

# Vincenpaul-Canada

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA

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“UNITY IN DIVERSITY”



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## Mission

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organisation 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



*Photograph of the Saint Vincent de Paul stained glass window at the Saint Joseph Cathedral, Macon, Georgia, USA*

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# Penny's Piece

## DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER VINCENTIANS

*Once again, the AGA has come and gone, as well as, the summer has gone so very quickly. We certainly will remember another awesome AGA in Victoria. Mary and her team are to be commended.*

We will be moving forward with a greater focus on both Public Relations/Media, as well as, Systemic Change and its activities.

With the advent and launch of our National Society of Saint Vincent de Paul week we will need to enhance how we project ourselves to our members and to the public. This year will take on a low key approach with celebrations occurring at the Conference and Regional levels. Next year we hope to make a National Council effort. This will require structuring a National Team with the expertise to use to project the Society, its membership and its work. At the time of this writing we have one member from the Atlantic Region. We are hoping for one member from each region to form this national committee. Please scout around for possible candidates from your region. If you know someone who would enjoy this type of work, please contact your regional president who will then contact me.

Systemic Change as an activity has evolved from what we all know as the Advocacy Committee's work. We still have advocacy work, but we must also focus on the wider picture of what the root causes are that lead to the need for advocacy. We have regional teams in place that will keep each region in tune with what is happening and what possible activities that will lead to change. Each region has their own particular and unique issues and concerns, but there are issues of national concern that we can all work together to address. Further, there are issues that we can also address internationally, e.g. with the USA Council who have issues much the same as our concerns, for example the environmental issues that face us each day.

We will have more to report about Systemic Change after the October meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. I will attend along with regional representatives.

Of course, I must mention that next year will be the year of election of a new national president. We will be presenting the candidates at the AGA in Halifax. Please

consider whether you may have a vocation in the ministry of administration.

In closing, I wish each of you health, happiness and much joy in your continued vocation of serving Christ in the poor.

**Penny Craig, President**



*Installation of Msgr. Peter Schonenbach, Spiritual Advisor, National Council of Canada.*

To inaugurate the **year of the Spiritual Advisor**, President Penny Craig, was pleased to install the National Council Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Peter Schonenbach at the June 2011 National Council of Canada Annual General Assembly held in Victoria BC. This was the first Spiritual Advisor installation and presentation of a Spiritual Advisors' pin in what is meant to be an ongoing National Council celebration and recognition of all Spiritual Advisors at all levels of the Society. The installation ceremony and pin are available from the National Council office in Ottawa.

# AGA 2012

Halifax Particular Council extends an invitation to all Vincentians.  
Please join us next year for our National AGA.

Date June 6-10, 2012  
Place St. Mary's University  
Halifax NS.

More particulars as to costs, accommodations, workshops etc., will be sent to you by way of our magazine this winter and on National's website: [www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca).

To find out what is happening in the Halifax area please go to: [www.destinationhalifax.ca](http://www.destinationhalifax.ca)

Hope to see you next year to share in Vincentian fellowship.

Yours in Christ

The AGA 2012 Committee



# Election of a National President



Our National President Penny Craig's term of office will end in June 2013, at the General Annual Assembly in Ottawa. It is now time to plan for her replacement.

Electoral procedures will be implemented in January 2012 by the National Election Committee which will be chaired by our National Past President, Michael Burke. Each aggregated conference and each instituted council shall receive an envelope containing the required documents for the election.

Please take a close look in your vincentien entourage to see if there is anyone who could assume the Presidency of the National Council

The candidates must be active Vincentians, at whatever level of our Society.

The President of the National Council is elected for a term of six years. This term is not renewable. A person may serve as National President only once during his or her lifetime. The National President is the first servant leader of the Society in Canada. He or she represents the National Council at the international level.

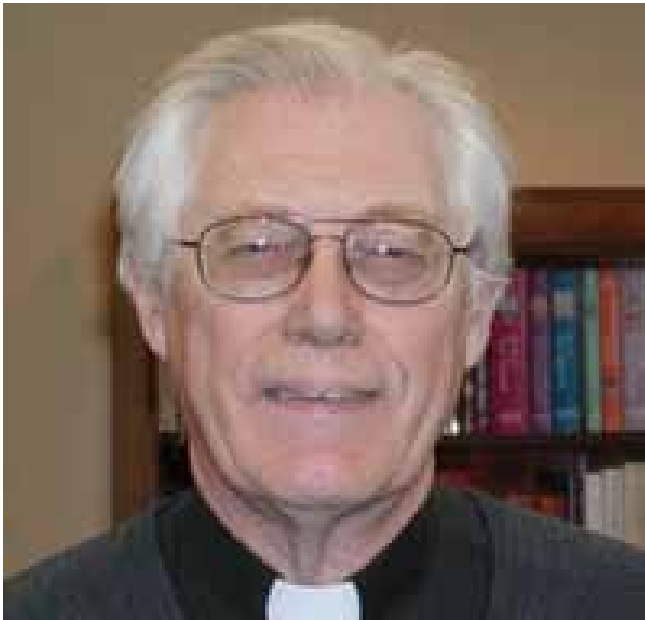
For more information on the Authority and Responsibilities of the National President, please consult the Rule, article 2.6.7.

We ask our founder, the Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and our patron saint, Vincent de Paul, to enlighten us in the task we are facing, so that we find the best candidates called upon to lead our National Council.



# Spirituality

## ANOTHER DIMENSION OF CHURCH



It is winter time and you go to the supermarket looking for blueberries. As expected they are available and were probably air-lifted from South America. However the process, without doubt, involved merchant shipping. Indeed 90% of merchandise still comes on ocean going vessels and these require crews. There are close to 1.5 million seafarers coming from 100 countries. Close to half are Roman Catholic.

In order to look after their spiritual needs the Church provides a service that many have never heard about: The Apostleship of the Sea ([www.aos-canada.org](http://www.aos-canada.org)). In Canada all major Port Cities have a port chaplain appointed by the local Bishop who along with volunteers looks after spiritual and material needs of the crews of visiting ships. Many ports have a Stella Maris Mission building equipped with computers and telephones to enable seafarers to communicate with family

and friends. Statistics for the Port of Halifax for the current year up to May:

- seafarers visiting the mission: 2750
- ship visitation by the chaplain and volunteers: 260

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops provides a coordinating service for the port chaplains. Archbishop Robert Harris of Halifax reports to the other Bishops about the Apostleship of the Sea. The National Director is Rev Deacon Albert Dacanay who may be reached at [adacanay@aos-canada.org](mailto:adacanay@aos-canada.org).

I have mentioned this service to remind us Vincentians that we are not alone in the Church's huge caritative endeavours. Together our work is to make the Living Jesus Christ visible to those whose lives are beset by obstacles and difficulties.

The following is from a recent message from Archbishop Antonio Maria Veglio, President of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People:

*Seafarers are a category of workers whom we do not know too much about except when they make headlines because of some tragedy at sea.*

Those words could also be applied to the poor. For many people they do not exist. Not only must the poor be our priority, but we must learn to speak for them. Our charity must not be divorced from social justice.

**Msgr. Peter Schonenbach**  
**Spiritual Advisor**



## THE MOON IS NOT THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE A HIDDEN FACE...

The Moon Is Not the Only One to Have a Hidden Face...

As does the moon, we all have a hidden face. Not everyone can enter. However, that is precisely where the Lord wishes to enter.

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” (Revelation 3:20). (...) when you pray, go into your room, close the door (...) your Father (...) sees what is done in secret.” (Mt VI, 5-6).

“These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” (Isaiah 29:13).

Those texts from the Scriptures imply that within ourselves, there is a place that we fully control, and to which we could give access to anyone, should we wish to do so. It is precisely where the Lord wishes to enter.

St John of the Cross and St Teresa of Avila call that place the “interior castle”, while the Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, after intimate experiences with the Lord, calls it the “heaven of my soul”, and Helder Carnara talks about the “most intimate place of the intimate self”.

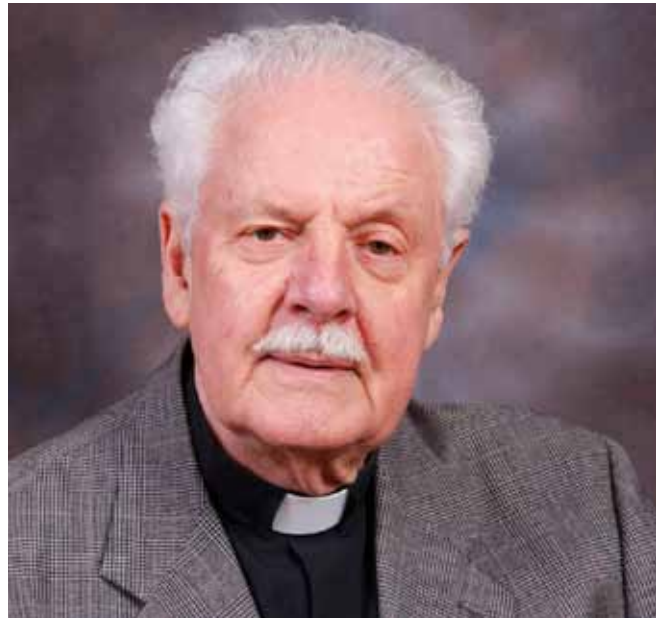
That is where the Lord wants to go.

Becoming aware of the Lord at the door of the “most intimate place of our intimate self”.

Mother Teresa, Helder Camara, wrote a letter to the Lord every day, in order to enter a concentrated state and thus be in the presence of God. For that matter, those who were there at the “Cursillo” meeting remember well receiving that invitation.

Thinking of remembering that we are only instruments in the hands of God.

“It is one thing to be occupied, and another to be preoccupied. Being preoccupied is to be occupied in an off-beat way, to be restless, to lose patience. St Ignatius of Loyola gives us a very wise rule: to try everything as if things depended on us, and on us only, and afterwards,



close our eyes and trust in God entirely, as if the solution depended exclusively on him.” (Helder Camara)

God accomplishes marvels in silence.

The Blessed John Paul II liked to say, and say again, that prayer is a conversation with God. In any conversation, there is always a time for listening... For listening to be perfect, it is therefore essential to place ourselves in an atmosphere of silence.

“If we wish to really pray, we must learn to listen first, because God talks in the silence of the heart... Praying souls are silent souls.”

**André Drouin, priest  
Spirituality Committee**

*Mgr. André Drouin, former Spiritual Advisor to the National Council of Canada, currently Spiritual Advisor to the Ottawa Central Council was released from hospital on September 1st following an operation to remove a pancreatic mass. He is doing well and is convalescing at a residence with full nursing services. He should remain there for approximately one month and a full recovery is expected.*

*Prayers are requested for his prompt recovery.*

# National Past President

## MEMOIRS OF A FORMER PRESIDENT

Following the death of Marie-Claire Gingras-Letarte, last May 12, we publish an article circulated in "Terres d'espérance" in June 2000.

*Mrs. Marie-Claire Gingras-Letarte is a true Vincentian. She recounts her career dedicated to serving others.*

When in 1956, with a few companions, we were putting together a women's Vincentian Conference in the city of Sainte-Foy, I did not envision the length and the twists and turns that I would meet along the way I was to travel.

A few years later, I was invited to become a member of the Quebec Women's Central Council and the Women's Superior Council. Then, I was invited to be President of the Notre-Dame Particular Council.

In the early '60s, I was asked to visit women's Conferences across the Quebec province. Getting to meet so many committed sisters was a rich experience that reinforced considerably the connection I already felt with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. I understood at that time that, once caught up in the spiral, I would never want to, nor could, leave the Society.

In 1966, I accepted to be president of the Québec Women's Central Council and of the Women's Superior Council. I was always surrounded and supported by sisters who were as enlightened and understanding as they were tied to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

In 1994, I went to Rome to attend an audience granted by Pope Paul VI to National Council representatives. The Superior Council President, unable to go, had asked me to replace her.

In January 1966, at the request of the Council General, I participated as commission reporter to the Pan-American assembly in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Then, after his election as President of the Council General International, in 1969, Henri Jacob asked me to take charge of the international vice-presidency for the three Americas.

My trust and devotion towards Frederic started growing through lengthy traveling across the Americas. Indeed, my companion and I have noted several times the importance and gentleness of his protection.

The Ozanam Centre project, as we know it today, was born after a last "pilgrimage" in the United States, the Canadian West and Ontario. After visiting several "St. Vincent de Paul Stores", it appeared possible to organize a similar work in Québec.

That endeavour appeared hazardous and difficult. Only an absolute trust in the Providence could make us take such a risk. The 25 year success shows now that the Lord really wanted that work to take place.

In 1975, Canada was the first country, after Italy, to have a mixed National Council of which I became Vice-President, representing the still numerous women's groups.

In 1977, after much pondering, I accepted to be a candidate to the presidency of the National Council. No woman in the Society internationally had dared doing such a thing, and I felt so small.

However, knowing by experience that when He asks us, as a service, to carry out duties that we have not asked for, the Lord has to compensate for our weaknesses and impairments, and I did not refuse. I admit that I hoped not to be elected. During my entire term, I received from brothers, as well as sisters, ongoing manifestations of sympathy, brotherhood, and indulgence. There was no distinction between English-speaking and French-speaking; collaboration was excellent. Unity was strong.





# National Past President

What I consider as my “Vincentian legacy” is the incorporation of the National Council. The legal recognition of the Council had been planned for several years, but never initiated.

At the end of my term as National Council President, I wanted to help the missionary work called “Collaboration Santé Internationale” (CSI). For more than five years, I dedicated approximately two days a week to that organization.

In September 1983, I started attending, at Villa Manrèse, the St. Ignatius Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life, in the form of bi-monthly meetings over a two-year period.

At the end of those exercises, I was called by a “reflection” companion, Board member at the Arche L'Étoile. He had proposed my name as a candidate to fill an empty seat.

That is how I became acquainted with that work founded by Jean Vanier to cater to intellectually challenged people. That was in 1985. In the fall of 1987, I took on the Board Chair until 1992.

The Arche was for me a very precious gift. The contact, the attachment of people welcomed in the homes, the friendship among assistants and leaders, community and prayer meetings, and retreats helped me “clean up my scale values” and grow spiritually.

One step at a time, my life took place without my knowing where I was headed from one place to another. During a retreat of Alliance, at the Arche, I understood that this was the last stage and that the Arche was the place where I would stay until the end. When I would cease being active, prayer would become my service.

When I look back, when I go over my life once again, I am always amazed to observe how things are linked to one another.

I have always felt called by the parable of the talents. I am convinced that I must dedicate to the service of the Lord, through the others, everything that He gave me.

The Lord has taken my hand. He kept me away from what I thought was my way to lead me on unpredictable paths.

Participation to charity work will have helped find the Lord, following Him step by step, guided by the love He lavishes on me and of which I want to be a reflection, even a small one.

**Marie-Claire Gingras-Letarte,  
National Past President (1977 to 1983)**



*Five National Presidents (2008):  
Ellen Schryburt, Michael Burke, Penny Craig  
Robert Martineau, Marie-Claire Gingras-Letarte*

# Canada's Councils in Action

## ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Systemic Change – Getting to the Root of the Problem

**Charity** is the act of helping people meet their present needs by supplying food, clothing, accommodation and immediate needs. **Systemic Change** on the other hand is making fundamental change in the system so that people can help themselves. It's making changes that address root causes of barriers for those in need. Some examples are correcting long term problems in communities, advocating for just social policies, or developing local community enterprises. As Vincentians it is important that we address both. We need to take care of the immediate need but we need to look further and try to uncover the fundamental cause or "Root Cause" of the problem.

For the past two years ORC has had a "Special Projects Committee" which was formed to address requests for financial help for special projects. These requests came from Conferences that had a financial request basically for seed money to launch a project to provide new help for those in need. These projects varied in size and scope; however the ones that made fundamental change or removed barriers on an on going basis provided the best social impact. As we became more aware of the advantages of making fundamental change it became apparent that focusing on Systemic Change Projects was a better objective for the committee.

The "Systemic Change Projects Committee" now hopes to provide more than just the basic funding screening function. We hope to be able to collaborate with the requesting Councils or Conferences by addressing their fundamental project questions of:

**Why** the change is required (Social impact)

**What** needs to change (the barriers, root cause investigation)

**Where** will the changes be made (local, business, charity org., government services, etc?)

**How** do we make the changes (Process, resources, pre-requisites, etc?)

**Who** will carry out the changes (resources needed and commitment)

**When** will it be done (the basic schedule)

**Cost** estimate of expenses for the project

**Sustainability** – How will the change be sustained

**Replicability** – Is it replicable in other areas, Conferences, Councils, etc

We have limited funds set aside for this committee to allocate to qualifying projects. Funding may also come from other sponsors such as Councils, other Conferences, or other organizations. We are encouraging all Conferences and Councils to dedicate effort and hopefully name a "Systemic Change" person in their group to explore issues in their area. They may well find that they can make Systemic Change without the need of the committee. Systemic changes come in all shapes and sizes and do not have to involve an external committee. Projects may range from a very specific change situation for an individual to larger changes in local services policy to even bigger changes to government services. We encourage local groups to explore efforts that may be also operating in your neighbourhood, city or region that may be addressing similar issues. For example we recently found a regional group in our Halton Region called "Voices for Change" that have similar objectives and we are presently investigating sharing our efforts.

Our Systemic Change Committee is small and we are in the early stages of development. We hope that we can provide a catalyst in working with others (Councils, Conferences, and individuals) to make meaningful and sustainable Systemic Change. For inquiries about this committees please email Jere Hartnett at specialprojects.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca.

**Jere Hartnett, Chairman**  
**Systemic Change Project Committee**  
**Ontario Regional Council**

# Canada's Councils in Action

## ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Vincenian Honored

Neville De Silva has been a long term Vincentian (approx. 30 years) who has held many important positions with the Society in and around Toronto. He is now in a Nursing Home in Mississauga, Ontario. He was very involved in the setting up of Twinning and also was Chairperson Twinning for the Toronto Central Council. We have just given him a «Certificate of Appreciation». Neville had a stroke and is currently recovering, but in a wheelchair.

His inspiring words were: *“I have been in a wheelchair for five years, but it is a blessing, as I have become stronger in my faith and closer to God»*. He prays for all of us every day. He wanted the picture of «Our Lady» to be included.

### Ninian Prabhu



*Left to right: Fuad Nimer-boutros, Gerry Fagan, Ninian Prabhu and sitting Neville De Silva, all members of St. Catherine of Siena Conference in Mississauga, under Peel PC.*

### Christmas Dinner in Kitchener-Waterloo

For the eighth consecutive year, Saint Vincent de Paul volunteers in Kitchener-Waterloo served 500 chicken dinners, donated by four Swiss Chalet restaurants in the two cities, to patrons of St. John's Kitchen on Christmas Eve.

It is the best-attended meal of the year at the Kitchen; the main source of daily hot meals for the area's needy. Each restaurant staff prepares 125 meals which are delivered at 15-minute intervals and served to the patrons by the SSVP volunteers.

This project concludes a week of work by all SSVP volunteers in the Waterloo Region who this year, assembled and distributed more than 1,400 Christmas food and gift parcels to needy families and individuals.

### Gene McCarthy, President Kitchener Particular Council



# Canada's Councils in Action

## QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

### 165 YEARS OF PRESENCE FOR THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL IN QUÉBEC (1846-2011)

#### THE QUEBEC CENTRAL COUNCIL CELEBRATES THE EARLY STAGES OF THE SSVV

The Québec Central Council has set up a committee<sup>1</sup> to organize and put in place a program of celebrations to underline the 165th anniversary of the SSVV in Québec. Several activities have been planned:

Fraternal meal in the community with and for needy people;

Vincentian Day of training and spiritual life, with Msgr. Maurice Couture, r.s.v., Bishop Emeritus of Québec, as guest speaker;

A lecture on the history of the Painchaud family in Québec, given by a descendant of the Painchaud family, Mr. Louis Painchaud, professor at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Science at Laval University;

Brochure depicting highlights of the SSVV in Québec since 1846 (Mr. Réjean Lemoine, historian, has accepted to participate in that brochure);

Solemn mass to be held on November 12<sup>2</sup>, 2011, in the Québec Cathedral, followed by a civic reception and commemoration evening;

Christmas concert with the musical group L'HARMONIE DES CASCADES;

Finally, traditional Christmas meal for needy families in the Basilica-Cathedral of Québec, and opening of presents.

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1 The members are: Mrs. Léda S. Bouchard, Chair, Msgr. Maurice Couture, r.s.v. and Bishop Emeritus of Québec, Mr. Gilles Veilleux, President of the Notre-Dame de Québec Conference (the first conference to be established in Canada), Mr. Gilles Roy, Mr. Pierre Morissette.

2 November 12 is the date of the first Conference meeting in Canada.

#### HONOURING OUR FOUNDER – JOSEPH-LOUIS PAINCHAUD

In 1846, on the evening of November 12, in Québec, in a lateral chapel, called Saint-Louis Chapel, in the Notre-Dame Basilica-Cathedral of Québec, the young doctor Joseph-Louis Painchaud founds the first conference in Canada. “Quite knowledgeable on the way things are done in Paris<sup>3</sup>, Joseph-Louis became at the same time the guiding spirit and king pin of the new Society, however without occupying a high position in it, thus imitating (Frederic) Ozanam’s zeal (...) The goal of the Society was to bring assistance to the needy, to alleviate suffering. In addition to bring material support by visiting the poor at home, and educating needy children, the work aimed to bring moral comfort to the needy, and “touch their souls at the very core”.<sup>4</sup>

In August 1847, the Québec Conference is aggregated by Paris and, two months later, eight new conferences and the Québec Particular Council are aggregated. That was, as will be underlined later, “the first link between Old and New France since the 1760 separation”.

Here is a list of the first conferences founded in Québec, under the care of Dr. Joseph-Louis Painchaud, from 1846 to 1849: Notre-Dame, Saint-Jean, Notre-Dame-de-l'Espérance, Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague, Saint-François Xavier, Saint-Roch, Notre-Dame-des-Victoires, Saint-Vallier, Saint-Joseph, Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde, Sainte-Geneviève, Saint-Patrice.

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3 Dr. Painchaud spent time in Paris to complete his medicine studies, and was a member of the Saint-Séverin Conference between 1844 and 1846. He probably met the Blessed Frederic Ozanam personally (although there is no certitude about this).

4 Source: La famille Painchaud (de Québec) Deux siècles de mémoire – Mimi Painchaud Francoeur et al. 2001, 4th edition, pages 68-69.

# Canada's Councils in Action

All those conferences were founded with the utmost care and in the true spirit of the Manual. However, such an extensive work had required from Mr. Painchaud, although of weak health and physically handicapped, intellectual efforts, supported by a truly apostolic zeal. (...) Mr. Painchaud was present at almost every meeting. He presided them, contributing valuable help with his experience and the precious assistance of his zeal and good examples. (...) He saw to everything, gladly undertook the most tiresome tasks, wrote minutes himself, personally visited the poor, was part of the most important councils, and worked actively at finding resources for the Society. (...) Saint Vincent de Paul conferences were his life (...).<sup>5</sup>

Dr. Painchaud left Québec for Europe in 1849 and never came back to Québec, nor Canada. In 1855, he died in Mexico, trying to reach the new Vancouver colony to help evangelization under the leadership of Msgr. Demers. However, he was recognized rapidly by his contemporary Vincentians as the founder of the SSVP in Canada, thanks to his zeal in founding the first conferences and his organizational abilities.

“As the first report mentions, conferences in Québec were established thanks to the work of the young Dr. Painchaud who, during a trip in France, had seen with his own eyes all the good that could be accomplished among the poor by that institution, and the spiritual benefits that members could get from it. During two and a half years, he devoted himself entirely to that work, and those who witnessed his constant efforts will admit that he thoroughly deserves the title of founder.”<sup>6</sup>

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5 Source: Undated and unsigned text in the Québec SSVP archives.

6 Source: Collection of Correspondence, Québec SSVP, 1867.

## DO YOU KNOW THE PAINCHAUD HOME ?

The Maison Painchaud (Painchaud Home) opened its doors on December 8, 1967 thanks to the combined efforts of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and its volunteers. It has been fully operational and active since its foundation, more than 40 years ago. It is located at 1415 Saint-Pascal Av., in the Limoilou district, in Québec. The Maison Painchaud is a non-profit organization financed by Correctional Services in Canada and the Department of Public Security. It aims to be a community residential centre (CRC) and relies on the reality therapy approach.

That work, initiated by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, honours our founder, for the greatest benefit of people coming out of prisons and penal institutions, and who wish to be supported through social and community reinsertion.

“The home has the mission to foster social reinsertion of adult offenders, while insuring that our society is protected. It offers services such as accommodation, monitoring, clinical and accompaniment follow-up to offenders under provincial and federal jurisdiction. Interventions are personalized, and aim to help individuals become responsible persons within the community, and acquire better relational and social abilities.”<sup>7</sup>

**Léda Simard Bouchard, Chair  
Committee of the 165th anniversary of the founding of  
the SSVP in Québec.**

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7 Source: Maison Painchaud website (<http://www.maisonpainchaud.org/> ). The house is called after Dr. Joseph-Louis Painchaud, founder of the SSVP in Québec, in 1846.

# Canada's Councils in Action

## ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Appreciation for AGA Victoria

All who attended the AGA in Victoria, B.C. were very appreciative of the wonderful hospitality shown by all members, both on and off campus. Many great memories are cherished from the workshops and other events. Thank you all very much!

### Systemic Change Initiative

We are pleased to announce we have two representatives of our Region going to the Systemic Change Workshop in Indianapolis, Indiana in October. Edna Lee from Cape Breton and John Gallie from PEI have both accepted the challenge and are very excited and up for the task.

### Media/Public Relations

Our representative, Edna Lee of Cape Breton, has agreed to work with the National Team being set up for the purpose of furthering our visibility in our communities by increasing our profile as a charitable organization in Canada.

### Feast Day Celebrations Week Sept 25-Oct 1

We have asked our Conferences to utilize the celebration suggestions presented during the Annual General Assembly in Victoria for the week Sept. 25-Oct. 1 and we hope for an energetic response.

### Plans for our Regional Annual General Meeting 20112

We have an understanding with Saint Mary's University in Halifax to make June 4-6 available to us for our annual meeting. This was suggested at our AGM of 2011 and should provide travel savings to those who intend to attend the National AGA June 6-10 in the same location.

**David Grant, President**

## BC & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL

The National SSVP AGA was a great success! With over 200 registered participants and 30 additional guests, Vancouver Island hosted a very event filled three days in June.

We would like to give a special thanks to all the members, volunteers and staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone had the best time possible.

Thursday began with workshops and various committee meetings and concluded with an evening at the Government House. A Wine and Cheese reception hosted by the Lieutenant Governor, Steven Point and his wife was a very special event even for our own members and staff, many who had never been there.

On Friday, after a very full day of Assembly activities which included the opening ceremonies and the parade of flags, the members boarded the bus to Duncan for a salmon BBQ at Quwutsun Cultural Centre. The people of Cowichan could not have been more accommodating, even moving the dinner later because the buses were held up in traffic. The evening included a traditional First Nations welcome to the Cowichan territory, a wonderful salmon BBQ, a movie on the history of the Cowichan people and a fantastic performance by the Tzinquaw Dancers who finished off the night.

Saturday brought a day at the David Lam auditorium with the National committee reports and Board meetings. The evening began with Mass at the Cathedral and ended with the closing banquet held at the UVIC Club. The prime rib dinner was very good and the dancing even better. The night ended after midnight with the bus driver returning the last of the guests to their rooms as many had an early departure to the airport.

On behalf of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island, we could not have had a better experience. The people we met from across Canada were friendly, helpful and very knowledgeable. We made many new friends, connected with existing ones and will forever cherish these memories.

**Mary Spencer, President  
Victoria Particular Council**

# Canada's Councils in Action

## WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### The Presentation of the "New" Van by the Knights of Columbus to St. Vincent De Paul, 01 June 2011

As part of the Edmonton Knight of Columbus Chapter year end celebrations held at St Christopher's Knights of Columbus Hall, State Deputy Nil Gannon presented the keys to a new 18' Hino Diesel Truck to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Edmonton representatives Bernie McCracken, Daryl, Dittrich and Bob Mc Kenzie. During the past year Vincentians identified in their Strategic Plan a need to maintain and expand vehicle services to our Friends in need. Mr. Bob Mc Kenzie, Past President of Edmonton SSVP, spearheaded a fund raising campaign among Edmonton area benefactors. 11 Knights of Columbus Councils met the challenge raising close to \$44,000.00 toward the Project. "We appreciate the generosity of the Knights of Columbus councils partnering with local Vincentians to assist the Poor in our midst" said Mc Cracken., "Our work load continues to increase as we become better known and established in the community. I believe this is an excellent example of organizations working together to better serve the needs of our community".

In addition to our expression of gratitude to the Knights for providing the large part of the funding for this new van, there are two other parties to whom we are grateful as well:

The initial generous donation to launch the project was put forward by John and Ewa Burton, who though not members of the church, nor of SSVP, have been impressed by the selfless work of the Society in helping people in desperate situations.

As well, Mr. John Blimke, a member of St. Thomas More congregation, and General Manager of "DRIVING FORCE" was himself a driving force, by finding this excellent vehicle for SSVP and offering it at a much more than favourable price.

A sincere thank you to all our benefactors.

**Bernie McCracken**



*Bernie McCracken, State Deputy  
Neil and Larry Offner Grand Knight of Edmonton  
St Andrew's Council 1184, receiving an SSVP  
Donor appreciation certificate.*

# Twining

## UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Diversity is easy to recognize in the works of the Society, one of which is twinning. Twinning also gives us an opportunity, in our efforts to be united with those whom God loves, to share God's love of us.

When we consider twinning as a work, we tend to focus on whether we can write to our twin in their language. The differences in culture can also be interesting, and maybe a concern, but part of learning as we get to know one another. What we hear about a country in the news will be brought up in our discussion at our conference/council meeting. Who is going to take this on – to write to ‘them’? Will we be able to meet their expectations to communicate, and in a culturally appropriate way? What do we write about? What are their works – what would we be supporting? These differences and concerns are reasonable considerations in the diverse ways of the world that we come up against, in helping another diverse conference or council.

As we become involved in twinning, as we reach out, seeking to connect in our emails, letters, phone calls and even visits, we recognize something. We recognize our weakness, our judgment, our self-centeredness. We feel that we don't know where Christ is, and we look again. Yes, this is where Christ is, where we are closest to Christ. Sometimes when there is silence from our twins, no letters or emails, no acknowledgements, we are impatient. But we can see Christ as our blessed and sainted patrons saw him, in our twin's sometimes small and intangible ways that they use our funds. Even so, we are always more grateful when we know more about their works, when they are more accountable. We recognize Christ in accepting the differences, because we are all made differently for a reason. We recognize Christ in our efforts to trust.

To seek to be united with Christ is our focus, as we seek to be united with the poor. To give ourselves an opportunity to serve Christ, in the ways that we live and do His will, is to be united with Christ. To pray for members of the Society who are distant, who also serve Christ in the poor, as much as they are able, is to be united

with Christ. To serve the people of God in our mutual actions, in ways that each of us is able to do, us for them and them for us, is the chance that twinning gives us, is to be united with Christ. To do what we can do in our diversity - but to focus on Christ, therein lays our unity.

May we continue to be instruments of community in our diverse ways, of Christ's love and concern for the peoples of the world.

**Kathy Weswick, Chairperson  
Twinning Committee**





# Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship

## 2011 RECIPIENT

The National Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada is proud to introduce the recipient of the first Emmanuel Bailly scholarship, presented during the Society's Annual General Assembly held in Victoria, BC, from June 15 to 19, 2011. The \$1000 scholarship along with a certificate offered to a young Vincentian, was financed thanks to Hôtel 71, located in downtown Quebec City, and by a personal donation from Sister Penny Craig, National SSVV President.

The 2011 recipient is Brother Adam Roath from Windsor, Ontario. Adam completed his studies at Holy Name High School, and now wishes to study medicine, while continuing to be involved in the Society. He stands out not only through his volunteer work within the Holy Name of Mary Conference, but also through solid family values and altruistic qualities. Unable to attend the AGA, Adam will receive his scholarship this coming fall, from the hands of Ontario Regional Council President, Brother John Staley, who endorsed his nomination.

The National Council wishes to maintain the scholarship program and be able to give a \$1000 scholarship every year. It will be offered to a young Vincentian, aged 35 or less, who is still studying and has stood out among his or her peers through his or her involvement in the Society, demonstration of faithfulness to Vincentian spirituality, and community involvement, while fulfilling his or her academic, social and family obligations. The appointment procedure is published in the Vincen-Paul Canada magazine, as well as, on the website ([www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca)) every fall.

Our warmest congratulations to Adam, who is a wonderful example to follow, and is proof that there are up and coming members within the Society. We wish him much success in his future projects.

**Caroline Gilbert, Youth Representative  
National Council of Canada**



*Adam Roath from Windsor, Ontario.*



*John Staley receives the bursary,  
in Adam Roath's name,  
from Caroline Gilbert at the National AGA.*

# Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship

*Emmanuel Bailly was forty years old when he met Frederic Ozanam. Bailly was an intellectual, well known for his wisdom and support to various social causes. He was president of the first conference of charity in 1833.*

## Scholarship

The Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship is an initiative of the National Council of Canada of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. It was created to reward young Vincentians who have to combine their studies and volunteer work. In addition to attending school and often working part time, young Vincentians find time and energy to help the less privileged of their community. The National Council of Canada wishes to reward them, for exceptional contribution, by offering a bursary of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) in Canadian currency and a merit certificate.

The scholarship is awarded to a Vincentian student who clearly stood out during the year. The bursary is to help the recipient pursue his/her studies and fulfill professional ambitions.

## Candidates

Candidates must be students (high school, vocational school, CEGEP, college, or university) and aged 35 or under. They must be volunteering for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada within a conference, a council or a thrift store. They shall have demonstrated their fidelity to the Vincentian spirituality and the Catholic Church.

Candidates will be nominated for their commendable accomplishments serving the poor during the past year, or even before.

## Nominations

Conferences are invited to submit nominations to the National Council of Canada, by filing the Application Form (on the next page) and sending it to the regional council president. Each conference may recommend a maximum of two candidates, who can be members of the local conference, or another conference. A narrative describing the candidate's accomplishments, according to established criteria, must accompany each nomination.

The regional council president shall receive applications forms before February 1<sup>st</sup>. The regional council president shall forward recommended applicants to the Youth Representative of the National Council by March 1<sup>st</sup>. A Selection Committee will study all applications received and select the recipient. Under exceptional circumstances, the Committee may award the bursary to two recipients.

## Awarding

The scholarship will be awarded at the National Council of Canada Annual General Assembly. If the recipient is unable to attend, the scholarship can be awarded at another Vincentian event.

Vincentians and friends of the Society will be informed of the name and accomplishments of the recipient by an article in the VincenPaul magazine and a posting on the web site.

## Information

For any additional information about the scholarship, please contact the Canadian Youth Representative:

Address:

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

2463, Innes road, Ottawa, ON, K1B 3K3

Email: [carolinegilbert@live.fr](mailto:carolinegilbert@live.fr) or [national@ssvp.ca](mailto:national@ssvp.ca)

Phone: (613) 837-4363

Free: 1-866-997-7787

Fax: (613) 837-7375



# Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship

## Nominator

Name
Conference/council
Address
Phone number
E-mail

## Candidate

Name
Conference/council
Address
Phone number
E-mail

Submit short text explaining what makes the candidate's accomplishments exceptional.

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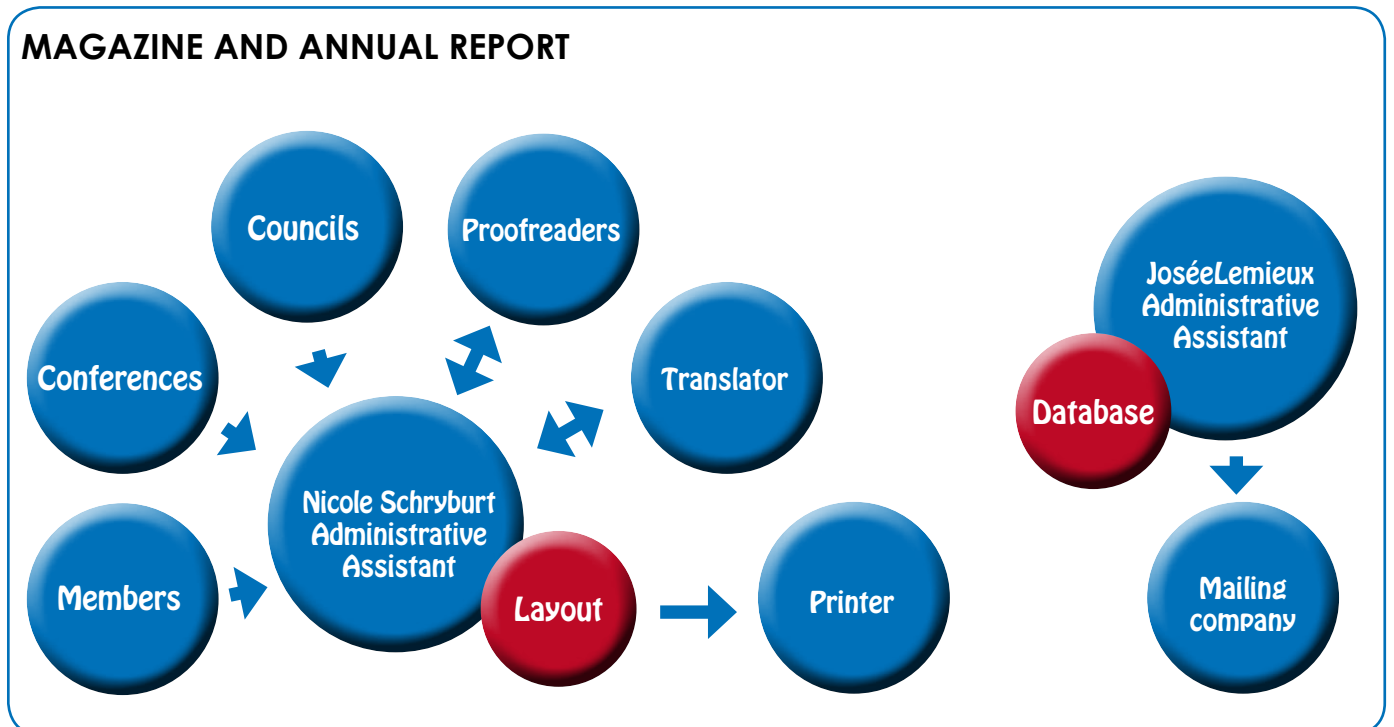
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# National's Administration

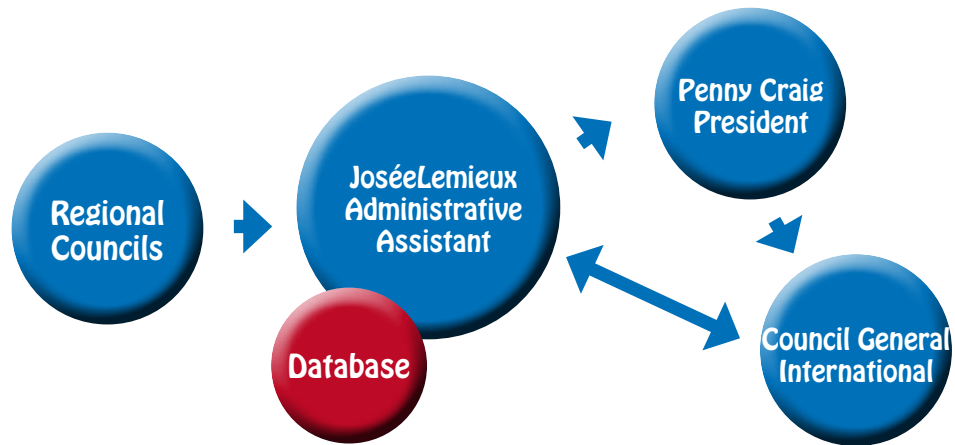


## MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

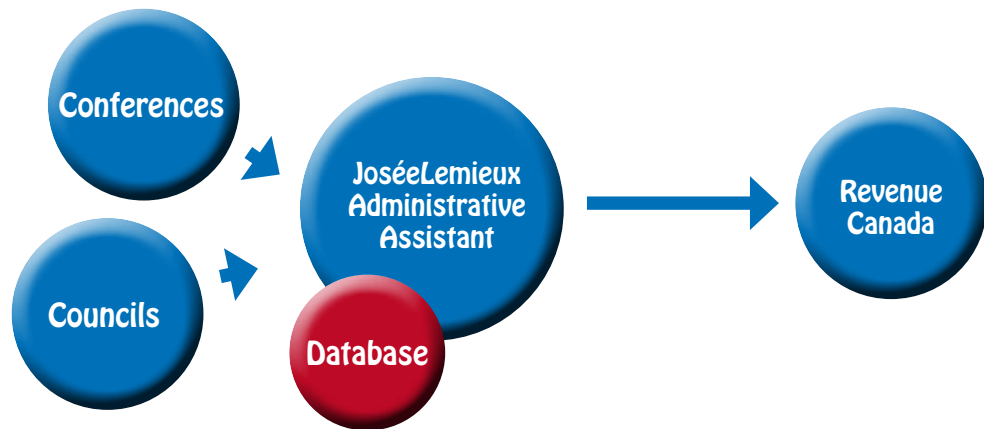


# National's Administration

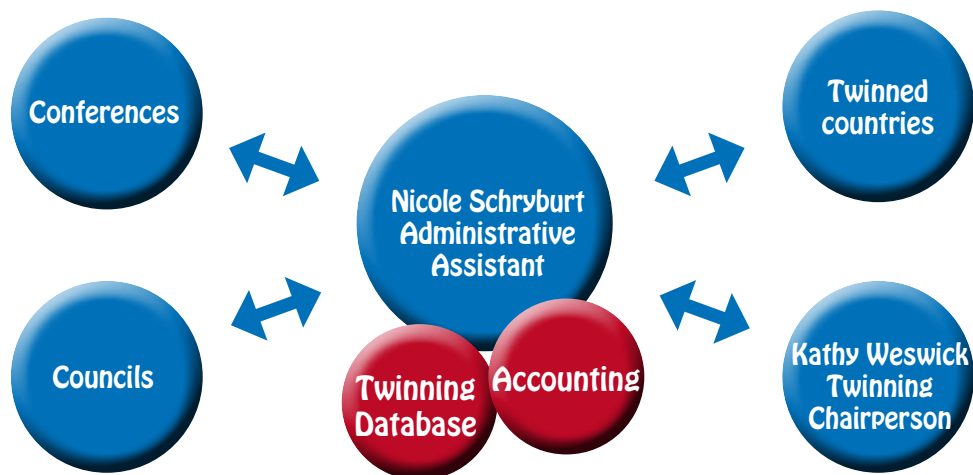
## AGGREGATION/INSTITUTION - NAME CHANGE AND MERGE



## CHARITY NUMBER



## TWINNING



# What's new?

## PINS AND CERTIFICATES

Pins and certificates noting the years of service of Vincentians are now available at the National Council:

- 10 years
- 20 years
- 25 years
- 30 years
- 40 years
- 50 years

To order them for your members you must complete the application form available on our website: [www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca) and send the form to your Regional Council.

The cost for a set of pin and certificate is \$7.

Lapel pins bearing the words:

- Spiritual Advisor
- Past President

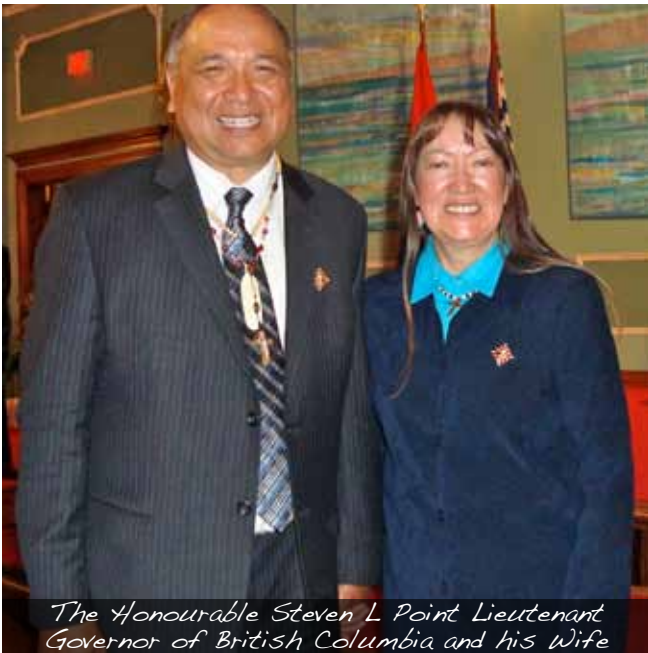
are also available at the office of the National Council at a cost of \$5 each.

The form for the installation of a spiritual advisor can be downloaded from our website.



# 2011 AGA - Victoria BC

THURSDAY NIGHT - WINE AND CHEESE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE



*The Honourable Steven L. Point Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and his Wife*



*Chief Andy Thomas, his Wife Elder Mary Ann Thomas Esquimalt First Nations and Pat Benneto*



# 2011 AGA - Victoria BC

FRIDAY MORNING - OPENING CEREMONY & KEYNOTE SPEAKER





# 2011 AGA - Victoria BC

FRIDAY NIGHT - BBQ AT QUW'UTSUN' CULTURAL AND CONFERENCE CENTER



# 2011 AGA - Victoria BC

## SATURDAY - REPORTS & STATUTORY MEETING



# 2011 AGA - Victoria BC

SATURDAY - MASS & COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



*Nora Criss, President of the BC and Yukon Regional Council passing the flame.  
John Staley, President of the Ontario Regional Council and  
Jean-Claude Bienvenue, President of the Quebec Regional Council  
giving a picture to Vincentians and commissioning them:*

*“Go forth and serve the poor in the name  
of the church and according to the Rule.”*

# 2011 AGA - Victoria BC

SATURDAY - BANQUET



# 2011 AGA - Victoria BC

SATURDAY - BANQUET



*Hope to see you next year  
to share in Vincentian fellowship.*

# World Youth Days

## WYD 2011 IN MADRID: A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

*By Caroline Gilbert, Canadian Youth Representative*

After unforgettable days and an endless flight, the time has come to report. I could write a very technical text on the World Youth Days and their activities, but considering the extent of the human experience I went through during those days, I have no choice but to offer you a text filled with personal reflections and exclusive perspective.

### Preparation

I am about to participate to my first WYD! I don't know exactly what to expect. I heard about walks, gatherings, spirituality and floor mattresses. So, with my back pack so full it's about to burst, I embark on the first leg of my Québec-Montréal-Paris-Madrid flight.

### Vincenian Meeting

The FamVin meeting starts on August 12 and has about 1500 participants divided by languages: English, French, Spanish. Each group is lodged in a school that serves as their gathering place for meals and other activities. I share my classroom with Canadian, Polish and Austrian women; 19 of us sleep in that room. As for showers, the girls' tent has 16 shower heads that are linked directly to the city water supply. Believe me, even though it is 40o Celsius every day, the shower water is not necessarily warm!

The everyday program usually starts with a Eucharistic celebration in the morning, followed by various activities (visit of the National Central Council, workshops) in the afternoon. Trying to adapt to the Spanish way of life as best we can, we have dinner around 9 p.m. and continue our activities until midnight.

Meals are the best moments for sharing between countries. We talk about our experiences and countries. The long waits we often have because of the size of our group, lead to enthusiastic signing of religious songs accompanied by much hand clapping! Colourful flags are everywhere, near the schools as well as along the road to a new church.

### WYD

The first day of the WYD being dedicated to the arrival of participants, we freely roam the streets of Madrid, until they slowly fill up. Sidewalks are jammed with young adults carrying backpacks with 2011 WYD colours. Smiles and greetings in every language come from all sides. We don't know each other, but since we are here for the same occasion, we are happy to see each other! Streets that are closed to traffic rapidly become saturated with pilgrims ready to celebrate the opening of the World Youth Days!

Next, the Pope's arrival receives everyone's attention. For most of us, the morning is dedicated to Catechesis, followed by a Eucharistic celebration, and then lunch (although not before 2 p.m.! Let's not forget that we're in Spain!). During the WYD, the school cafeteria's regular meals are replaced (Thank God!) by restaurant menus especially prepared for the pilgrims.

The presence of the Pope among us is captivating! He easily talks in several languages to the thousands of Catholics present in front of the stage and near several giant screens, who listen to the ceremony in complete silence.

Every following day starts with Catechesis. Every church in the city offers the activity in a different language in order to ensure every traveller easily understands! Those activities are opportunities for the youths to feel close to celebrants and ask them questions about spiritual life on a daily basis, the opinion of the Church on various topics, how to put our faith to action, etc. The continuous presence of Church representatives offers participants the opportunity to confess, either in a sacred location or on a park bench!

Then, there are the Stations of the Cross. An impressive crowd meets again at the beginning of the afternoon to participate in the Stations of the Cross, in the company of the Holy Father. Sculptures larger than life make up the scenes representing Jesus' last moments on earth.

# World Youth Days

The next day, we walk in the streets of Madrid, towards the vast field where we will spend the following night. Here Pope Benedict XVI celebrates the closing ceremony, in front of an impressive number of Church people and a crowd of 1,500,000 faithful followers. In spite of the suffocating heat followed by torrential rain, the participants never move. They remain silent, listening to the Holy Father's discourse, chanting his name at opportune moments.

The night is short, and the last Sunday starts with a closing mass. The expected communion (I cannot explain how they were able to plan communion for one and a half million people!) cannot take place because of various problems due to the storm on the evening before. However, the pilgrims do not seem to care about that: it is a last time for reflection... and for picking up!

## Conclusion

The time has come to say goodbye to a few, and farewell to many. Those moments are always very particular: We live together 24 hours a day during 10 days, we share moments of deep spirituality, hours of laughter and instants of cultural discoveries, and all of a sudden, it's over, everyone must return home.

Sara is going back to Ontario and I probably won't see her again before next summer. Julien is going back home to Paris, and I don't expect to see him before a trip at a much later date. Matthew is travelling back to his home in Australia, and our paths will probably never cross again.

Our experiences were different despite the common event. We return home taller, with heads full of memories that we are afraid to lose, being able to relate only small parts of the tremendous human experience that we shared together.



*Caroline Gilbert and Leigh Anne Cipriano, USA Youth Rep*



*English speaking Vincentians on the move*



*Delegates from around the world*

# World Youth Days

*These three texts are taken from the CGI Web Site.*

## **THE WYD START WITH CHRIST AT THE CENTRE OF THE YOUNG**

The World Youth Day gets under way. With batteries well recharged after the Vincentian encounter, we face a new challenge: to join the million pilgrims in order to share our faith. During the next days there will be a frenzied religious activity in Madrid; it will begin at eight in the evening, with the starting signal. The Mass to welcome the pilgrims was celebrated in Cibeles Square by the capital's Cardinal-Archbishop, Antonio María Rouco Varela. Thousands of pilgrims gathered for this popular epilogue that proved how eager the world is to share the faith. The Vincentian Family was present and was part of this flood of people that swamped the streets of Madrid.

Until the Pope's arrival in Madrid, which will be on Thursday 18th, the pilgrims can enjoy a large choice of activities that range from cultural visits to the temples and museums of the city, concerts, catechesis, to a vocational fair in the Retiro Park. On Thursday, the common events start. They revolve around four significant moments: The Pope's welcome at Cibeles Square, the Stations of the Cross that will go from Columbus Square to Cibeles Square and where the main Spanish baroque statues are displayed, the Pope's Vigil with the Youth on Saturday night and the closing Eucharist on Sunday the 21st in "Cuatro Vientos".

The WYD represents an opportunity to share the Vincentian charisma with pilgrims and be filled with other gifts that build this Universal Church. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to project the real image of what the Church means, far from prepared and exorbitant scenes. Being Vincentians with "a style of life for the present" such as we discovered during our International encounter, we must be able to give answers to the new kinds of poverty that we find on our path, by taking strength from prayer and the Eucharist as we depart. As it was manifested at the encounter's closing celebration, we are a family that works united for a necessary charisma and that must also permeate with hope those who are around it. The International Encounter of Young Vincentians leaves us with a clear lesson: we are alive; we are life to be shared.

## **"TO BE, NOT TO FEIGN"**

The Encounter of the Young Vincentians started with the motto "to be, not to feign"; it gathers, this weekend nearly 1,500 members of the Vincentian Family in Madrid. The starting signal took place with the opening prayer which was celebrated in the Basilica 'La Milagrosa' with the global participation of Spaniards, French, Germans, Italians, Brazilians, Argentines, Portuguese, and so on to nearly fifty nationalities whose focus is their faith in Christ and their pillar the participation in the Vincentian charisma.

The Father General of the Congregation of the Mission, Gregory Gay, was in charge of opening the encounter with a presentation in which he exhorted the young to firmly and clearly promote the service to the poor. "This mission has never been as important in the world as it is now. We live in a world with innumerable huge factories of poverty. Do the poor live with dignity? Are there poor people on earth? Then, these poor need the Good News of Jesus Christ's Kingdom, in the largest sense of the word. This, my brothers, is our Mission as a Family. Therefore, to be a Vincentian is an identity which is urgent for the world".

Permeated by the clearness of the Father General, the community prayer continued among chants until the moment in which the motto that was to be with us that day was presented: "To be, not to feign". By means of a happening, the young people discovered that in life we cannot have two faces, that we should have a sole personality and accept the errors that we are making. "Do we allow God to guide us?", before this question and surrounded by the representation of a large group of mimes with white faces and hands, the young look at a mask they have just received, and that they will have to wear the whole day. The objective? The mask symbolizes the different faces that each of us wear in our lives.

With this uncomfortable burden, we will think during the whole day whether we are transparent or not, whether we act in different ways depending on the place we are, or which image we project to others. The challenge is clear, our image cannot be deceitful, nor can our Vincentian vocation.



# World Youth Days

## THE FORMULA FOR HAPPINESS

*Madrid, 15th August 2011*

Last night Vigil broke all moulds. Who said that the Church lives on empty rites? Last night's one was full of very significant and unforgettable moments. Together with the presentation of the Blessed Sacrament at the altar, we enjoyed the performance of the mime that is with us since Saturday, making us share his process of opening to God and to others. But there were many other moments of shared prayer and meditation, like the happening with the participation of several volunteers and pilgrims wonderfully made up and disguised. It was also unforgettable due to the heat that we endured, which was extremely suffocating. In spite of it, we were introduced to Mary's thanksgiving prayer that would continue all morning of today, Monday.

Today's Mass, day of the Virgin's Assumption, has been centered on the "Magnificat" of Mary, our Mother, the only one who kept the supernatural vision at any moment of Jesus' life, even at the hardest and most incomprehensible ones.

The catechesis after the Eucharist was imparted by father Astor Rodriguez, who revealed to us the formula for happiness. Who said that it was Coca-cola who possessed it? As any recipe of quality, it needs several ingredients: to know how to find the sense of the human pain, never loose the faith in God and feed the hope that everything can change.

Mary was an example of an uncomplaining and quiet happiness, synonymous with saintliness, which she showed at all times and who, as it is to be expected of any mother, was the most truthful follower of Jesus.



# World Youth Days



# Journées mondiales de la jeunesse



*Le masque symbolise les différents visages que chacun de nous avons dans nos vies.*



*The mask symbolizes the different faces that each of us wear in our lives.*

