



CLICKABLE!

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Information
and material:
www.ssvp.ca/world-day-poor-tools-members

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



RUTH 1:16 NRSV

Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”

Ruth conscientiously chooses to leave her people and their gods to join the tribe of Judah, the chosen people, to follow the one God.

My question is, “Why am I a Catholic Christian?”

If my answer is “because my family or the society that I grew up in was Catholic” then I am constrained by the limitations set on me by my upbringing. I realize that not all Vincentians are Catholics, let alone Christians, but speaking from my own experiences does not limit the question as it can be applied to any faith or life issue.

My story begins with my birth on April 29, 1949 in **Ponteix, SK**: a largely French Catholic community. I grew up working in a mixed farming operation, grain and cattle, with my parents; 8 brothers; 4 sisters, and grandparents. Notre Dame D’Auvergne Church was the centre of the Catholic and social life of the community. There were two priests, a pastor and his assistant, and a large convent with many sisters and novices. The sisters taught school in the public school system and served as nurses in the hospital.

Upon leaving high school and home I decided that I was not going back to church until God called me back. I was not going to go just because the priests, sisters, my family and innumerable relatives said I had to go.

I moved several times across the country working at various jobs, including a short stint in the military. My mother called on a regular basis to see how I was doing. She would always ask, “are you going to church?” My stock answer was, “I have not found the church yet in this community.”

Finally I arrived in Prince George BC. Here I met the love of my life, Eva. The good Lord knew exactly what He was doing when He brought her into my life. I have felt nothing but joy ever since. We soon decided to cohabitate, and at that time I did not know if she was Christian, let alone Catholic. Before the year was up we decided to get married. We conveniently returned briefly to the faith of our parents, as we were married in the Catholic church. We still did not fully practice the faith thereafter. The birth of a child and her subsequent baptism did not augment that situation.

I am a carpenter, and construction sites can be hazardous and dangerous places to work. On July 4th, 1974 at approximately 8:45 AM on a rainy Thursday morning, God finally called. I fell off the roof through a skylight 4.5 m down onto the concrete sidewalk. I spent 6 weeks in hospital mending, three fractured vertebrae and leg, with 18 months off work in recovery. Being in construction, I could curse with the best of them; I lost all that vulgar vocabulary during my stay in hospital. I have not habitually cursed since then.

During my recovery we started going to Sunday mass on an irregular basis. One day my friend, Jim Fowlie, invited me to attend a Life in the Spirit Seminar being held at Prince George College. That first night I knew this was meant for both us. I went home and asked Eva to return with me or I wouldn’t go back. This would not work if I alone attended. This was the beginning of our full return to the Catholic Church. Eva and I spent the next 40 plus years faithfully nurturing and growing in the faith. Eva died 10 days short of our 44th anniversary, on the 29th of February, in 2016.

Volunteering in the parish soon led to feeding the poor on the streets of Prince George and the formation of a conference in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The rest is history.

1. Have I accepted Jesus into my life as my personal Savior?
2. If not why not?
3. Have I accepted the Catholic faith as my own?
4. If not why not?
5. Do I believe all that the Catholic Church teaches?
6. If not why not?
7. Am I familiar with and follow the Social Doctrines of the Catholic Church?
8. If not why not?

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ... continued

ROMANS 10: 13-15A NRSV

¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?

¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?

EVANGELIZATION PRAYER

Author/Source Unknown

O my Jesus, I thank you for coming into my life through baptism. Help me to grow in my love for you, to know you more personally.

Lord Jesus, the world stands in need of your salvation. Give me the courage to profess my faith and to share with others what I have come to know about you.

Jesus, I love you, I thank you, I hope in you. Set me free from all that binds me and let me shine with your light.

Amen

*Joseph Claude Bédard, President
National Council*



**Claude Bédard's installation
as president at the 2019
National AGA in Windsor**



**Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie OMI
installation as spiritual advisor at
the 2019 National AGA in Windsor**

The new Executive Committee:

Claude Bédard, president; Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie OMI, spiritual advisor; Kerry Abbot, VP; Kevin Gallays, VP; Dave O'Connor, treasurer; Mary Baskin, secretary.

Not on photo: Pierre Morissette, VP and Sophia Mutuc, youth rep.

Also on photo: Jean-Noël Cormier, North of 60 committee; Jim Paddon, Social justice committee; Clermont Forin, Twinning committee, Ellen Schryburt and Penny Craig, AGA committee.

AGA 2019

COMING TOGETHER AS FAMILY

With wonderful weather, the Windsor Essex Central Council and the Ontario Regional Council were so pleased to welcome our brothers and sisters from across Canada and our International Council General President, Renato Lima de Oliveira, from Brazil.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming London Diocese Bishop Fabbro, CSB, who celebrated our Saturday evening Mass, and our new National Council Spiritual Advisor, Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, OMI. Also joining us for the Mass and evening banquet were our brothers and sisters from the Detroit, USA Council. They included Therese Frye, President of USA Detroit Council, Bill Brazier, Vice President of the Mideast Region, and his wife Barb, Sr. Noreen Ellison, Assistant Spiritual Advisor, Archdiocesan Council Detroit, and Roger Playwin, former Executive Director of the USA Council, and his wife Sue. It was a wonderful international event for our AGA.

Our thanks to the Ontario Regional Council for providing the NCC water bottles to each participant. This was a meaningful and practical way for the SSVP to promote environmental awareness, not just talk about it.

We are especially grateful to the members of our stores staff who, during the entertainment part of our evening dinners, played a role as models in the Fashion Show that took place on one of the evenings. Our thanks to Rosanne, our General Manager, and Lynda, our Administrative Assistant, for putting this idea together!

Entertainment was enjoyed each evening in various forms. Windsor Light Cabaret singers, DJ Music during dinner time, and Mid-Life band all provided the music and fun for the Saturday evening banquet.

The university staff indicated that our family of Vincentians were so easy to work with, and complimented SSVP on their friendly attitude. They thanked us for our input regarding the BED SHEETS. They had never had that type of feedback. We were told at our wrap-up meeting that they are now in the process of purchasing FITTED SHEETS!

Program Highlights. Our keynote presenter, Deacon Paul Bezaire, did a great service to our members by highlighting the extent of what 'family' really means to a Vincentian and how we should be treating our family members.

A different approach to the Spiritual Advisors' Luncheon was taken by including youth and making the event 'experience-based'. We moved from the traditional on-site in one room with a lunch to a bus ride to various communities that showcased some of the interfaith initiatives in Windsor-Essex.

Our youth activity was a day-long experience, indeed! The youth gathered for an event opportunity designed specifically for them, entitled SSVP – Searching the

Streets for Very Valuable, Vulnerable People. They assisted in packing and handing out Blessing Bags. These are bags that contain small, travel-size personal items, such as shampoo, that were collected at two of our high schools. They then visited our Divine Mercy Special Works Conference situated in the core of the city.

Then it was off to the Ten Friends Diner for a simple lunch and presentations from two speakers. The diner is a special project operated by the local mental health group. The first speaker was a gentleman employed at the restaurant and he spoke regarding mental health and how this work at the diner helps him cope. The second speaker was a former inmate on parole for life. This parolee shared a very powerful story about his life and the impact that SSVP has had on helping him to reintegrate and be a contributing member in the community.

Later in the day, a dinner cruise along the Detroit River and the St. Clair River highlighted the arrival of many participants. We never hesitate to showcase our Windsor Detroit waterway.

This year, for the first time, Richard Pommainville, our National Council Executive Director, planned a coming together of the staff of other SSVP Stores/Special Works managers from across the country. A wonderful opportunity to share ideas, and generally get to know each other. We hope this becomes an annual event.

I really want to thank our Windsor Essex Central Council staff and countless numbers of volunteers for their wonderful support. A great vote of thanks to all our donors, to my wonderful AGA Planning Team, Bernie Amlin, Deanna Leveque, Marianne Angus, Pam Meunier, Ib Fynbo, Dean Egeto, Sharron Bombardier, Migs Perrault, Dave Leslie and Joe Vaillencourt. Thank you, also, to Denise Bondy, ONRC Spiritual Advisor, Lillian Mulder and Sophia Matuk for their able assistance with the youth component. **Well done, everyone!**

*Penny Craig, AGA Coordinator,
Windsor Essex Central Council*



AGA 2019 Steering Committee, Windsor Essex Central Council

AGA 2019

Moments of reflection and prayers



Meetings, learning and motivation



Moments of exchange and fraternity



AGA 2019 - YOUTH EXPERIENCE



Hello, my name is Konrad Kundzier from London, Ontario's SSVP Youth Conference. This year, I had the chance to go to Windsor for the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul's national Annual General Assembly, June 20 to 23.

On the Thursday of the event, the youth group got to help out in three main places. The first place that we visited was the Divine Mercy Food Bank. At the food bank, I was able to sort some of the donations for the less fortunate. The second place we went to was the Ten Friends Diner, a non-profit organization for people who suffer from mental illness. There, we listened to an inspirational speech from a person named Peter who had a very bad childhood and ended up in jail. His experience was really interesting to listen to and especially how he got himself back into society and his life back on track. The final place we went to was called Street Help. We were given a tour of this homeless centre and at the end of the tour, we donated many boxes of hygiene products and we helped pass them out. The Thursday of the conference was my favourite day of the whole AGA meeting because it was the main "hands-on day" where we were able to serve in the community.

On Friday, we went to Leamington to visit a processing plant called, "The Gleaners". We had a tour of how they take fresh vegetables, dehydrate them and then package the product into bags to ship out to places for the homeless. They receive tons of fresh produce by donation from the local area. After that, we went to a church and heard about the many ways they raise funds/donations for the poor.

On Saturday, we attended the Plenary and listened to the keynote speaker. Of special interest was listening to the presentation made by the former president Jean-Noël Cormier about the history of SSVP. The talk by the President of the international SSVP Renato Lima was most welcoming. We also supported our own London SSVP Youth Conference and went to listen to their presentation about Fast Fashion by Olivia Gioiosa and Victoria Goldsack, which was probably my favorite presentation in general as it was very applicable to my age group.

The whole national Annual General Assembly meeting was amazing; everyone at the AGA was very kind to each other and everyone made an effort to be welcoming, including the SSVP President of Ontario and the Archbishop of Edmonton who both joined us for dinner at our table on different nights. All of the events were very well organized and presented. The whole conference was well structured and, from a youth's perspective, the meeting was educational, lots of fun and a great first experience.

I am grateful for this opportunity and want to thank those who organized this chance for me to attend.

*Konrad Kundzier
St. Louise de Marillac Youth Conference, London*

TWINNING PROJECT WITH NICARAGUA

Since its foundation in 1833, the Society's fundamental mission has been to help people and families in need. It is the exercise of charity. For several years, the Society has been resolutely committed to identifying the causes of poverty and taking action to correct the factors that breed and perpetuate poverty. It is going beyond charity and acting for social justice.

Twinning projects supported by donor country conferences or councils to support recipient country councils are ways to help poor communities to take charge and improve their lives. Twinning projects are identified as development or welfare. They aim to encourage community empowerment, address the host country's development needs, provide resources for conferences and councils in need, and encourage accountability and good management.

Projects are proposed by the conferences/councils to their national council for approval. Several twinning projects have been completed in recent years in Central and South American countries, assigned to Canada through funding by Canadian councils. Amounts required by a conference or council that are greater than \$750 per quarter must be submitted in the form of a Project Application. Following is an example of a project:

DRINKING WATER PROJECT, LA CEIBITA, NICARAGUA

The National Council of Canada has been working with a non-profit organization in Alberta for a few years following a reference by former Regional President Peter Ouellette. This Catholic organization's mission is to carry out community projects in Nicaragua. It has an on-site team to plan and execute the projects. The National Council of Canada works with the National Council of Nicaragua to forward the funds and monitor projects. Three projects have been completed so far and one is now at the financing stage.

The project 'La Ceibita' involved the installation of a drinking water extraction and distribution system for 44 families (234 people) for the hamlet of La Ceibita in Nicaragua. The inhabitants of this farming community had to walk between 300 and 1,000 metres (1 km) a day to access a drinking water well. The project began in the summer of 2018 and was completed in July 2019. The Ontario Regional Council funded the project, amounting to \$9,600. People from the community were involved at all stages of the project; a committee made up of village leaders now manages the facilities.

This project has allowed these farmers to improve their living conditions in a sustainable way. The project has allowed access to quality water in their places of residence, the eradication of intestinal diseases caused by contaminated water, the facilitation of domestic tasks (washing clothes, personal hygiene, cooking, etc.), and better access to water for vegetable gardens and livestock. It has also created stronger community links between the participating families.

*Clermont Fortin, Chair
National Twinning Committee*



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Recently, you may have heard of the Capital One data breach that left the personal information of 6 million Canadians and 100 million Americans compromised. In June, Desjardins announced that the personal data of 2.7 million people had been leaked.

All information collected and used by those acting on behalf of the Society, regardless of how it is recorded, including knowledge, as hard copy or on digital media, has a risk of data breach.

Accordingly, consideration is required related to information of the Society's clients, members, volunteers, employees, and donors, as well as other Society operational information such as financial, minutes, reports, and statistics.

Leveraging the Canadian Government's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) principles, parallel provincial statutes, and Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requirements, the following information management principles are being adopted for implementation by all levels of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul within Canada.

PRINCIPLE 1 - ACCOUNTABILITY

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, at all levels, is responsible for personal and operational information under its control. Each president is accountable and shall appoint someone to be responsible for compliance with these information principles and procedures

PRINCIPLE 2 - IDENTIFYING PURPOSES

The purpose for which the personal information is being collected must be identified by the organization before or at the time of collection. Notify the individual, either orally or in writing, of these purposes.

PRINCIPLE 3 – CONSENT

The knowledge and consent of the individual are required for the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information, except where inappropriate (see PIPEDA Paragraphs 7(3) (d.1) and 7(3) (d.2))* Where there is an intention to disclose personal information to third parties or any other secondary purpose that Households would not reasonably be aware, then written consent shall be obtained.

PRINCIPLE 4 - LIMITING COLLECTION

The collection of personal information must be limited to that which is needed by the Society and is necessary for the identified purposes. Information must be collected by fair and lawful means. In general, sensitive personal information should not be collected (please refer to Questions & Answers section for more explicit description around collection of Sensitive Personal Information (SPI)).

PRINCIPLE 5 - LIMITING USE, DISCLOSURE, AND RETENTION

Unless the individual consents otherwise or it is required by law, personal information can only be used or disclosed for the purposes for which it was collected.

Personal information must only be kept as long as required to serve those purposes.

Sensitive information always needs privacy protection during conversations or sharing by taking into consideration the who, what, where, when, why and how.

PRINCIPLE 6 - ACCURACY

Personal and operational information must be as accurate, complete, and up-to-date as possible in order to properly satisfy the intent for which it is to be used.

PRINCIPLE 7 - SAFEGUARDS

Personal and operational information must be protected by appropriate security relative to the sensitivity of the information; it must cover:

- Knowledge (e.g. information learned);
- Hard Copy (e.g. paper);
- Digital (e.g. Excel spreadsheet, online storage).

PRINCIPLE 8 - OPENNESS

SSVP, at all levels, must be prepared to provide information about its policies and practices relating to the management of personal information. This approach is in line with policies and practices as reflected on the National web site, www.ssvp.ca

PRINCIPLE 9 - INDIVIDUAL ACCESS

Upon request, an individual must be informed of the existence, use, and disclosure of their personal information and be given access to that information. An individual shall be able to challenge the accuracy and completeness of the information and have it amended as appropriate. This principle is aligned to Principle #3 "Consent".

PRINCIPLE 10 - CHALLENGING COMPLIANCE

An individual shall be able to challenge an organization's compliance with the above principles. The challenge should be addressed to the person accountable for the Society's information compliance.

One of the workshops in Windsor was on information for conferences and councils; a comprehensive set of Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) was included to assist answering some of the questions members may have around the above principles. Please refer to the set of workshops available from the National web site www.ssvp.ca/2019-aga.

Ken McClintock - St. Ignatius Conference, Bedford, NS

Mary Dunnigan - Edmonton AB

Robert Graham - St. Therese Conference, Courtice ON

IN MEMORIAM

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT WE ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING DEATHS:

Father A D Campbell

St. Stephen Conference, Florence Cap Breton, Nova Scotia
February 21, 2019

Anabela Wardell

St. Leo the Great Conference, Brooklyn, Whitby, Ontario
February 26, 2019

Father Joe Quinn

Windsor-Essex Central Council, Windsor, Ontario
March 28, 2019

Joe McCabe

Mary Immaculate Conference, London, Ontario
April 1, 2019

Shirley Traboulee

Immaculate Conception, Glace Bay, Cap Breton, Nova Scotia
May 6, 2019

Margaret Elizabeth (Betty) McDougall

St. Thomas Aquinas and Canadian Martyrs (STACM) Conference,
Halifax, Nova Scotia
May 14, 2019

Heather deArmond Macdonald Osler

St. Anne's Conference, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia
June 7, 2019

Jean Jenkins

Brant Particular Council (Thrift Store), Ontario
June 7, 2019

Fernand Coulombe, diacre

Duburger Conference, Québec, Québec
June 30, 2019

Bill (William Francis) Murphy

St. John Fisher Conference, Brampton, Ontario
July 19, 2019

Peter McDonald

St. Basil Conference, Brant, Ontario
July 19, 2019

Sheila Marie Nolan

SSVP Reverse Mines, Cap Breton, Nova Scotia
August 1, 2019

Patricia Day

St. Joseph Conference, Bras d'Or, Cap Breton, Nova Scotia

Marjorie Power

Kay Logue

Mary Murphy

St. Joseph Conference, North Sydney, Cap Breton, Nova Scotia

*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

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