

ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL EDITION

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President	2
Spirituality	3
In Memoriam	3
Twinning	4
Moncton N.B.	6
AGA 2018	
Program	7
List of workshops	9
Mission & Values / Contacts	12



AGA 2018

Together  
as Family

[www.ssvp.ca/2018-aga](http://www.ssvp.ca/2018-aga)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



### AGA 2018

Dear Vincentians, it is still time to register for our Annual General Assembly that will take place this year from June 20 to 24, in St. John's, N.L. Do not miss that opportunity to meet sisters and brothers from across Canada, participate to very instructive workshops and obtain information on local or National Council projects during the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning plenary sessions. You may also take time to renew yourself spiritually during prayer periods and daily Eucharist celebrations. As well, you will have plenty of time to meet other Vincentians from all over the country and socialize with them at mealtimes or during your free time at the end of the day. I am certain that this downtime will allow you to recharge your batteries, and return home with new knowledge that will help you in your volunteer work within the Society.

### RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

It is increasingly difficult to recruit new members, and we must find the way to continue recruiting if we want to ensure that succession will be available once we are ready to move on to something else. For most conferences, the search for new members is done pretty well in the same way it has always been done, approaching people and asking them to join us, explaining what we do and why we do it, without omitting to tell them that we believe they are entirely capable of doing that particular volunteer work.

But we also know that nowadays, people are more reluctant to engage in an activity that tends to be repetitive. They prefer to get involved in short-term activities and participate when they are available. One only has to watch television to realize that this is what people are looking for.

I know that a few conferences across the country have started modifying their approach. Rather than full-time Vincentians, they seek to recruit auxiliary volunteers, who come and give a hand for one, two or three activities. They then make sure that those people discover the whole spectrum of conference activities, by including them in their mailing list (minutes of meetings, invitations to activities, conference newsletters, etc.). As well, let us not forget to invite them to participate when we organize activities. The more they get involved in the conference, the more likely they will become full-fledged members over time. As I was saying, some conferences in Canada have adopted that approach, or a similar approach, and the results are amazing. However, there is a basic rule: we must keep those new members busy. If they join us to organize an activity, we must make sure to invite them to participate when the activity takes place. I am convinced that if you add that type of approach to your recruitment tools, you will rapidly have more volunteers to share the various tasks undertaken by your conference, which will also give your regular members some breathing room.

Good luck and happy recruiting.

*Jean-Noël Cormier, President  
National Council*

## SPIRITUALITY

## IN MEMORIAM

### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Jesus, open my eyes. Allow me to see you living within the poor people of this world. Let me meet you as I meet them. May I embrace you as I embrace them, learn from you as I learn from them.

Consider this: Do I really pay attention to Jesus' presence in hungry people, in panhandlers, in runaway kids, in homeless people?

It is very important that we do not let the face of poverty colour our judgement of the people we meet in our endeavours. The more we pray for guidance the richer our interaction with people will be.

The Atlantic Regional Council and its members ask the rest of our brothers and sisters in Christ in Canada to pray for us.

May God bless you all,

*Parnell Kelly, National Spirituality Committee  
Atlantic Regional Council*



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

**Anne Sheridan**

St. John/Holy Spirit Conference, Edmonton, Alta., July 2017

**Ed Wieclaw**

St. Martin of Tours Conference, Vegreville, Alta., July 2017

**Irene Brian**

St. Edmund Conference, Edmonton, Alta., October 2017

**Gabrielle Wieclaw**

St. Martin of Tours Conference, Vegreville, Alta., December 2017

**Gerry Hartel**

St. Albert Conference, St. Albert, Alta., December 2017

**Grace Churchill**

Good Shepherd Conference, Edmonton, Alta., January 2018

**Mel Green**

Good Shepherd Conference, Edmonton, Alta., February 2018

**Joseph Silvaggio**

Good Shepherd Conference, Edmonton, Alta., March 2018

**Delia (Della) Auzins**

Precious Blood Conference, Cloverdale (Surrey), B.C., March 22, 2018

**Margaret Lucille Gillis**

Holy Family Conference, Amherst, N.S., April 23, 2018

**Lyola Routliffe**

St. John of the Cross Conference, Mississauga, Ont., May 5, 2018

***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](mailto:editor@ssvp.ca)**

# TWINNING

## PERU

**Twinning** is one aspect of Vincentian work where we reach out to share our resources and deepen our Vincentian spirit of friendship with our brothers and sisters, and in this solidarity of friendship, help the poor.

**Twinning** is a special part of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul work. One of our conferences chooses another conference from a poorer country and provides funding for them to help the poor in their area.

### PRAYER

Twinned conferences pray for each other and for Vincentians around the world. We do this by including prayers at our regular meetings so that they may continue their work to serve the poor. We can also offer a Mass for our intentions on a mutually agreed date.

### CORRESPONDENCE KEEPING

There is a regular exchange of correspondence, by letter, email and through Facebook. That correspondence concerns mutual projects and our respective experiences, confidential local area interests, and photos of both groups.

### FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

The conference that chose the twinning group assists the other conference through financial payments that are made quarterly or whenever they choose, such as yearly. It seems that quarterly is a better way, as the conference can more easily budget to carry out its mission to help brothers and sisters in need. Our twinning conference has used the money to assist their parish in building a structure to be used by the entire parish for Mass, Sunday school, meetings, etc. Therefore, all members of their community have benefitted from our commitment to that conference. Our twinning conference uses the building to distribute food and clothing and for special celebrations at Christmas, Lent, Easter, First Communion and other occasions and holidays celebrated in their country.

### OUR TWINNING CONFERENCE

Santa Luisa De Marillac Pisia, Ica Region, Peru was named after Saint Louise de Marillac, co-founder of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, in 1633. >>>



## TWINNING ...continued



### TWINNING EXPERIENCE

Twinning helps both conferences grow spiritually as Vincentians and gives us the opportunity to assist our brothers and sisters in need wherever we can.. It develops friendships that can spread from one conference to another and it also develops an appreciation for each other's work and helps build Vincentian fraternity, while reaping the rewards and blessings we receive in serving our brothers and sisters.

### OUTLINED BELOW IS SOME OF THE WORK DONE BY OUR TWINNING CONFERENCE IN PERU IN 2017

Our twinning conference consists of 16 members, both men and women. They work diligently on numerous activities to raise funds to help the needy in their community.

**January:** The conference assisted a child in extreme poverty.

**April:** Social work was provided to help a good student in extreme poverty.

**May:** Helped mothers in extreme poverty. In Peru, Mother's Day is the second Sunday in May.

**June:** Helped fathers in extreme poverty. In Peru, Father's Day is the third Sunday in June.

**July:** Helped elders in extreme poverty. In Peru, a day in July is dedicated to the Elders of Peru.

**October:** Helped families. In Peru, this is called Purple Month – the Month of Christ's Crucifixion.

**December:** Helped the children with some social time for Christmas, the Birth of Jesus.

All of these activities are funded by the money the conference collects through fundraising activities and from the funding support our conference provides every quarter. Our twinning conference is very grateful for our support and we are extremely happy that we are able to provide the money so that they are able to do their work for their brothers and sisters in need. The area where they live is Grappa province, where there was an earthquake in 2007. The area is still not back to normal and many families remain without homes. A lot of people still live in unprotected areas; our conference understands that these people live in terrible conditions.

In closing, we do what our mission statement requires: I was hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, a stranger, a prisoner, and you cared.

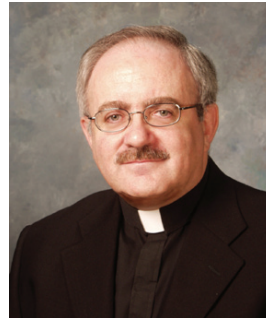
*Patricia Mount, Twinning Contact  
St. Joseph's Conference, Halifax, N.S.*

## “TOGETHER, CARING FOR THE POOR”

For the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP), promoting social justice is a priority. During a meeting with members of the Mother Teresa Conference, Msgr. Valéry Vienneau, Archbishop of Moncton, expressed the desire to promote the Church’s social doctrine. To respond to that wish and to highlight the importance of collaboration between charities, members of the Mother Teresa Conference organized a half-day session in Moncton on March 24, 2018.

The session’s theme underscored the crucial role of cooperation in creating a fairer society. Robert Lebel’s beautiful song, “All together, we could change the world one day to the next, heart by heart, through actions from the heart” (translation), kicked off the session. With a guitar accompaniment, the event’s 65 participants sang that inspiring song in unison.

The first part of the session was an overview of key elements of social doctrine by Msgr. Vienneau. He referred to the Leo XIII Encyclical, *Rerum novarum* (“Of the new things”), which, in 1891, signaled the first principle of this doctrine by affirming the importance of paying workers fair wages, in respect of their dignity. Based on the tenet that every human is created in the image of God, the Church’s entire social doctrine gives each person inalienable dignity. The second principle refers to the common good, which gives the State the responsibility of protecting all its citizens. For example, the taxation system is designed to redistribute resources so that everyone benefits from the basic necessities of life. The third principle of the Church’s social doctrine is that of subsidiarity, i.e. that the responsibility of decisions must be borne by those most directly affected by them. In regards to children’s education, for example, the parents’ will must take precedence over State decisions. The fourth principle is that of solidarity. Each person must be aware of their community of interest, which entails a moral obligation to help his or her fellow man. Finally, the last principle is that of the



**Msgr. Valéry Vienneau**  
**Archbishop of Moncton**

preferential protection of the poor. Jesus surrounded himself with the poor and the Church invites everyone to grow closer to the poor.

During the second part of the session, five humanitarian organizations briefly summarized their work to end poverty: the Peter McKee Community Food Centre, the YWCA Centre for Women and Children, the House of Nazareth shelter, the Department of Social Development of New Brunswick and the YMCA’s Reconnect program. After those presentations, representatives from nine other organizations motivated by Christian values were given an opportunity to speak: the Salvation Army, Second Chance Workshop/Enviro Plus, the Knights of Columbus, the Ste-Thérèse Parish Kindness Committee, the St-Augustine Parish Clothing Depot, Karing Kitchen, the St-Augustine Parish Ray of Hope Needy Kitchen, the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The information gathered from those 14 organizations was both interesting and illuminating. Those present discovered how many services are offered to the poor in the Moncton area. Much is done by those motivated by their faith, which indicates a high degree of solidarity with the poor. It also shows how the Church’s social justice principles, as listed by Msgr. Vienneau, are being applied. A shared meal closed out the session, in a festive atmosphere, full of sharing and networking.

*Aurèa Cormier, Secretary*  
*Mother Teresa Conference, Moncton, N.B.*

**Thanks to the collaboration of Rogers TV, we had the chance to produce a one-hour documentary that describes very well the achievements of the Mother Teresa Conference. To access it, click on this link:**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=un3VW3\\_dGbc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un3VW3_dGbc)

## AGA 2018 - PROGRAM

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

- 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Registration & hospitality
- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm National Council committee meetings
- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm National Council Board meeting
- 9:00 am - 3:30 pm Tour with Lunch and “Mug-up”**
- 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm Lunch on your own
- 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Supper (pre-ordered) (*Gushue Dining Hall*)
- 7:15 pm Regional meetings
- Evening on your own to mingle



### THURSDAY, JUNE 21

- 7:00 am - 8:30 am Breakfast (*Gushue Dining Hall*)
- 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Registration, hospitality with National sales table
- 9:00 am - 10:15 am Workshops (*Arts Bldg. via Bruneau Pedway*)
- 10:15 am - 10:45 am Coffee break (*Altrium Bruneau Center*)
- 10:45 am - 12:00 pm Workshops (*Arts Bldg. via Bruneau Pedway*)
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch (*Gushue Dining Hall*)
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Youth lunch out**
- 1:15 pm - 2:30 pm Workshops (*Arts Bldg. via Bruneau Pedway*)
- 1:15 pm - 2:30 pm NL workshop (Kerri & Newfoundland youth)**
- 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm Coffee break (*Altrium Bruneau Center*)
- 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm Workshops (*Arts Bldg. via Bruneau Pedway*)
- 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm Social Justice workshop (Lil & Ontario youth)**
- 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Rosary, memorial service Mass (*Bruneau Centre*)
- 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Supper & welcoming ceremony (*Gushue Dining Hall*)  
(*cash bar*)

**THE ACTIVITIES IN RED IN THE PROGRAM ARE FOR THE YOUTH**

**YOUTH DO NOT PAY FOR LUNCH ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY**

**Rocks & Youth card in the welcome bags - brought by SSVP YOUTH**

**Paint tables set up for rocks throughout entire AGA - arranged by SSVP YOUTH IN NEWFOUNDLAND**

**Set up SSVP Youth Rock Journey on Facebook #SSVPROCKS**



*“Together as Family”*



## AGA 2018 - PROGRAM...continued

### FRIDAY, JUNE 22

- 7:00 am - 8:30 am Breakfast (*Gushue Dining Hall*)
- 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Registration, hospitality, National sales table
- 8:45 am - 9:30 am Parade of banners – Official opening
- 9:30 am - 10:15 am Keynote speaker – Sr. Elizabeth Davis RSM
- 10:15 am - 10:30 am Coffee break (*Altrium Bruneau Center*)
- 10:15 am - 11:15 am Leave for soup kitchen (snack in the bus)  
55 people**
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm National President's round table
- 11:30 am - 12:45 pm Soup kitchen - "The Kettles on Community Meal"**
- 11:45 am - 1:30 pm Spiritual Advisors luncheon (JCR upstairs @ Gushue Dining Hall)**
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch (*Gushue Dining Hall*)
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Hall/Gardens/Food bank Youth centre programs talk**
- 1:15 pm - 3:45 pm Plenary (*Bruneau Lecture Theatre*)
- 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm Rule revision – Penny Craig
- 1:45 pm - 2:30 pm Seeds of Hope – Linda Alexander and Judith Nunn
- 2:30 pm - 2:45 pm Coffee break (*Altrium Bruneau Center*)
- 2:45 pm - 3:30 pm Together as Family - In the Home and in the Kitchen  
Jerry Rex, Peter & Elaine Noseworthy, and Leo Fagan
- 3:30 pm - 3:45 pm Presentation from the candidates at the Presidency of the National Council
- 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Rosary and mass (*Bruneau Lecture Theatre*)
- 6:00 pm Supper, kitchen party, entertainment  
(*Gushue Dining Hall*) (cash bar)
- 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm Youth get together**

### SATURDAY, JUNE 23

- 7:00 am - 8:30 am Breakfast (*Gushue Dining Hall*)
- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Registration, hospitality, National sales table
- 8:45 am - 9:15 am Spiritual reflection on the theme  
Msgr. Peter Schonenbach
- 9:15 am - 11:30 am Plenary (*Bruneau Lecture Theatre*)
- 9:15 am - 10:00 am Supportive Housing Project - Gordon Holden & Jim Dinn, St. Teresa's Conference, St. John's
- 10:00 am - 10:30 am Day of the Poor Communication Plan  
Jean-Noël Cormier & Richard Pommainville
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am Coffee break (*Altrium Bruneau Center*)
- 10:45 am - 11:30 am North of 60 - Father Daniel
- 11:30 am - 12:00 pm 2019 AGA host presentation
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch (*Gushue Dining Hall*)
- 1:15 pm - 2:30 pm Workshops (*Arts Bldg. via Bruneau Pedway*)
- 1:15 pm - 3:30 pm Statutory meeting voting members
- 1:15 pm - 3:00 pm "Signing Into the Next Generation"  
Sophia Mutuc - youth workshop**
- 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm Free time
- 4:15 pm Buses leave for the basilica
- 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm Mass followed by SSVF commissioning ceremony
- 6:30 pm Buses return to campus
- 7:00 pm Closing banquet and entertainment  
(*Gushue Dining Hall*) (cash bar)

### SUNDAY, JUNE 24

- 7:00 am - 9:00 am Breakfast (*Gushue Dining Hall*)



"Together as Family"





## AGA 2018 - WORKSHOPS

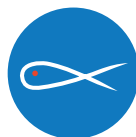
Title	Presenter(s)	Description
<b>THURSDAY WORKSHOPS</b>		
<b>Advocating For UBI ENGLISH</b>	Stephen Dufresne and Maria Lupul Edmonton, Alta.	UBI – Universal Basic Income as a solution to poverty issues.
<b>Protect Northern Alberta - Cadotte Lake - Phase 2 ENGLISH</b>	Stephen Dufresne and Maria Lupul Edmonton, Alta.	Follow-up to last year’s presentation on Cadotte Lake – Phase 1.
<b>Special Works, Corpora- tion and Governance ENGLISH</b>	Richard Pommainville Ottawa, Ont.	Incorporation and associated governance requirements.
<b>Special Works, Corpora- tion and Governance FRENCH</b>	Richard Pommainville Ottawa, Ont.	Incorporation and associated governance requirements.
<b>We (the Laity) are the Body of Christ ENGLISH</b>	Joe Rigby Saanichton, B.C.	Vincentian spirituality, described in terms of a Priest, a Prophet and a King.
<b>Community Gardens - Helping Families Grow ENGLISH</b>	Lynn-Marie Gallant-Whipp Peterborough, Ont.	A community garden can offer a nurturing environment where families come together to grow nutritious food and socialize. Help families grow by planting the seeds of a community garden in your area.
<b>Community Gardens - Helping Families Grow FRENCH</b>	Lynn-Marie Gallant-Whipp Peterborough, Ont.	A community garden can offer a nurturing environment where families come together to grow nutritious food and socialize. Help families grow by planting the seeds of a community garden in your area.
<b>Adaptive Cycle – Resili- ence of an Organization ENGLISH</b>	Denise Ouellette Montréal, Que.	A tool to help reflect on how resilient and capable is a conference to adaptation.
<b>Adaptive Cycle – Resili- ence of an Organization FRENCH</b>	Denise Ouellette Montréal, Que.	A tool to help reflect on how resilient and capable is a conference to adaptation.
<b>For an up-to-date list, please go to the website: <a href="http://www.ssvp.ca">www.ssvp.ca</a> AGA section.</b>		

## AGA 2018 - WORKSHOPS

Title	Presenter(s)	Description
<b>Your Home – My Home – Other Locations</b> ENGLISH	Phil Bondy and Denise Bondy London, Ont.	Are home visits relevant anymore. Meeting our friends in need in their own environment.
<b>Twinning</b> ENGLISH	Clermont Fortin Ottawa, Ont.	To explain the twinning program requirements and the needs, and countries assigned to Canada (this is an updated version of the original requirements).
<b>Treasurers Duties</b> ENGLISH	David O'Connor Halifax, N.S.	The Treasurer administers the revenues and expenditures as well as ensures that the rules of governance are followed so that the Conference works within the limits of its resources and remains solvent. This workshop is to assist the Treasurer in understanding the various financial regulatory, legal, organizational and operational aspects of Conference life.
<b>Treasurers Duties</b> FRENCH	Solange Fortin Ottawa, Ont.	The Treasurer administers the revenues and expenditures as well as ensures that the rules of governance are followed so that the Conference works within the limits of its resources and remains solvent. This workshop is to assist the Treasurer in understanding the various financial regulatory, legal, organizational and operational aspects of Conference life.
<b>Conference Self Assessment Tool, Using Five Guiding Principles</b> ENGLISH	Omar Ellis Toronto, Ont.	The Five Guiding Principles (5GPs) - Conference Self Assessment Tool: Home Visits; Equity of Service; Continuous Service; Renewal; Sharing.
<b>Family life in the low-wage sector</b> ENGLISH	Corry Wink Ottawa, Ont.	This workshop will explore the quality of life that families can have if they are employed in the low wage sector of the economy. People who live on this income do not suffer the most severe poverty, but they face challenges that we as Vincentians can help to address. By examining their income and probable expenses, we will be able to identify where our social systems could do better. Vincentians have a role in advocating for people who are doing their best to provide for their families but continue to struggle due to systemic barriers that fail to help them out of poverty.
<b>For an up-to-date list, please go to the website: <a href="http://www.ssvp.ca">www.ssvp.ca</a> AGA section.</b>		

## AGA 2018 - WORKSHOPS

Title	Presenter(s)	Description
<b>Busy as C(ee)s: Commitment (Volunteer); Co-ordination; Community/ Collaboration; Connection</b> <b>ENGLISH</b>	Kerri Abbott Carbonear, N.L.	<p>This session is for groups who are looking to engage and recruit new volunteers. It is also for groups who are wondering what successful steps to take or are struggling to recruit. If you are a group that is attempting to engage more community support and partnerships, this session is for you! It is all about sharing the joy of serving and connection.</p> <p>This session will outline simple steps every group can take to increase volunteer commitment and successful community partnerships. Solution focused session will offer insight and potential solutions through sharing the successes and failures of other community organizations. The type and needs of both our potential volunteer base and community partners are changing. In order to respond to these changing dynamics and to thrive, organizations have to adapt and pro-actively respond. Many organizations over-think the response or are in fear of change, this presentation will help simplify this and shared learned experiences.</p>
<b>Youth Workshop</b> <b>NL workshop</b> <b>ENGLISH</b>	Kerri & Newfoundland youth	
<b>Youth Workshop</b> <b>Social Justice Workshop</b> <b>From Charity to Social Justice</b> <b>ENGLISH</b>	Lillian Mulder London, Ont.	Charity provides direct services like food, clothing, shelter. Justice promotes social change in institutions or political structures. Gain a deeper understanding on the changes happening within our society and join us in talking about how we can evolve and grow with our service to others.
<b>SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS</b>		
<b>Social Justice in Action</b> <b>ENGLISH</b>	Corry Wink Ottawa, Ont.	A two-part session - how to organize and start a social justice initiative in your conference/council.
<b>Youth Workshop</b> <b>Signing In to the Next Generation</b> <b>ENGLISH</b>	Sophia Mutuc, Ontario Youth Rep.	I was able to spend a week in Salamanca Spain for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> annual SSVP Youth International Meeting and I have learned a ton of things about how other countries involve their young members. In this workshop I will be discussing how youth conferences in other countries are formed and hopefully you will be able to implement these new ideas into forming youth conferences in your respective provinces. Come talk with me about how they recruit youth, the programs they run, how we can connect with them, how we can use social media, etc. This is a really casual chat about what we can do to grow our community and I will also try to tackle all other questions you may have about youth programs. Let's work together to sign into the next generation.
<b>For an up-to-date list, please go to the website: <a href="http://www.ssvp.ca">www.ssvp.ca</a> AGA section.</b>		



## 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.

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