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QUEBEC 2017: THE JOY OF SERVING



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The arrival of spring brings winds of change to the National Council. First, the paper version of the Vincenpaul magazine will be replaced by an electronic version. This will allow us to update you more regularly on the Society's activities and reach more members, since conference presidents will be able to forward the newsletter to everyone. This change had been looked forward to for some time and will allow us to reach all Vincentians.

We have made changes to our member screening policies, as requested by insurers. What's more, provincial governments have passed laws to protect people against all sorts of discrimination. We must follow those laws and ensure all our members have the required training. Certain financial guidelines have also been reviewed to make them more current. Our twinning policy, which had two parts, (internal in Canada only and external with other countries) has been modernized as well. We have removed the section on internal twinning and developed a support policy for conferences and councils in need. We feel that when a conference or council is having financial difficulties or is in the process of being set up, general and financial support should come from neighbouring conferences or its particular, central or regional council. This is a more just manifestation of the spirit of brotherhood that propels us and of the rule's spirit. What's more, the conference or council that receives funds will have to ensure to send its annual financial report to the conference or council that supports it. In this way, the decision about the following year's support will be an enlightened one.

As soon as those updates are finished, we will send out the required documentation through regional councils.

On another note, I would like to broach a subject that has become more prominent in the Society. More and more councils are facing structure or governance problems, specifically as they pertain to the effective management of the Society's Special Works. While those councils continue looking for the ideal structure, I believe it important to remind them that we are an organization that practices charity with justice, while respecting those we serve. We are not a philanthropic organization and must always keep in mind that we exist to serve. It is crucial that our structures reflect who we are. We must ensure that Vincentians who create such Works remain in control of them. When we lose that control, those Works quickly become independent entities with the lone goal of making money. I have nothing against profitable ventures, it is one way to continue to help ever-greater numbers of people and maintain or even improve our buildings. However, we must show restraint in our quest for profit and never forget the respect owed to those we serve. I think if members of those councils keep in mind our mission and values, they will come to find the ideal system of governance for managing their Special Works.

Let me finish by reminding you that it is not too late to register for our AGA to be held this year at the Notre-Dame-de-Foy campus in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, near Québec. We have prepared some very interesting workshops, round tables and discussion periods that will allow all participants to learn more about what the Society is up to these days. There will also be opportunities to celebrate. We will remember our 170th anniversary of our founding in Canada, the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian Charism and launch our book, *The Mission*. Each day, we will take some time to reflect and pray in order to come together as a community and meditate on our mission.

See you soon, hopefully in Québec!

*Jean-Noël Cormier, President
National Council*



SPIRITUALITY

APOSTLES OF GOOD NEWS

In a world where the Media often emphasises the bad news stories, it is important for Christians to remain apostles of good news. With this in mind I suggest that we should not forget the global picture and this explains the following.

One of my neighbours often gives me a copy of the magazine, Diplomat and International Canada. In the January edition there is an article entitled 2017: Reasons to Rejoice; the author goes on to present eight reasons to rejoice.



- 1. Decline in global poverty:** According to the World Bank, in 1990 37.1% of the global population lived on less than \$1.90 a day. In 2015 the figure is 9.6%
- 2. War related deaths decline:** Quoting the Nobel Peace Prize winner Juan Santos, the article notes: Far from being a world at war, as many people believe, we inhabit a world where five out of six people live in regions largely, or entirely, free from armed conflict.
- 3. Fewer infectious disease deaths:** Malaria and TB deaths decline as well deaths from HIV & AIDS related diseases
- 4. Declining crime rate:** In 1993 victims of violent crime were 79.8 per 1000 people and in 2015 the figure is 18.6
- 5. Environmental progress:** In 1985 a massive hole was discovered in the earth's Ozone Layer above Antarctica. Research now indicates that the hole has closed
- 6. Rising life expectancy:** In 1980 life expectancy was 61.7 years while in 2015 it was 71.8
- 7. Maternal death declines:** Worldwide, maternal deaths declined by 44% between 1990 and 2015
- 8. Rising literacy rates:** UNESCO reports that 60% of all countries have eradicated youth illiteracy

Obviously when you are doing a home visit and have before you concrete evidence of poverty and suffering all your energy goes into solving the problem at hand. However, it is important to keep in mind that good people working together can make a difference. May your hearts be filled with hope.

*Msgr Peter Schonenbach, Spiritual Advisor
National Council*

TWINNING

TWINNING WITH SPANISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES – A PRIORITY

Canada's Conferences and Councils have been twinned with Spanish-speaking countries for many years. As a donor participant of the international Twinning Program, Canada is responsible for eleven countries, six of which are Spanish-speaking. These countries are Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Peru. Canada currently has forty-six twinings with Conferences and Councils in these countries.

All these countries have emerging economies; poverty and social inequalities are great. Members of the Society in these countries need our help and moral support through twinning in order to better serve the disadvantaged of their communities. I have several twinning requests from these countries waiting to be twinned with Canada. I encourage Vincentians of Canada to engage in an external twinning and demonstrate their solidarity with their Brothers and Sisters of Caribbean, Central and South American countries.

Out of respect for Brothers and Sisters twins who work with few resources and often do not have access to translators, I recommend that communications be conducted in Spanish. This can be a challenge if a person familiar with the Spanish language cannot be found in the community or among friends. In such a situation, the twinning team of the National Council offers a translation service. Some twinning Conferences are already using this service.

Conferences and Councils wishing to twin naturally opt for a country whose majority language is English or French. This understandable. It is important, however, to remember that Vincentians of

Spanish-speaking countries need our assistance and support as well. Why not select a Spanish speaking country when applying for an External Twinning. This is a mission outside our comfort zone that is an enriching human and spiritual experience.

*Clermont Fortin, National Chair
Twinning Committee*

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

SYSTEMIC CHANGE AND THE HOME VISIT

Today, our organization has seen the home visitation to the poor decline in use. The reasons for this are more numerous than what can be dealt with in this article. However, I would ask if you are not doing home visits, at least in some form, are you using excuses as reasons. If solutions could be found to eliminate the reasons that hinder an effective and active home visitation program, would you proceed with the program? If you do conduct home visits, are they being done with the same intent of Ozanam? Do you conduct home deliveries or home visits?



I would also like to explore the home visit as it fits into our efforts related in general to social justice, and in particular, systemic change. The home visit has a very important role in the Vincentian Family. It goes back to St. Vincent himself. In 1617 when he founded the first Confraternities of Charity, he told them to go two by two to the homes of the poor. He wrote this into the Rule of each of the many confraternities that he set up throughout France. A typical Rule read this way; "The Ladies of the Company will take their turns, two by two, to serve the sick poor".

He founded the Congregation of the Mission in 1625 and later wrote; "We always go out two by two" to visit the homes of the poor during missions.

When he founded the Daughters of Charity in 1633, he told the sisters that their convent was to be the home of the sick. He placed huge emphasis on the home visit to the sick and poor. It was one of the most striking characteristics of this new community of sisters.

Frederic Ozanam learned this Vincentian tool, the home visit, from Rosalie Rendu, who was renowned for it. Rosalie once said: "I never pray as well as I do in the street".

**IF YOU DO
CONDUCT HOME
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OF OZANAM?**

Today, can the home visit become an instrument for systemic change? Here are some questions for you to ponder.

? Does the Society's work, of visiting thousands of poor people, lead to an analysis of the root causes of poverty in the part of Canada where you live, as well as, to the discernment of concrete steps toward dealing with those causes?

? What are the causes of joblessness learned from home visits? Lack of education. Lack of transportation. Lack of child care. Lack of friends, faith, hope.

? Do members doing home visits come equipped with a resource list which might help those whom they visit come to know the agencies that might help them emerge from poverty?

? Do our members listen to those we visit and give them the opportunity to voice their problems, concerns and needs to escape from the cycle of poverty?

? Are there follow up visits to see if the initial visit was of any lasting help?

? Is there a way of establishing a mentoring relationship with the people visited, in order to help them emerge from poverty?

? The Society emphasizes Charity and Justice. It is very good at charity? How can it further its efforts towards justice as part of its commitment to help the poor whom it visits?

? How can the Society's commitment to justice be demonstrated locally? How can it be demonstrated nationally?

? Why can't we use our home visiting to the poor as an instrument for working toward systemic change?



Perhaps this action would require changing our current systems and how we conduct home visits.

In conclusion, I remind you that Frederic Ozanam's body lies in a tomb in Paris. His soul rests in heaven with God. But his spirit resides in you. You live and breathe that spirit. You are the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul today. Walk into the homes of the poor gently and humbly, as you have always done, but be their advocate too. Attend to their immediate needs as you have always done, but discern the causes of their poverty and work to bring about a change in the systems that keep the poor poor.

*Jim Paddon, National Chair
Social Justice Committee*

TRAINING COMMITTEE

Our Training Committee is looking forward to being a part of the many presentations, functions and celebrations planned for the 2017 AGA at this special location just outside the city of Quebec. We hope you will enjoy and learn from the workshops we have lined up for you this year. The workshop application has already been published in the Winter edition of Vincenpaul and made available on-line on the National website.

By the time this article is published, the workshop titles and presentation schedules will have been finalized, and details and descriptions of the individual workshops will be available ahead of time and at registration. This year workshops will be held on Thursday only. Already on board are two workshops – one outlining the planning and work involved behind the finalization and delivery of the Lake Cadotte project in northern Alberta – and another, to be offered in both French and English, on national changes to the renewal declaration in the Screening procedure, and re-introduction of the Abuse Prevention training program across our regions.

Our committee is also dedicated to working with the Region presidents and trainers to develop a core list of training needs for all new members, and to set up specific retraining projects across the regions. All members will profit from this regeneration of comprehensive and continuing spiritual and temporal training programs, regionally driven and delivered at the Particular Council levels. You will hear and read more as the planning sessions progress.

Why aim for delivery at the Conference/Particular Council level you may wonder? Because the Conferences and Particular Councils are the cornerstones of our Society. The individual Conferences are the entry points for all new members, and the source of new leaders and presidents for all levels of our Society. We recruit and fund from our local Catholic

organizations and parishes. We train and screen members at the Conference level, and retrain all members as needed at local sessions, with the help and support of our Particular Councils. Conference and Particular Council members are

the deliverers of our local services, programs and special works. Our entire Society gains when we promote healthy, vigorous, active Conferences and Particular Councils, strong and united in the beliefs stated in our Vision and Mission statements, and dedicated to offering personal and individual hands to those seeking our help.

As a final note, we recognize the work and dedication of a long-time member of our committee, Lynn L'Heureux from Calgary. Lynn is stepping back from active participation on the committee after providing us with lots of product material, training sessions and workshop deliveries over the years. Lynn always had a smile, a cheerful outlook, and an inspiring

spiritual message for us at our committee meetings. Thank you Lynn for all these blessings.

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*Mary Grad, National Chair
Training Committee*

SSVP STORES

" Why bother with stores? "

" Why bother with home visits? "

" Why bother with food banks? "

" Why bother with soup kitchens? "

" Why bother with ???? "

These are questions so many ask when it comes to charity. In our experience, thrift stores are one piece of a larger puzzle. At the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, we have thrift stores representing our Society in almost every province across Canada. These stores are simply another important link that our friends in need rely on. Today, we are blessed to have incredible people run our stores; they understand the importance of the mission they accomplish each and every day the front doors are open.

Over the years, the members of the Society have shaped a system that encourages cooperation between communities. When new stores open across Canada, those involved can rely on the help of experienced store managers and staff at other locations. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience to be shared so that all locations can thrive and best serve our communities.

An example of how this is accomplished is the two "Peer 2 Peer" websites we use in Ontario, where all managers across the province converge to ask each other questions, and share their successes. Some of the main benefits are as follows: there is access to a list of all stores and its members in Ontario; there are documents available from Procedural Manuals, Job Descriptions, Human Resource Manuals, government documents, and more; there are also pricelists and sorting videos. This information is accessible at any time. Additionally, we invite and encourage our managers to attend our Ontario Region Council meetings. At these

meetings, we allow time for managers to gather and review an agenda that they have created together.

At these stores, our fellow Vincentians, volunteers, and employees work tirelessly collecting, sorting, hanging, cleaning with our mission statement always in the forefront of their minds. The work is done not only to help our friends in need but to encourage customers who either come in for the first time or who shop with us on a more regular basis. These customers know our stores as the "best kept secret" of our communities. They are our donors and help us to continue helping others.

My wonderful predecessor Phil Bondy referred to our stores as "the face" of our Society. These stores are in fact just that! They make us recognizable to those who know us, and are the introduction to those who do not. I am always surprised to learn, that after 170 years in Canada, many still have not heard of, or know that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul exists. If it wasn't for our stores -- "our face" -- in the communities, many still wouldn't.

A most critical point is that retail stores make it easier for people who need our help, to find us. It allows for us another avenue to reach people even if they don't know we exist. Many Vincentians rely on word of mouth to seek and find the forgotten. With the visibility of stores -- "our face" -- our friends in need know help and caring is available by simply walking through the front doors.

Why bother with stores -- Because we are Vincentians!!

*Sue Mazziotti-Armitage, Store Liaison
Ontario Regional Vice President*



CANADA'S COUNCIL IN ACTION - ONTARIO

BROCKVILLE CONFERENCE LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF CHILDHOOD HUNGER



The St. Francis Xavier, Brockville Conference provides assistance with food vouchers given out during emergency home visits, helps with utilities and rent payments, Christmas assistance, and provides sponsorship for kids to play soccer and hockey, or attend day and overnight summer camps, when their families cannot afford the costs themselves, among other things. One little girl who attended a camp this summer wrote us a lovely thank you note with the following excerpt "I had so much fun. And thanks to you, I experienced what I did at this awesome camp"!

Our newest project is the Weekender Program for Kids. The Weekender Program targets mainly elementary school aged children from JK through to Grade 6, who experience a "food deficit" in their lives. Many of these children benefit from school breakfast and/or lunch programs during the week, but oftentimes their families do not have enough food to meet their nutritional needs on the weekend, meaning the kids go hungry. That's where the Weekender Program for Kids comes in! Starting on Dec 11th, 2015 we began providing 18 children at St. Francis Xavier School in Brockville, who had been identified by the school as having a food deficit, a large baggie full of food items for them to take home each Friday throughout the school year. Food items such as canned pasta, soup mix, granola bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, oatmeal, etc. helped to fill their tummies over the weekends. In May 2016 we added two additional Brockville schools to the program.

The 2015/16 St. Francis Xavier School coordinator wrote us a thank-you with the following excerpts, "They (the kids) would come into my room with big smiles on their faces excitedly anticipating what goodies they were going to get for that weekend", and "we are very blessed to have this amazing

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program in our community". The smiles on the faces of the kids who might otherwise go hungry were like music to our ears!

As with all things new, there have been some challenges over the past year, but nothing insurmountable. We are currently using a storage room at St. Mary CHS in Brockville to store the food, and their Grade 12 Leadership Class students are helping us pack the food packages, alongside the SSVP volunteers. As of the writing of this article, we are very pleased to say we are now in 5 area schools (we added 1 school from Prescott and 1 from Toledo), reaching a total of 64 children. We are also planning to add two more schools early in the New Year!

If you have any questions, or you would like more information on the program, please contact Laura Roobol, Coordinator Weekender Program for Kids, in Brockville, at 613-345-2698.

*Linda Dollard, President
Ontario Regional Council*

HOW TO START YOUR OWN WEEKENDER PROGRAM

Volunteers: You need volunteers to help with the inventory, the groceries, the books, packing and delivering the food packages, etc.

Fundraising: It costs approx. \$170 to sponsor a child for a year (based on providing assistance for 38 weeks of the school year, at a cost of \$4.50 per week).

Storage and Packing Location: You will need a place to store the food, and to pack the food packages. Tables are also a necessity.

School and School Coordinator: Find your partner school and introduce them to the program. The school is responsible for appointing a coordinator, for determining the number of children in need, and for getting consent from the parents.

Food Package Contents: The food in the weekend packages should require little to no preparation, and require no extra ingredients.

Groceries, Inventory and Game Plan: Based on the number of children enrolled and the contents of your weekend packages, groceries will have to be done, inventory kept up to date, packing and deliveries done on a regular schedule.

CANADA'S COUNCILS IN ACTION – WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

CALGARY CENTRAL COUNCIL UPDATE

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is very active in the diocese of Calgary. The Calgary Central Council (CCC) supports over 800 active volunteers in the diocese, which stretches south to the US border and west to Canmore/Banff. The Society has no paid staff.

CCC supports 3 Particular Councils while a Youth Particular awaits approval. CCC also supports the 4 isolated Conferences in south Alberta.

CCC is comprised of 10 members and a Spiritual Director, Fr. Dan Gurnick ofm. Meetings are held downtown, monthly from September through May, at the Calgary Pastoral Centre. We have welcomed Mr. Peter Ouellette of Edmonton, Western Region president, to some of our meetings.

The primary works of the Society are visiting friends in need with food and/or vouchers. Requests for rent and utility bill payments are met where possible.

All activities of the 24 adult Conferences are based in churches within the diocese. The 4 youth Conferences, from 3 Calgary high schools and 1 Canmore junior high, also use church pantries.



L to R: Cathy Howes (St. Mark), Paul Grover (St. Pius X), Pamela Rath (corpus Christi/Ascension), Noreen MacDonald (St. Cecilia), Jim Lawrence (St. Mark), Dino Truant (St. Paul Airdrie), Sallie Friesen (Canadian Martyrs), Lucy Vella (Mary, Mother of the Redeemer), Linda Marshall (St. Joseph).

The rapid growth of Calgary's metropolitan area to 1.4 million residents and a 10% unemployment rate, have stretched the Society's resources. Member training and recruitment are also a challenge.

Support for the Society is good. Our former Bishop Frederick Henry has addressed our gatherings annually for the past 2 years. Charitable donations approximate \$1.5 million yearly, all of which is distributed in good works. The CCC website ssvpcalgary.org has opened another channel for donations and help requests.

Demands for the Society's help in Calgary are divided between the 'have' and the 'have not' areas.

The North Particular Council (NPC) chair is Jim Lawrence, a retired teacher of St. Mark's Conference. The north-east is the highest need area in Calgary. The north is also growing rapidly towards Airdrie. What NPC lacks in resources it makes up for in spirit as seen in its 2016 Spring windup.

The South Particular Council (SPC) chair is John Carey, an engineer from St. Mary's Conference. SPC covers the rapidly growing south area and the high needs downtown area. All Conferences within SPC support segments within the Forest Lawn area.

The West Particular Council (WPC) chair is Kathy Savoia M.D. from St. Bernard/Our Lady of the Assumption Conference. Kathy's service is most welcome as WPC was dormant for a few years. The high demand Bowness area is supported by 2 adjacent healthy Conferences.

Ms. Connie MacKenzie is the key person involved with the Youth Conferences. All are grateful for the countless hours she donates while residing in Canmore.

The Society has 10 apartment units at Alice Bissett Place for which demand far exceeds supply. Friends in need of subsidized housing are referred as units become vacant.

CCC organizes meetings for all Vincentians twice a year, in the Spring and in the Fall. The Spring meeting is normally an annual general meeting. The Fall meeting is organized in September on the Saturday closest to Ozanam Day.

A Vincentian retreat is scheduled annually on the 2nd weekend in January at Mount St. Francis in Cochrane, north of Calgary.

CCC has a good working relationship with other charities. The Calgary Food Bank provides surplus as available. Many social workers refer those in need to our Society as a last resort.

CCC has also twinned with St. David Conference in Our Lady of Health parish, Castle Bruce, Dominica.

By Vincentian Servant



CANADA'S COUNCILS IN ACTION – WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Salvation Army in Winnipeg holds a “Street Café” every Friday evening at the Weetamah location, 324 Logan Avenue, where the poor are served a nice supper in a café setting with full table service. Then following the Cafe there normally is a fun time for those who want to hang around and play a game together. In collaboration with the St. Timothy Conférence, the St. Boniface Conference (La Conférence de St-Catherine Labouré et de la Divine Miséricorde) has been volunteering once a month to wait on tables and have conversations with the folks being served. The youth group from the St-Boniface Cathedral Parish have also participated. We are also discussing with the Salvation Army the possibility of volunteering for the Salvation Army Soup Truck project. The Soup Truck is a field kitchen that goes to various locations in the core area and serves soup, tea and coffee and sometimes bread and crackers to anyone that is hungry. Our mission to see Christ in anyone who suffers, to come together as a family and to have personal contact with the poor is very much aligned with the activities of the Salvation Army and through this rich collaboration with the Salvation Army we are learning much about Christian unity.

CANADA'S COUNCILS IN ACTION – BC & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL

GREETINGS FROM THE VICTORIA PARTICULAR COUNCIL!

Our Christmas seniors program this year ensured that 267 seniors received a \$75 grocery store card. This work was coordinated through the Christmas Giving Network in Victoria and SSVP is only one of a number of local organizations that worked together to reach over 7,000 adults and 4,500 children across the city. The new housing development being built by SVDP for single women and their children, **Rosalie's Village**, is nearing completion and the first families have started to move in. Families are being matched up with interested Conferences, which are extending support through food, clothing, household items and short-term rent subsidy while the mothers work towards self-sufficiency. The building has attracted a lot of attention as it's along one of the main highways into Victoria.



AGA 2017 WORKSHOPS

AGA 2017 WORKSHOPS – IN ENGLISH

Title	Presenter(s)	Description
Project Northern Alberta – Cadotte Lake (First Nations)	Stephen Dufresne, member St Theresa Conference for 6 years, driver/delivery store truck; Maria Lupul, member 14 years, St Theresa’s conference past president, President South Particular Council	Presentation on the concept, design, execution, delivery and followup plans for the Cadotte Lake project. To aid our brothers, sisters and their children in communities in Northern Alberta, who lack many essentials of life – food, clothing, shelter, education. Moving forward, we will establish ongoing personal relationships between the members of pour communities.
The Stresses of Living in Poverty	Corry Wink, a Vincentian for 12 years in Ottawa, member of Ontario Social Justice Committee and member of the National Social Justice Committee, VP Ontario Regional Council	Low wages and inadequate social assistance incomes are structural causes of poverty. Living in deep poverty saps a person of any ability to improve their lives because all their energy is focussed on just surviving from one day to the next. In this workshop participants will assume the identity of someone and their families who lives on an inadequate income, such as a single parent, or someone who lost their job due to illness. The class will be broken into small groups and each group will be given an example of situations faced by these families. The challenge will be – how will they manage on this income? What are the stresses and indignities they face? How can we respond as a community of faith?
Catholic Social Teaching in Action	Gordon Stuart, an activist who found motivation in Catholic Social teaching to reach out to others to make justice happen, member of St Patrick conference and Victoria BC Particular Council, member National Social Justice Committee	To motivate and encourage for Systemic Change. Serving justice is a part of preaching the gospel – Saint Pope John Paul II

AGA 2017 WORKSHOPS – IN ENGLISH

Title	Presenter(s)	Description
Water Rights – Thinking Globally, Acting Locally – Youth in Action	Lil Mulder and members of the Youth Conference of Saint Louise de Marillac, Holy Family Parish, in London, Ontario, Calvin McDonnell, Shelby Mulder, Olivia Gioiosa, Victoria Goldsack	We address global water issues and local water problems. Discover what the third world countries fight for every day – drinkable water. Go on our own journey for water and find out what we can do here to make a difference. Who should own water rights?
What You Need To Know – the Nitty Gritty of Conference Operations	Mary Grad, chair National Training/Formation Committee, member 16 years Our Lady Immaculate conference, Guelph, and Judy Peddle, VP National Board , Atlantic Region Newfoundland and National Training/Formation Committee member	Of interest to presidents, other execs and trainers at Conferences and Particular Councils. What responsibilities and mandated procedures are recommended/required? We will review present procedures for orienting, screening and training new members, with reference to the national Member Role Description, and review the recent changes to the Screening and Abuse Prevention processes. How up to date are your practices and why you may want to review these.
The Joy of Our Vincentian Spirituality	Denise Bondy, Windsor Ontario, chair of ONRC Spirituality Committee, Deacon Gord Jenkinson, Sudbury Ontario and Deacon John Girolami, Hamilton Ontario	This workshop will use the Evangelii Gaudium and other sources to reflect on the Joy of Christ and to share this joy as we strive for holiness in service.
Busy as C(ee)s – Commitment (of volunteers), Coordination, Community, Collaboration, Connections	Kerrie Abbott; chair of the SSVP conference in Carbonear Newfoundland. Kerry is a community consultant who works with a diverse range of community and charitable organizations and businesses to focus on their strategic plans and complete their initiatives	This workshop will outline simple steps every group can take to recruit and increase volunteer commitment and successful community partnerships. It is all about sharing the joy of serving and making connections. This workshop will offer solution focussed insights and potential solutions through sharing successes and failures. The potential volunteer base and community partners are changing. In order to respond to these changing demographics and dynamics and to thrive, organizations have to learn to adapt and proactively respond
The Role of the Spiritual Advisor	Joseph Claude Bedard, Comox BC, chair of the National Spirituality Committee	We will take a fresh look at the role of, and the importance of and need for, spiritual advisors to guide our members in their journeys of spiritual growth. We should aim to have a spiritual advisor to offer reflections at any conference, council and Board meeting at all levels of our Society.
For an up-to-date list, please go to the website: www.ssvp.ca AGA section		

AGA 2017 WORKSHOPS – IN FRENCH

Title	Presenter(s)	Description
The meaning of the word "CONFERENCE" for our basic units in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul	Alain Besner, President of the Montreal Central Council and VP at National Council level. Mr. Besner has a Bachelor's degree in Theology and for many years, he acted a Spiritual Advisor in conferences	What was the intention behind giving the name Conference to our basic units. How is that name related to our services today?
Poverty, personal problem or societal problem?	Madeleine Lafrance, member of the national Training Committee, delegate from the L'Assomption and Notre-Dame-de-Bellerive particular councils in Montréal	Presentation of the program, of the elements and the importance of twinning.
Budget and micro-credit	Y. Gaudet of Solidarité-Partage of the city of Québec	To come...
Poverty and precariousness of health! "Poverty at the source of mental health."	Nancy Petit is a social worker, with 15 years of experience in the fields of intervention and training with community groups; she coordinated the Round Table on poverty and social exclusion in her region	While poverty is one of the key social determinants of mental and physical health, we also observe that mental health problems contribute to hasten and maintain thousands of people in poverty across Quebec.
How to improve our skills! "Know-how-to-be and know-how as intervention techniques."		Volunteer work requires the mastering of technical skills that are clearly identified. Those techniques also require the mastering of social skills that, sometimes confused with our personality, may taint the concept of know-how.
For an up-to-date list, please go to the website: www.ssvp.ca AGA section		

IN MEMORIAM

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

Nicole Savard
Conférence Saint-Sébastien d'Ottawa ON, May 1, 2016

Father Vernon Driscoll
Holy Family Conference, Amherst NS, April 9, 2016

Gary Goddard
Holy Family Conference, London ON, April 17, 2016

Margaret Hebert
Our Lady of Atonement Conference, Windsor ON, April 17, 2016

Anne Bryan
Hamilton Particular Council, ON, June 24, 2016

Clemence Fynbo
Holy Name Conference, ON, June 26, 2016

Brian Smith
North Particular Council ON, July 2016

Fernanda Badke
St. Matthew's Conference, Surrey BC, July 1, 2016

Joseph Chau
St. Joseph the Worker Conference, Richmond BC, August 2016

Robert Douglas Campbell
St. Patrick Conference, Cambridge ON, August 14, 2016

Vangie O'Neil
St. Anthony's Conference, Glace Bay NS

Virginia Friedel
Our Lady of Atonement Conference, Windsor ON, September 4, 2016

Beverly A Crocker
Immaculate Conception Conference, Harbour Grace, NL,
September 8, 2016

Dane Parent
Conférence Jeunesse Windsor ON, September 9, 2016

Jean Guy Brunet
Conférence Saint-Sulpice, Montréal QC, September 14, 2016

Claude Janelle
Conseil central de Gatineau-Hull-Aylmer, QC, September 18, 2016

Ignatius Gray
St. Alphonsus Conference, Windsor ON, September 27, 2016

Caroline Annett
banque alimentaire Divine Mercy, Windsor ON, October 2, 2016

Paul-André Bilodeau
Conférence Jean XXIII, Gatineau QC, October 14, 2016

Glendon Lawrence "Glen" Lecour
St. Peter Conference, Peterborough ON, October 21, 2016

Barbara Garant
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Windsor ON, November 14, 2016





Michael Burke
National President 2001-2007, Halifax NS, November 19, 2016

Robert Martineau
National President 1983-1995, Penetanguishene ON, November 24, 2016

Mary Jane Palmer
Most Precious Blood Conference, November 30, 2016

Mike Matteis
St. Joseph-St. Ursula Conference, Chatham ON, December 8, 2016

Raymond Lurette
Conférence Saint-Sébastien d'Ottawa ON, December 15, 2016

Don Mousseau
St. Timothy Conference, Winnipeg MB, December 21, 2016

Gail French
Simcoe County Particular Council ON, December 29, 2016

Rosemary Mac Millan
St. Ann's Conference, Abbotsford BC, January 1, 2017

Beverley Ann Kelly
St. Peter's Conference, Mount Pearl NL, January 5, 2017

Lionel Côté
Conférence St-Enfant-Jésus, Montréal QC, January 7, 2017

Keith Foster
St. Alphonsus Conference, Peterborough ON, January 19, 2017

Zarko Fatovic
St. Michael Conference, Calgary AB, March 1, 2017

Jack Casey
Christ the King Conference, Courtenay BC, March 11, 2017

Sylviane Auger
Conseil particulier Nativité de Rosemont, Montreal QC, March 28, 2017

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



MISSION

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization 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.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
2463 Innes Road
Ottawa, Ontario, K1B 3K3
Tel. : 613-837-4363 - Toll Free: 1-866-997-7787
Fax: 613-837-7375
Email: national@ssvp.ca
Canada Revenue Agency
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