are visible under the Operations Manual, section 6.6.

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<sup>1</sup>Source: Anne Dalton, "Three Major Areas of Board Responsibility," The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc., 2014.

<sup>2</sup> US SVdP, <https://files.constantcontact.com/fd89f49d001/6973e70b-c88a-412e-b4a4-3a83b874923f.pdf>



## IN MEMORIAM - 2021

### B.C. & YUKON REGION

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Mary Sweeney, St. Ann's Conference, Abbotsford, British Columbia, February 4, 2021  
Eileen MacLean, Christ the King Conference, Courtenay, British Columbia, February 17, 2021  
John Fuoco, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Iso. Conference, Kamloops, British Columbia, March 9 2021  
Marj Mckee, Saint Francis de Sales Conference, Burnaby, British Columbia, Friday May 21.  
Tim Hicks, Sacred Heart Isolated Conference, Williams Lake, British Columbia, May 29, 2021  
Brother Ron McKenzie, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Iso. Conference, Kamloops, British Columbia, 2020  
Katherine Van Adrichem, Notre Dame Conference, Port Alberni, British Columbia, June 2021  
Doug Carmichael, Christ the King Conference, Courtenay, British Columbia, July 31, 2021

### WESTERN REGION

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Deacon Hyland Fraser, Edmonton Central Council, Alberta, February 5, 2021

### ONTARIO REGION

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Roger Garant, Sacred Heart Conference, LaSalle, Ontario, January 6, 2021  
Lynda Cote, St. John the Baptist Conference, Amherstburg, Ontario, January 16, 2021  
Elizabeth (Betty) Barron, St. Basil Conference, Brantford, Ontario, January 20, 2021  
Steve Chappo, Holy Name of Jesus Conference, Essex, Ontario, January 29, 2021  
Mary Sutton, Sacred Heart Conference, LaSalle, Ontario, February 2, 2021  
Jean Joseph (Bernard) Dumas, Most Precious Blood Conference, Windsor, Ontario, March 5, 2021  
Elaine Wilson, St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Windsor, Ontario, April  
Cindy Rovinelli, Central Store, Windsor, May 2021  
David Jewell, St. Ambrose Conference, Cambridge, Ontario, May 12, 2021  
Alan (Dean) Egeto, Holy Name Conference, Windsor, Ontario, June 2021  
Jack Schroeder, St. John the Baptist Conference, Windsor, Ontario, June 2021

### RÉGION DU QUÉBEC

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Michel Careau, Conférence Notre-Dame de l'Eau Vive, Gatineau, Québec, 14 janvier 2021  
Guy Champagne, Conférence Cathédrale, Joliette, Québec, April 25, 2021  
Pierre Portelance, Conseil central de Montréal, Québec, 29 juillet 2021  
Yves L'Écuyer, Conférence Saint-Jean-Paul II, Repentigny, Québec, 15 août 2021  
Paul Levaque, Conférence St-Anastase, Greenfield-Park, Québec, 2 septembre 2021

### ATLANTIC REGION

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Elizabeth Ann Tracey 'Betty', St. Anne's Conference, Glace Bay, Nova-Scotia, April 12, 2021

They were our brothers and sisters serving persons in need.  
Let us keep them in our prayers.  
Ils étaient nos confrères et consœurs au service des plus démunis.  
Gardons-les dans nos prières.