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ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL EDITION

Photo taken from article "On the Street - Family Event"

<http://ssvp.on.ca/en/news.php?item=72>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Vincentians, greetings,

September marks the return to a more organised and regulated life. Things always take a bit more time to happen in the summertime. However, as you will see in the following lines, we have taken the opportunity to set up work committees who have called upon your participation (or will soon do) in the coming months. As a matter of fact, we will contact you to find out what you think with regard to the revision of the Rule and of our system of governance. Around the middle of September, you will receive the annual survey on our strategic plan.

REVISION OF THE RULE :

Indeed! Our Rule is already 10 years old and we must update it, as the international Rule has been modified at the Council General International meeting in Rome, in 2016. We thought that we would take the opportunity to revise our own Rule. A process was put in place to allow you to share with us your recommendations regarding changes to the Rule. You will find the appropriate form and the steps to follow in our website, at <http://www.ssvp.ca/webforms/revision-current-canadian-statutes>. All recommendations received will be reviewed by a committee chaired by Penny Craig, and we made sure that all regions are represented on the committee. If you have not yet done so, we ask that you send us your recommendations as soon as possible, since our objective is to have received all recommendations at the national office by mid-November, to be reviewed and discussed by the committee members. They will then be presented to the National Council Board members for discussion and approval and finally, they will be presented to the National Council voting members, to be discussed and approved at the June 2018 AGA. As you can see, we do not have much leeway if we want to meet the set deadline.

**YOUR OPINION
COUNTS AND THAT
IS WHY WE ASK YOU
TO TAKE THE TIME
TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE DISCUSSIONS
AND SURVEY, FOR
THE GOOD OF THE
SOCIETY OF SAINT
VINCENT DE PAUL.**

REVISION OF OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE, WHO DOES WHAT

In the coming weeks, we will launch a consultation in order to know what you think and determine at what level various decisions should be made. At this point in time, we are still developing the process that will best allow you to share your views, and we will inform you on the decisions to be made following the process. Presently, decision levels are not clearly established and occasionally, it is difficult to know at what level a decision should be made. As an example, is member training a national, regional or local responsibility? The same question arises for a plethora of other topics, and we must find a way to circumscribe as precisely as possible the fields of expertise of each level, to avoid duplication and improve our communication.

ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY

Around mid-September, we will send you our strategic plan survey. This survey allows us to evaluate where we are with regard to the objectives set at the time we developed the work plan. The plan covers a five-year period and it is therefore important to evaluate our progress regularly. The electronic survey will take only a few minutes of your time. We ask all council and conference Presidents to complete the survey and return the completed form to us, thus allowing us to compare the new data with the data collected in 2016. We will then be able to evaluate the work that still needs to be done to meet the set objectives. Do not forget that those objectives reflect our vision of the Society at the end of the five years. In other words, where we wish the Society to be at the end of the present strategic plan.



To conclude, I would like to remind you that you may join us at: editor@ssvp.ca, education@ssvp.ca or national@ssvp.ca, for any question or comment that you want to share with us. Be assured that we will reply to you as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Jean-Noël Cormier
National President

SPIRITUALITY

THE JOY OF OUR VINCENTIAN FAMILY

Our Vincentian family is a source of great joy for those who would explore it! We exist as a family to do as Jesus said, to do the will of our heavenly Father. Our mission is to serve Christ in His poor, with love, respect, justice and joy. One of the ways we do this is by coming together as family.

As a Vincentian I am first of all a member of my home Conference. That is where the work of the Society begins. It is where I make home visits, attend Conference meetings, share Eucharist and come together regularly as family. I do this in the same way that Blessed Frederic did it in the beginning and that today every Vincentian, even our President General does it, each a part of his/her own Vincentian family.

It occurs to me that the Conference is my immediate Vincentian Family. It is where I live every day and where I do my job, serving Christ in His poor. Some of us are blessed with great families, models of virtue, led by the likes of Ward and June Cleaver (from the old Leave it to Beaver TV show). Others belong to families that struggle and are broken. No matter what the condition of our Conference right now, each one of us belongs, first of all, to our home Conference, our immediate family. When that Conference family starts to grow up it expands to our Particular and Central Councils, in the same way that our personal family expands as the children grow up and add more members through marriage and by producing kids of their own.

The Regional Family is the next level of extended family. Made up of Conferences from all across our home region, it's like the grandparent, aunt and uncle level of the Vincentian Family. It's the family that is there for us when we are in need, and which also needs our support and our input to stay healthy and connected.

The National and International SSVF is the true extended family. It is made up of people we know well and others not so well, but we do know them all by the family name – Vincentian. We look to them as models, as inspiration and for the history that helps us learn who we are and who we can become. We may not be able to connect in person with this level of our Vincentian Family very often, but when we can, it is truly memorable.

According to International Rule, the primary purpose of the Society is to increase the holiness of its members. Each and every level of our Vincentian Family plays a part in this purpose. Coming together as family is perhaps the easiest way to bring the joy of Christ into our hearts and to live this joy as part of our Vincentian vocation.

**JESUS SAID, 'WHO IS MY MOTHER?
WHO ARE MY BROTHERS?'**
**THEN, EXTENDING HIS HAND
TOWARD HIS DISCIPLES HE SAID,
"THERE ARE MY MOTHER AND
MY BROTHERS.**
**WHOEVER DOES THE WILL OF MY
HEAVENLY FATHER IS BROTHER AND
SISTER AND MOTHER TO ME."**
MATT. 12:48-50

"You don't get to choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them"

(Desmond Tutu)

Together as Family,

*Denise Bondy, Spiritual Advisor
Ontario Regional Council*

AGA 2017 - QUEBEC QC



Paris, June 30th 2017

Subject: Thanks

Jean-Noel,

With great joy, I thank you for the warm welcome that my spouse and I had during our stay in Quebec to attend the 2017 Annual General Assembly of the National Council of Canada.

I appreciated all the activities, not only the Vincentian ones but also the social events, at which time we were able to interact more and more with the Vincentians of Canada. We realize that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is really in good hands, and with excellent leadership and future.

I have no words to thank the warm welcome that we had and the friendly treatment during our presence in Quebec.

I thank God for the harmony between the Council General International and the National Council of Canada in the various projects and common initiatives for the most deprived persons on the planet.

Thank you very much!

Serving in hope.

Brother Renato Lima De Oliveira
16th President General



Photos from Josée Lemieux. To see all the photos of the AGA, please go to: <http://www.ssvp.ca/aga-2017-1>

TWINNING

The Jesus-Marie-Joseph Conference in Ottawa, Ontario, is twinned with the Juvenil Nuestra Senora Conference in Santa Ana, El Salvador.

Santa Ana is the second largest city in the country, and is located 64 km to the north-east of the capital, San Salvador. People in the area make a living mostly from agriculture, coffee processing and tourism. Civil war (1980-1992) has led to the emigration of thousands of Salvadorians. The emigration continues due to poverty and a climate of violence.



The Jesus-Marie-Joseph Conference has been involved with that same twinning partner for several years. We approve a yearly amount for our twin, and that amount is divided into equal parts sent four times during the year. The conference president, Sister Judith Guerra, is always grateful for the amount received, and she keeps us informed about the activities they undertake using the funds that they receive, and also by sending pictures.

They have several projects, one of them called “Dining Room Assistance”, consisting in providing breakfast to approximately 80 people, one Saturday every month. A second project consists in delivering food hampers to poor families. They also hope to undertake a new project “Handicraft – my First Job”, which would provide handicraft training to young women who must leave home and find work. That training could ensure revenue that would improve their living conditions.

The will to act is there, and assistance from volunteers and the Sisters of Charity is present. All they need is financial assistance to continue their mission of helping the poor, as was Frederic Ozanam’s wish.

In September, when the Jesus-Marie-Joseph Conference resumes its activities, we hope to continue being present for our brothers and sisters in Santa Ana.

*Charmaine Savage
Twinning Rep
Jesus-Marie-Joseph Conference
Orleans ON*



NORTH OF 60

SUMMER 2017

Whoop! Whoop! It has been a spring filled with growth, hard work, and abounding love for Ontario Region's North of 60 Project. Many of us came together to gather food and provide support through donations, to our sisters and brothers in Rankin Inlet, Naujaat, Gjoa Haven, Whale Cove and Toloyoak. These communities were eagerly adopted by area Councils / Conferences.

Ottawa embraced Rankin Inlet gathering for 40 families and filling two 20-foot sea containers.

St. Catharines embraced Naujaat gathering for 25 families and filling one sea container.

Windsor-Essex embraced Gjoa Haven gathering for 25 families also filling a 20-foot container.

Toloyoak and Whale Cove both have 22-25 families that were abundantly helped through donations passed up to ONRC.

Whale Cove received a boost from St. Raphael's in Burlington which gathered specially requested items for the community.

In July, I attended a meeting with Bishop Krotki for all of Nunavut, and our Priests and Sisters from Nunavut. I shared the story and pictures of all your efforts and joy in service. Thank You is not large enough to express their jubilation and excitement waiting to receive your gift of food. I spoke of our continued presence in the communities and extended our presence to a new community called Kugaaruk (Pelley



THIS PICTURE IS ONE OF FOUR SEA CONTAINERS THAT HEADED TO THE PORT IN MONTREAL THIS SUMMER. THIS IS THE SEA CONTAINER FOR NAUJAAT, PACKED BY ST. CATHARINES CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Bay). They are in hope of being adopted, as is Toloyoak. Father Bo in Kagaaruk had given up all hope of ever receiving help for his people because they had endured five years of continued disappointment. I told him those days are gone and welcome to our Vincentian family.

Unfortunately, there are more communities that need our help – and as our Vincentian members reach out offering to adopt or support, we will be able to include them during future summer crossings.

Father Daniel of Naujaat has made a request for me to visit in October. He needs help to set up their hamper program, further progress their SSVP Conference, and may I quote, “introduce his parish members to me.” As Father Daniel said to me – he wants them to know that we are everyday people who really want to help.... We are not a corporation, we have not been rallied to help, we help because we care. (I am already packed)

2017 North of 60 shipments involved: sea container purchases, flat beds for delivery and pick up to our Council/Conference areas, and most amazing to watch, cranes to lift a ‘stuffed’ sea container for shipment. All this became doable from the generous support of pass ups to ONRC’s North of 60 project. Thank you my sisters and brothers for ALL that you do to make this happen.

*Peggy Leroux, Vice President, North of 60
Ontario Regional Council*

SEEDS OF HOPE

MORE SEEDS OF HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER EDUCATIONAL FUTURE

Ontario started in 2012 to make families aware of the Canada Learning Bond, a \$2,000 government grant available to low income families to start a Registered Education Savings Plan for their children. All SSVP families are eligible but they need our active help. More than 100 children have been helped within the Halton Particular Council Conferences to open RESP accounts to gain access to saving for post-secondary education.

Oakville helped Cindi a mom of four children, youngest age nine. She works night shifts at Tim Horton's and was so pleased she opened RESPs; she wished she had done it sooner. Her youngest and she have started the conversation about what she wants to do when she is older.

Amanda had already opened the RESP accounts when she came to SSVP. She sees education as the priority for her four children under ten. She is determined that they will have a better future with hard work and help. She has been putting away a small amount as she is able. The systemic change RESP project started in 2012, and was able to contribute extra funds into each account further attracting the CESG of 40% for all funds deposited.

Maryanna has three children and struggled to make time to get to the bank to open the RESPs for the Canada Learning Bond. With a friendly volunteer nudging her to make the appointment, Maryanna accomplished this for her kids.

We are expanding our conversations to make the families aware that starting in September, tuition will be free for students of low income families, furthering reducing the financial barriers. You can access more information at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-ready-osap-2017-18>.

We also encourage the families to meet with high school guidance counsellors who put on workshops on how to gain access to available bursaries and scholarships. Meeting with the financial aid officers at the post secondary education institutes is also key, as they are the experts in creating access to available funds.

Seeds of Hope is now a National project. Check out: <http://www.ssvp.ca/seeds-hope> for more information on how you can help and get involved.

Please join us in being the link from awareness to access into hope for a brighter educational future.

Please seek out the volunteer toolkit at http://www.ssvp.on.ca/socjus/RESP_project.php or email seedsofhope@ssvp.ca and I will be more than pleased to share our journey with you.

*Linda Alexander
Seeds of Hope Project Coordinator
Ontario Regional Council*

**YOU CAN CREATE
HOPE TO BREAK THE
CYCLE OF POVERTY!**



YOUTH

SLEEP OUT FOR POVERTY

Once again in May, a group of young people slept outside in solidarity with those on the street. The evening was beautiful and perfect and there was a lot to share. We had 3 guest speakers come and join us through the event, two on Friday evening and one on Saturday morning.

Our first speaker, Pam Harbottle came from the Hyde Park Lions group. Annually, we have been volunteering with them at their Santa Claus Parade acting as marshals, collecting

canned goods or handing out hot beverages and treats. We felt it a necessity to know more about this group and their amazing works in the community.

To many of us, it was super surprising the amount of community works they do from aiding those who have vision impairment to pediatric oncology. They are also very involved in the environment and have lots of opportunities for volunteering. What a great way to start our evening!

Our second speaker was from our own parish, Kyle Geraghty, the music coordinator of our Praise and Worship band at Holy Family Parish. We listened to his spiritual journey and were moved by his stories and music. Sitting by a camp fire listening to him sing was a great experience and we were all grateful for his gift of music and storytelling.

AFTER OUR SPEAKERS, WE SETTLED IN FOR THE NIGHT OF SLEEP WITH THE TEMPERATURE ABOUT 6-8 DEGREES CELSIUS, NOT SO BAD COMPARED TO ZERO AT OUR SECOND SLEEP OUT EXPERIENCE.

We awoke at 7:30 am to a gorgeous morning ready to start our poverty awareness activities and community service, but first our last speaker of the event. Leroy Hibbert from LUSO arrived at 8:30 am to share his personal experience with poverty on the street and what he did when approached by someone homeless. He has a heart of gold and the compassion of one who truly cares for his brother or sister's well being.

The youth present felt a huge connection with Leroy and the actions he displayed. We were then given a beautiful gift of music again as his wife, Helen Hibbert, sang a song she wrote called "Fly". Her voice filled us all with sweetness and emotion, just a treat to be in the same room with someone God has gifted was a privilege.



YOUTH

We thank each of our wonderful speakers this year for what they shared! We were lucky to have heard their stories.

Our event then led the youth downtown with Blessing Bags to distribute along their journey to the Saint Vincent de Paul Store on York Street where we volunteered at a BBQ to feed the hungry. We set up an area for handing out some of our hygiene products left over from our "On the Street" project held earlier in the month. Again the supplies were well received by those living on the street or on fixed low incomes. Seeing the joy and love in the eyes and faces of those receiving was the greatest gift the youth received when handing out the much needed items.

All in all, the 20 hour event was a great success for those who joined in this year. Each one brought home different emotions, and ideas to do more in the community. God bless those who answered God's call and said YES to attending the 4th Annual Sleep out for Poverty!

Lillian Mulder & Sophia Mutuc
Youth Representatives
Ontario Regional Council



SSVP STORES

STORES AND MANAGERS

One of our greatest assets, and one we sometimes take for granted, is our Managers. Whether they are paid or volunteer, these wonderful people are usually the first contact with “our friends in need”. We place in them the task of not only running our stores but also, living our mission statement. They represent who we are and also, what we can do to help them. Yet these Vincentians are often very much on their own working in isolation, as the stores are spread out around the province. At Ontario Regional, we are doing everything we can to support and help them be successful.

That is why we have set up their own section devoted to store managers on our Website. On this site, there is a section that lists all the locations of our stores. It has a section that lists all the members of the site. A manager looking for another specific manager has their email and store phone number available quickly. There is a section devoted to documents that may be needed including government documents. There are training videos done by managers for employees and volunteers, Human Resource information, and hiring practices is just a small amount of information available. Information is provided by managers and then uploaded to the site. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Also incorporated is a peer 2 peer area where a manager can ask a question and receive answers from other managers across the province. This is a very useful tool, especially if you are a new manager and have no one else to ask these questions to.

We have also set up Regional managers meetings. The province is divided into 3 Regions each set up with 1 manager who is the Regional Coordinator. They set up their meetings and arrange the agendas for these meetings. The agenda items are set by the managers as the Regional Coordinator sends out a request for agenda items. Face to face meetings

are invaluable. It is about sharing knowledge and different ideas. They are forming bonds between one another.

We have always included all managers at our Ontario Regional Meetings. They are an integral part of our Vincentian family. This also allows us to have a manager meeting of all 3 Regions. Again the agenda is set by them including items they would like to share or information they are looking for. How things are being done in different regions. How do we increase volunteers, sales and donations? Ideas that are working and not working are shared. They learn from and receive support from each other.

These wonderful Vincentians are in place because of their skill set, knowledge and ability. Just as some Vincentians are meant to do Home Visits, others work in food banks, soup kitchens, hang or sort clothing, etc. No matter, what or where God’s plan is for us in this Society we are all “one” striving to make the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul the best it can be for our “friends”.

*Sue Mazziotti-Armitage
Vice President, Stores Liaison
Ontario Regional Council*



PRESIDENCY

WHO WANTS MY PRESIDENT'S JOB...

The 5 most feared words Vincentians hear every 3 years from their Conference Presidents and every 4 years from their Particular Council Presidents are.....Who wants my President's job!

When these words are spoken by a President, Vincentians communication skills transform from vibrant dialogue to dead silence. Non verbal responses take over... you know what they are...

For decades, Succession planning for Presidents has been a challenge for many and it appears to be increasingly more difficult. So why do we have this fear to step up and take on this very important role? The answers can be found in several of our ineffective past Recruitment and Selection processes. Ask yourself, how have Presidents been selected in the past? What happens when a Vincentian is pressured to accept a President's role and they do not have the necessary leadership skills to lead the Council/Conference? Are we being fair to that Vincentian, are we supporting them appropriately with the right training resources and mentors or do we let them struggle to survive? Equally important, if a President does not have the necessary Leadership Skills to lead, will the Council/Conference prosper or decline?

The Ontario Region has launched a **Selection Process** to assist Councils/Conferences to **IDENTIFY** and **INVITE** potential Vincentians for the role of President. The process is **Simple** and **Effective!** The Process has 4 steps:



Step 1 - A Facilitator will guide Council/Conference members to participate in an open and honest dialogue to talk about the role of the President. This is accomplished through a series of 5 questions. These questions are:

- What do they view as the **role** of a President?
- What **challenges** do they perceive associated with the President's position?
- What **rewards** do they see benefiting a person in the President's position?
- What role within the Society is available for **Past Presidents**?
- What **skills** are necessary to be a leader/President?

NOTE: the Facilitator **cannot** be the current President, it is encouraged to use a 3rd party Facilitator

PRESIDENCY

Step 2 - Based on the information shared in Step 1, members will be asked to Identify and Invite potential Candidates using a Nomination Form and also provide at least 6 skills/reasons why they are nominating this candidate.

Additionally, Members will submit a Document (My Role to Support a New President) whereby they **MUST** identify an executive/chair/special works role they will **COMMIT** to take responsibility for as a **sign of Support to a New President**.

Step 3 - The current President and Spiritual Adviser will meet with All Nominees **individually** at a date after the Facilitator's group meeting held in Steps 1 & 2. The Nomination forms will be reviewed with each Nominee detailing the skills identified by their peers. Additionally, the My Role to Support a New President documents that detail potential candidates for Executive/Chair/Special Works are discussed with each Nominee to identify who would be the best persons to complement/support a New President.

The Nominee is encouraged **NOT** to make a decision at this time, but to **Discern** and **Pray** before submitting a response.

Step 4 - Orientation & Mentorship. Once a Nominee has accepted and been officially elected, they will **NOT** assume the President **position** until a thorough **Orientation and Mentoring Process** is complete (there is no time table for this process). An Orientation Checklist has been developed to ensure that **ALL the Primary** areas of responsibility for the **New President AND the New Executive** are covered. Additionally, this Orientation Checklist will ensure National/Provincial Standards are fully covered on all responsibilities. (Example – New Member Screening is not just a Police Check)

Summary - The strength of our Society to fulfill its mission of service is greatly impacted by the effectiveness of our Leadership. This important role must be viewed with different optics than what past leadership selection processes have been practiced. We **MUST** implement better processes to **Identify, Invite, Orientate, Mentor and Support new leaders**. This process is one method you may wish to consider....**it is every Vincentian's responsibility to ensure that the next generation of leaders are the best possible candidates.**

*Phil Bondy, Vice President, Council/Conference Rejuvenation & Special Works
Ontario Regional Council*

IN MEMORIAM

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

David Leibel
St. Matthew's Conference, Edmonton AB, October 8, 2016

Sister Jean Smith
St. Peter's Conference, Peterborough ON, March 19, 2017

Denise Orton
Peterborough Particular Council ON, March 21, 2017

Earl Laframboise
Sacred Heart Conference, LaSalle (Windsor-Essex) ON, April 22, 2017

Ronald Frederick Williams
St. Augustine's Conference, Pincher Creek AB, June 30, 2017


Anne Sheridan
St. John's/Holy Spirit Conference, Edmonton AB, July 18, 2017

Thomas O'Flynn
BC & Yukon Regional Council, July 19, 2017

Ed Wieclaw
St. Martin of Tours Conference, Vegreville AB, July 21, 2017

Nick Volk
Ontario Regional Council, August 12, 2017

Gilles Dulude
Repentigny's Conference QC, August 30, 2017

A close-up photograph of a hand lighting a candle in a memorial service. The hand is positioned in the lower-left foreground, with a ring visible on the ring finger. The candle is lit, and its flame is bright. In the background, a large number of other candles are lit, arranged in rows on a dark surface, creating a warm, glowing atmosphere. The background is dark, making the light from the candles stand out.

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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