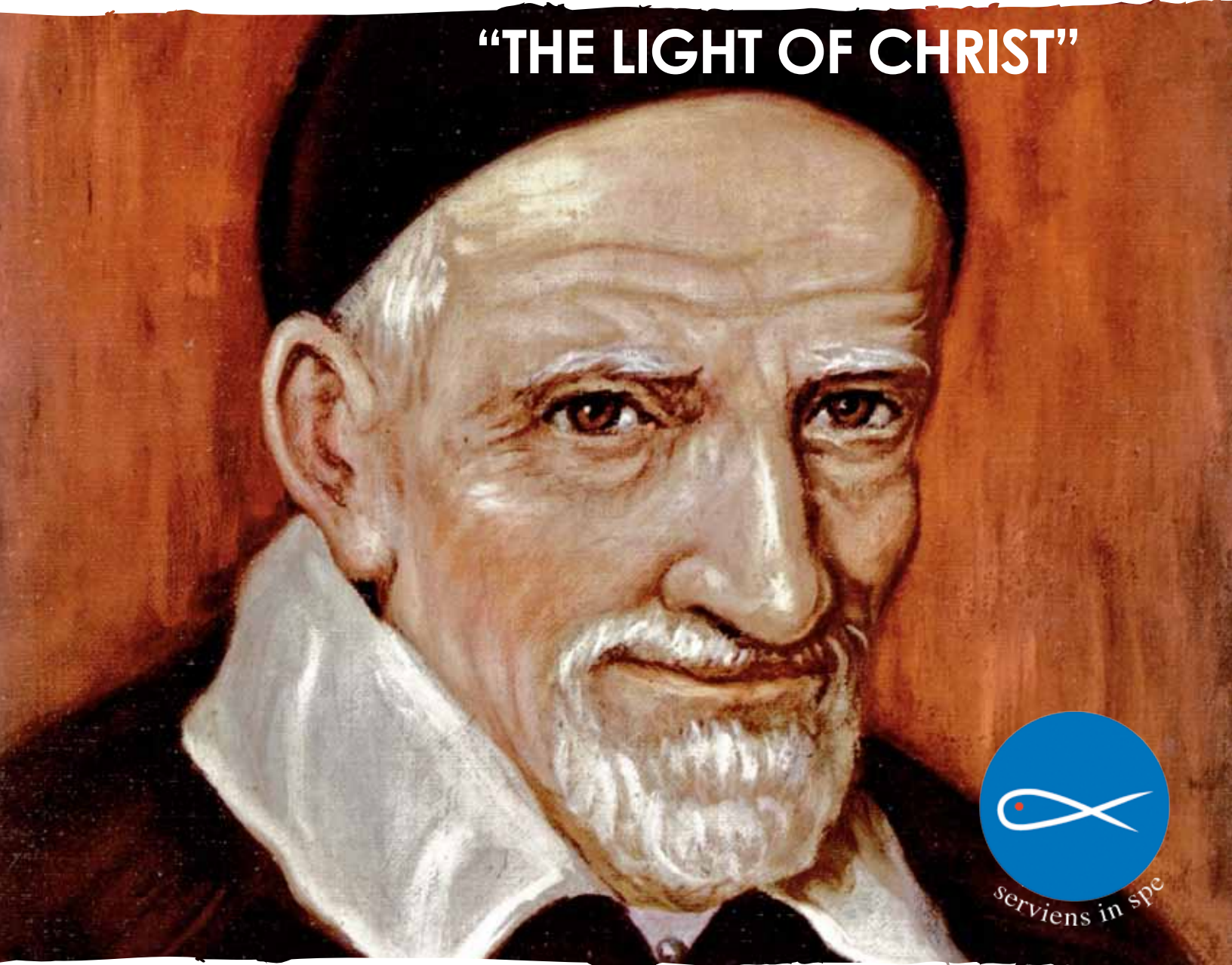


# Vincenpaul-Canada

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA

VOLUME 38 NO. 3 - FALL 2012

## "THE LIGHT OF CHRIST"



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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

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## DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER VINCENTIANS

### "The light of Christ"

The time has once again whizzed right by. First let me offer a sincere vote of thanks to Carol, Maureen, Ellen, and the teams from both the Halifax Particular Council and the Dartmouth Particular Council for another great AGA! We do have fun amidst the work and learning and praying we all do together!

Vincentians, as the light of Christ was certainly evident all through the AGA. Many thanks for your support during those days. Your kindness and prayers have been such a sustaining force that the doctors are amazed at how well I am doing! Thanks for all the Masses and prayers from all of you and the Vincentians from around the world! I consider myself very fortunate to have such brothers and sisters!

Again, my thanks to the staff and Board of Directors for a job well done over the past year. We can all see the fruits of their efforts in the efficient administration of the day to day functions of the Ottawa office and its communications with members.

The President's Roundtable was delightful. This type of free discussion provides such a great avenue for open dialogue and teaching about the Council and how it functions.

Several areas that bear highlighting and are worth looking up on the web are:

#### **a) Screening Process and Guidelines – REV:**

After the initial Police Record Check (PRC), only a declaration that indicates that you have not been charged with offense is required. Please see the web for the form and the new procedure. The hope is to make it easier for everyone while still maintaining the integrity and safety of both our members and those whom we serve.

#### **b) Abuse Policy and Guidelines – National Council of Canada: NEW:**

Please review these as they are reflective of all levels of the Society. The Windsor Essex Central Council is



providing us with their orientation program for you to use should you wish to do so. Our thanks to them for sharing. It will be on the web for downloading. Everyone must have this orientation program – members, volunteers and staff.

#### **c) Discrimination, Harassment – National Council of Canada Policy: NEW:**

Same as above. All levels must be oriented to this program.

#### **d) Isolated Conferences**

When we speak of Isolated Conferences, we are speaking of them being geographically isolated, not membership isolation. It may prove helpful to review both Conference and Council responsibilities regarding participatory arrangements.

# Penny's Piece

## Particular Council Responsibilities

- a. The Particular Council responsibilities include communication with the Isolated Conference to allow for full participation in the meetings. This may be conducted with a letter of welcome and introduction to the PC;
- b. Continued correspondence that includes: Notice of meetings and agenda of meetings of the Particular Council; invitation to the IC (Isolated Conference) to join in to the meeting either by Skype, phone etc;
- c. Offer the IC chance to present any additions to the agenda of the meeting that they might like to bring forward; they are invited to participate in prayer; reflections and discussions. Through these types of media, the IC has the opportunity to vote at these meetings as well.
- d. If there is not the opportunity to participate directly in a PC meeting, then information is sent by the PC to the IC asking for their input regarding a topic to be brought forward for discussion and their vote as necessary. Again, this can be done by email or post, keeping in mind adequate timelines.
- e. Voting for PC President: It should also be noted that IC presidents have a vote for the PC president when the time comes. The IC president is invited to attend the annual meeting of the PC if at all possible. If not, then a mail in ballot is used.
- f. The opportunity to attend meetings provides a face to face interaction that will be helpful throughout the year. If the IC cannot afford the costs, then this can be an item for discussion at the PC level. It would be of value for the IC president to try to attend one PC meeting or the regional annual meeting. The idea is to come together as a family!

## Isolated Conference Responsibilities

The Isolated Conference also has responsibilities regarding communication and participation in Particular Council activities and meetings. Certainly to respond to the PC communications as they are received.

- a. Provide a report of the IC activities at each meeting of the PC.
- b. Give input related to agenda items – experience and Vincentian Spirituality know no geographical boundaries... we are all in this together!
- c. Provide the PC with as much information regarding the issues facing the IC in their respective areas as possible; help could be on the way from someone who knows someone. We help in all possible ways!!
- d. Provide a National Council of Canada Annual Report to the PC

I am sure there could be many other creative ways of participating as an Isolated Conference and I would leave that to your own Gospel based decision-making. However, the most salient point is that Isolated Conferences are not isolated members; their location just happens to be geographically situated which makes travel to each monthly meeting a difficult task.

Dear brother and sisters, I do hope you have or have had the opportunity to celebrate SSVP week with prayer, and loads of fun! Remember September 27<sup>th</sup> as the day of commissioning for all your members and the day of installation of your Spiritual Advisors if not already done so.

2013 will see the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ozanam's birth. Put on your celebration hats and let's look at ways to certainly have the greatest birthday party ever!

Once again, thanks to all for your continued support and prayers!

May the radiance of your charity always be a beaming light!

**Penny Craig, President**



# President Elect

## NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT – NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA

We wish to inform all Vincentians across Canada that a new National President was elected at the Annual General Assembly of the National Council, which was held in Halifax NS, June 6 to 10, 2012.

**Jean-Noël CORMIER** was acclaimed President for the term of July 1st, 2013 to June 30th, 2019 as the Election Committee Chair reported that he was the only candidate for the position.

Brother Jean-Noël will work with the current President for the coming year as he prepares to assume full responsibility next year.

Bro. Jean-Noël, a retiree from Canada Post, resides in Ottawa, Ontario. He has been a member of the Society for many years; he was conference President and is currently President of the Ottawa Central Council.

He also served as Executive Director of the National Council of Canada for 3 years under the leadership of former President Michael Burke (2001 - 2007).

We offer our congratulations to Bro. Jean-Noël Cormier, thanking him for having accepted to assume the most important leader-servant position within the Society in Canada.

We offer him our support and prayers as he gets ready to replace Sister Penny Craig, in July 2013.



Jean-Noël Cormier, president elect; Penny Craig, actual President;  
Ed Keane, Territorial Vice-President America 1 ICG;  
Ellen Schryburt, Past President; Michael Burke, Past President

# President Elect

## Experience and Education

Born in Bouctouche, New Brunswick, I moved to Montréal at the age of 8. That is where I did most of my studies, including Industrial Relations at the University of Montréal. Later on, I did a practical work session in Industrial Relations at Queens University, a course in Project Management at George Washington University, and a course in Conflict Resolution at Windsor University. I am bilingual, able to speak, read and write in both official languages.

I live in Ottawa since 1989. I married Darquise Poupart, and we have two sons and one grandson.

I retired in 2003 from the Canada Post Corporation, where I acted in a managerial capacity.

From 2005 to 2007, I was part time Executive Director at the National Council of Canada of the Society of Saint-Vincent de Paul.

At the moment, I am a part-time driver for the Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre. I transport people to and from medical or other appointments.

## Volunteer Work

In 2001, I became a member of the Saint-Joseph d'Orléans SSVP Conference, later accepting to work as President of that Conference. Since 2007, I am President of the Ottawa Central Council, Administrator on the Board of the Ottawa SSVP store, and of a temporary shelter for women in Ottawa.

In 2006, I spent one week in Haiti to meet members of the Haiti SSVP National Council. Representatives of the Council General International of the SSVP also participated to those meetings.

In 2008, following discussions with VinPaz and the French SSVP representatives, I went to Madagascar for about 10 days in the company of a Vincentian from Zambia. We met Vincentians to attempt understanding how their Conferences work.

As well, I am an active member of Development and Peace since 2001. At the moment, I am responsible for

the DP teams in St Marie's parish in Orléans, ON, and Treasurer at Ottawa French Diocesan Council of that organization.

In 2001, I went to Bolivia with a group of Development and Peace volunteers, to meet with partners of the organization. We went to Santa Cruz, Couchabamba and La Paz, and discussed with people who managed projects that were entirely or partly financed by Development and Peace.

## The Society of Saint-Vincent de Paul

The engagement, community spirit and selflessness of Vincentians always impressed me. The incredible energy spent by members to help the needy cannot leave anyone indifferent.

Therefore, when I started thinking about running for the position of President of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council of Canada, I thought that in the company of such dedicated people, I would never be alone. That, for me, is of the utmost importance.

During the past years, much has been accomplished, but the new challenges that we are currently facing are enormous, and I believe that I have the experience and training to put together a team able to meet those challenges.

Whatever the work to be done, just to think that I will be working with people whose mission is to "*Live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy*", I have the feeling that we can only succeed.

As I was saying, much has been accomplished in the last years, and it is important to continue building momentum.

Therefore, together, we will have to work very hard to increase the number of aggregated Conferences and members. Such expansion has the only goal of increasing our services to the poor.

The number of people who need food banks is regularly increasing, and moreover, an increasing number of those people have employment, but are unable to make

# President Elect

ends meet. Their needs go beyond the need for food, and we must find ways to provide the additional assistance they need.

Last fall, we all saw on TV the terrible conditions in which Attawapiskat residents had to live. I assure you that I was not proud to be Canadian when that news came out. We must find a way to help people who live far away from major cities. Needy people that we help have no voice; nobody listens to them. We must therefore continue to be their voice.

Because we meet people at home, we are unique and in my opinion, that allows us to have a more precise opinion of what these people go through.

In addition to home visits, we have a spirituality that helps us have a deeper understanding of people. We not only study a situation, we also seek to serve those people, which reinforces once again our position as spokespersons.

I would like to insist on the fact that we must continue to work at improving our visibility. As is the case for most organizations, we need funds to accomplish our mission. If we are not recognized and active in our communities, it is less likely that people think of us when they wish to help poor people.

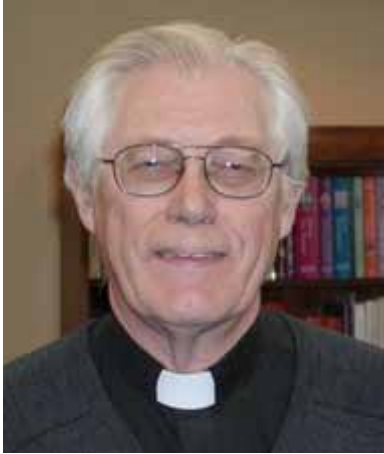
Finally, I would like to express my deeply held belief that united in prayer and action, we will meet our objectives.

**Jean-Noël Cormier, President elect  
National Council**



Jean-Noël Cormier,  
President elect, National Council

## THE LIGHT OF CHRIST



AGA SVP Halifax 2012

The great liturgist Odo Casel (ordained in 1911), associated with the Benedictan Monastery of Maria Laach in Bavaria, is considered one of the major pioneers of the Liturgical Renewal. In 1922 he wrote a seminal book, *The Liturgy as the Celebration of Mysteries*. He was very concerned that for the majority of Catholics at that time, the liturgy was the world of the clerics and the faithful were spectators, doing their own devotional prayers, reciting the rosary while the liturgy droned on. Unfortunately for many clerics the same dichotomy prevailed: the Liturgy was ritual, prayer, something else. Odo Casel worked to have the Liturgy as it should be, participatory, celebrant and for the people of God. One can say that thus began the real renewal of our liturgy.

The changes brought about by Pius XII when, in 1951, he decreed the renewal of the Easter Vigil ceremony, were anticipated in the Mary Laach monastery. It is rather significant that on Holy Saturday in 1948, Odo Casel entered the monastery chapel, carrying the new Paschal candle, and intoned the three solemn chants *Lumen Christi*; he then placed the candle on its stand, and then dropped dead. A fitting departure for an authentic liturgist.

All this to say that when we ponder the topic of this year's Theme "Light of Christ", it is a matter steeped in the wonder of the great liturgy.

As you know, in each parish the Paschal Candle has a place of honour in the sanctuary during the Paschal season, from Easter to Pentecost. Afterwards, it goes to be close to the baptismal font, reappearing in prominence at funerals and other major parish events.

At baptism, once the person has been baptized with the Trinitarian formula, the rite of Chrismation takes place. It is worthwhile revisiting the pertinent prayer:

*God the Father has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and welcomed you into his Holy People. He now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing his life.*

We share in Christ's anointing in a three-fold manner. As a disciple of Christ, I am to be a priest, that is to say, see myself as a person open to bringing the Good News of God's love to our world. The papal title Pontiff comes from the Latin Pontifex, builder of bridges. In a very real sense all Christians are to be builders of bridges between people and thereby bringing them to God in true priestly fashion. Secondly we are called to follow Christ in His role as prophet, one who courageously proclaims the Truth in word and action. Herein lies also the duty to learn what the Truth is. Each in his or her own way must bring study into the routines of life. From the baptismal rite flows a third vocation, to follow Christ the King. Our Christian leadership is vital for the world. The Church Fathers often spoke of Christians as the soul of the world, working to bring the world to a better place, one of harmony, peace and generosity.

After the anointing, the baptized person receives the baptismal candle, lit from the Paschal Candle. The celebrant, in the case of infant baptism, gives the candle to the sponsors with the words,

Receive, the Light of Christ.

All who are baptized and are reading this text today are bearers of the Light of Christ through the baptism they received



Moving now into our everyday world, the world that Charles Taylor, in his book *The Secular Age*, sees as the unenchanted world, we can see immediately how far away from such a world is Odo Casel's notion of celebrating the mysteries of God. Illustrating this dichotomy, here is what the person in my parish, in charge of altar servers, heard from a mother, when, in September she called to see if a girl, now in Grade 7, was going to continue serving; *Really, you should realize that it is not cool for a girl in grade seven to serve mass.*

Here we see the stark reality of our task as bearers of the Light of Christ. The world's default position is to produce ambiguous pollution that impedes light. Just as the overcast day hides the brilliance of the sun, so mediocrity, if not downright evil are pervasive. All this should not surprise us since our fundamental position is that without God reality falls apart.

The Vincentian vocation offers many opportunities to bring the Light of Christ to bear on problems that inherently are far way from light of any kind. So much of what Vincentians do is social work, but the Vincentian is not a social worker. Consciously bearing the Light of Christ into all aspect of Vincentian endeavour is what constitutes the difference.

As noted earlier, all baptized Christians are to be bearers of the Light of Christ. For many reasons, some legitimate, some not, the majority are sorry excuses as bearers of light. As a result, when Vincentians do their work properly, which means:

1. being as understanding and efficient as possible;
2. being aware that they do not have all the answers and that there are other sources of community and Public Aid;
3. being a conscious and loving bearer of the Light of Christ;

then, they are giving credibility to the rest of the Church.

You might say “*Look, the main job is making sure the poor are served. I have little time for the religious stuff*”. Such an answer is understandable since we are part of the secular world. But Christ's message is precisely to bring light into darkness. Bringing the light of Christ into our world does not mean standing on a box and preaching. It means inviting the Lord to be part of the visiting team, being conscious that a loving attitude is contagious.

There is good reason to be optimistic about the growth of Faith in the world. There is good evidence that humans are hard-wired to be religious. In the April issue of *First Things*, Professor Christian Smith of Notre Dame University writes:

*That we are naturally religious does not mean that tomorrow will necessarily see a great revival. But it strongly suggests that we should not expect human societies to become thoroughly secularized. Because we humans are religious by nature, secularization will be limited in effect, contingent in direction on various factors and susceptible to reversal.*

This is the world we live in as part of a Church that includes great sinners and fantastic saints. The adventure of life is often a lonely one. My prayer is that you will always remember the baptismal candle that your sponsors received. May the voice of the person who baptized you resound in your heart, more often than not:

Receive the Light of Christ!

And may your Light Shine!

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



# Spirituality

*We show how well we love by the works we do and the way we respond to one another. Do we treat all we meet with respect and dignity? Do we take the time to listen when they want to talk? When we make a home visit or work in a food bank or visit someone in prison, do we try and show love and compassion and not judge them? When we fill out a food voucher, do we do so without prejudice? Do we pray before we make a home visit and ask our God to allow us to be His hands and His ears so that we carry out His work in the manner He wants? Do we look upon those we serve with gratitude because, through them, we see the face of the suffering Christ?*

He has asked us to be workers in His vineyard. Where is His vineyard? It can be as close as your family and your next door neighbor and as far away as a third world country. We may not be able to directly help those in other countries but we can give spiritual, emotional and financial support to them. We are blessed because we are an international organization and this makes it easier to provide assistance to other countries. The emotional and financial support is important but spiritual support is an absolutely essential. We are a fraternal and spiritual family and we need to try and develop a strong spiritual base in order to carry out His work. Personal prayer is very important, but family prayer and sharing is also important. Just as we need to meet at the Conference level to pray and work together and learn from one another, so we must also meet at the Particular Council level, the regional level and the national level. We are a family and as a family, we must come together to help each other carry out His work and to grow together fraternally and spiritually. We must remember that we are workers in His vineyard, but we are also part of that vineyard and so must “feed” one another.

All of us will stand before Him on the last day and all will be treated with love and compassion. There will be an accounting for what we have done in our lives. It doesn't matter how long you have been working. Some may have worked for years, yet others may only work for a few months, weeks or days - we will each receive our reward come judgment day.

The most wonderful thing about the work we do is that He has chosen us to carry out this work. All of us, with all our gifts and all our failings, have been chosen by Him. He wants us to be with Him and to love Him. Unworthy as we all are, we still have been chosen by Him and we must learn to appreciate that we are His children as we must love and respect one another, but we must also love and respect ourselves because He has

given us the wonderful gift of being chosen by Him. We need to always be grateful for this gift as the following prayer tells us.

*I marvel at your desire for my company.*

*I stand in awe that your love finds and chooses me, for I had given up all hope of ever being addressed so lovingly by anyone.*

*And now, you choose me and tell me that I make a difference to you!*

*Utterly amazed, I experience myself differently because of your choice.*

*I learn to appreciate myself in a new way.*

*I see my worth and my contribution when I look at myself with your eyes.*

*How can I begin to thank you?*

*God, giver of life*

*You alone know how my life can truly succeed.*

*Teach me in the silence of your presence*

*To reverence this mystery:*

*How in the encounter with you,*

*How under your gaze and in your word*

*I recognize myself*

*As your image and likeness.*

*Show me how to let go*

*Of whatever hinders me*

*From meeting you,*

*From letting myself be touched by your Word.*

*Help me to welcome and accept*

*Whatever in me yearns to come alive*

*In the image and likeness*

*You have dreamed for me*

*Today and every day*

*For ever and ever.*

**Maureen MacIsaac  
Spiritual Committee**

## PRAYER FOR THE CANONISATION OF BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM

(In the hope of obtaining a miracle through his intercession)

At its meeting on 16 & 17 June 2012 in Bangkok, The Permanent Section, which is presided by Amin A de Tarrazi, the former 12th President General of the CGI, approved the new Canonization Prayer for Blessed Frederic Ozanam written by the Commission for the cause of Canonization.

Special thanks is rendered to Msgr. Renauld de Dinechin, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris, Dr. Austin Fagan, David Williams and Amin A de Tarrazi for their insightful contribution to this prayer.

Conference and Council members are encouraged to recite this prayer, together, at their meetings and retreats.



Lord,

You made Blessed Frederic Ozanam a witness of the Gospel, full of wonder at the mystery of the Church.

You inspired him to alleviate poverty and injustice and endowed him with untiring generosity in the service of all who were suffering.

In family life, he revealed a most genuine love as a son, brother, husband and father.

In secular life, his ardent passion for the truth enlightened his thought, writing and teaching.

His vision for our society was a network of charity encircling the world and he instilled St. Vincent de Paul's spirit of love, boldness and humility.

His prophetic social vision appears in every aspect of his short life, together with the radiance of his virtues.

We thank you Lord, for those many gifts and we ask, if it is your will, the grace of a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

May the Church proclaim his holiness, as a saint, a providential light for today's world!

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Amen.

# Council General International

## CLOSING SPEECH OF DR. MICHAEL THIO, PRESIDENT GENERAL, AT PERMANENT SECTION MEETING IN BANGKOK, JUNE 17, 2012



Dear Fellow Vincentians,

Over the past one and a half days you have heard the various presentations from members of the Int'l Structure on the Vincentian activities around the world. They are involved in tremendous amount of work notwithstanding the great amount of effort, time and sacrifices they are subjected to. Time away from home and family, friends work etc. On some areas they faced daunting tasks but we will prevail through the grace of God. We are truly thankful to these wonderful Vincentians and we thank God for the gift of them. They are such a blessing. Let us show them our appreciation. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all National/Superior Councils for extending to them their co-operation and we work as one Society and endeavour in our joint and common pursuit in our Vincentian vocation and mission for the greater glory of God.

Let us read our "Vision and Mission Statements":

The Motto of our Society.

"Serviens in Spe" – "Service in Hope" – is the motto of our beloved Society. It is simple, yet profound. It encapsulates our activities that we do in serving Christ in the poor in our Vincentian apostolate and align with our vision and mission statement.

The motto has two aspects. The 1st is - in serving the poor we give them Hope – a new life, a new beginning, a new future, a Hopeful life and the possibility of hopefully encountering Christ.

The 2nd aspect - in seeing in the suffering poor, we, Vincentians, see the suffering Christ and it gives us the opportunity to serve Christ in the poor – and in that we receive Christ in us and gives us a Hopeful life with God in our hearts. With God in you, you experience God's Love and it becomes so contagious that you want to share God's Love with others. As Vincentians, we share and radiate Christian Love which is our Love for Christ transformed into loving service given to others and especially the poor you serve. God is Love. "The Love of Christ impels us" – 2Cor5:14

To be a true and committed Vincentian you must be deeply rooted in Christ – and this is primary. You must develop a strong Vincentian Spirituality and be One in Christ. To be a Vincentian is a calling, it is a vocation to serve Christ in the lay Vincentian apostolate of Charity for the greater glory of God and not our glory. "You did not choose me, I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures, and so the Father will give you whatever you ask of Him in My name" – as Jesus spoke to us in John 15:16.

We have a very fair and loving God. If he chooses you to do His will, He will not forsake you, He will be with you BUT you must go to Him and develop an intimate relationship with the Lord and be sincere and true to your beliefs. Trust in the Lord.

Hence, Spiritual Formation and Development for each and everyone of us is key as Vincentians. This is the first and top priority of my 10 Strategic Goals which I shared with the General Plenary Assembly when I was elected President General a year and a half ago. It was conveyed to all the National/Superior Councils globally and they must develop and promote programs for Vincentians in Spiritual Formation. There is no alternative.



# Council General International

When you have God deeply rooted in you the rest of your Vincentian mission and vocation will fall into place. “Give me a man of prayer and he will be capable of everything” said St. Vincent.

Apart from this, there is also the need to conduct Leadership and members formation and training to equip ourselves with the necessary skills to manage the Society in order to serve the poor and needy better. As you have heard from Brian O’Reilly, Vice-President General and Marie Françoise Int’l VP for Formation and ITVP for Europe 1, CGI has initiated a training program that will be rolled out this year throughout the 11 Vincentian world regions. It is a model of “Train-a-Trainers” program or “Cascade Training” program.

The poor and needy in this new millennium have different demands and wants in different countries and culture and they hope to be satisfied. The challenges in this area are tremendous, to feed the hungry, attend to the homeless, the oppressed, street kids, education, social imbalance etc. Blessed Frederic envisaged this 180 years ago when he founded the Society and he wrote; “Charity must never look into the past but always to the future, because the number of it’s past work is still very small and the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite”. He is a visionary and God gave him this vision.

We would encourage you to consider assistance programs beyond your normal/usual ones. We need to look ahead and take on new programs, be courageous and inventive and sometimes we require to think outside the box. We need to be relevant in attending to the wants of the poor today and in the future. It is a challenge, let us take up the challenge in the spirit of our early founders who Dare to Dream Dreams.

In our programs for the poor and needy we require to be innovative and constructive in contributing to Systemic Change. Assist the poor to be independent wherever possible and help them out of the poverty cycle so they beg no more and restore to them the dignity of the human person and lead humane life. Give them a hand-up rather than a hand-out.

There have been numerous natural disasters and also political ones over the past few years. SSVF is involved in many global disaster programs from emergency relief to rehabilitation programs. All this requires vast sum of funds and manpower resources. In several disaster areas around the world the Society have embarked on collaborative programs with other international Catholic Charity organizations and we combine our resources to achieve economies of scale and be more effective in our programs. To name a few, in Haiti we team up with the DC and CM, in the Horn of Africa we are with the DC, CM and Trocaire (the Irish Catholic Charity), in the Philippines we are with the DC and the CM and so on in other countries.

The Holy Father encouraged such collaboration among the various international Catholic Charity groups in his recent address to us at the meeting of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum in Rome. He reminded us that when we serve the poor with God’s love in our hearts we are witnessing to Christ and bring about conversion and evangelization. Through “conversion” there is a change of heart and we bring lapse Catholics back to the Faith; through “evangelization” by our witnessing to Christ we share the Good News and inspire people to be touched and accept God and be new Christians. “We, who are involved in the apostolate of Charity(Love), are powerful agents for Conversion and Evangelization” said the Holy Father.

The Society received United Nations accreditation as an International UN-NGO with “Special Consultative Member status” of ECOSOC(the Economic and Social Council of the UN). We informed all National/Superior Councils on this. This recognition affirms our Society’s standing as an international Charity organization of high repute. We join the CM(Congregation of the Mission), DC(Daughters of Charity), the Sisters of Charity and AIC(Association of International Charities) as an enlarged Vincentian Family representation in the UN. We shall be the collective voice of the poor and oppressed in international UN Forums and conferences voicing our stand on human rights, social justice, abuse of women and children, fair wages etc. and importantly

# Council General International

advocating for better UN programs for alleviation of the impoverished. The Society have moved up the value chain in our mission.

Today we are active in 148 countries worldwide – the latest 148th country was established last week in LAOS. Of the 148 countries only 22 countries are considered affluent and they are supporting the rest of the 126 non-affluent countries. Some assistance are done through International Twinning programs and some through CGI Commission for International Aid and Development(CIAD) . Worldwide, we have a total of about 750,000 members with approximately 1.3m volunteers and serving over 30 million poor.

The more countries we are in, more work there are for members of the CGI Board, various Commissions and the International Structure in liaison and co-ordination effort with National/Superior Councils globally. Altogether there are more than 60 Vincentians who serve in the CGI International Structure along with 8 staff. I thank the National/Superior Councils for their support and co-operation with CGI and the International Structure for the mutual benefit and growth of the Society.

The Society is one of the most respected, well-known, flourishing and inspiring Catholic apostolate of Charity in the world. All of you are instrumental in maintaining the vibrancy and growth of the Society and you made it so and you should be proud of it. Please keep up the good work and continue with your zeal and passion. Thank you for your Vincentian efforts and commitment.

With Jesus in our hearts, Let us Dare to Dream Dreams that constancy, resilience and fidelity are the attitudes that enable us to confront difficulties, failures, misunderstandings and discouragements. Never give up especially when the odds are heavily against you. God is on your side and you will prevail. Trust in the Lord and have Faith. Faith sees the Invisible; Believes the Incredible and Receives the Impossible.

Let us want To Live... a fulfilling, loving, peaceful Christian life align with the Gospel values.

Let us want to Contemplate.... To meditate and discern.

Let us want to Serve... CHRIST and mankind - and grow in our discipleship in Christ.

I was privileged to work with Blessed Mother Teresa and recalled the inspiring words she personally imparted to me: "What you are is God's gift to you; What you make of yourself is your gift to God".

So my dear fellow Vincentians, let us continue to Dream Dreams and heed the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to our Father in Heaven".

United in prayer let us continue to journey together in our Vincentian mission and vocation in our lay apostolate of FAITH, HOPE, LOVE and CHARITY.

Jesus loves you and God bless you all. Thank you.

**Dr. Michael Thio**  
**President General**  
**International Confederation of the**  
**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

## THE FIFTH LATIN-AMERICAN MEETING IN MEDELLIN

The activities of Saturday 28th July (last day of the meeting) began early in the morning with the presentation of 5 panels:

Francisco Velazco, President of Chile's National Council explained the joint work of the Vincentian Family in his country.

Sebastián Gramajo, vice-president for communications at the CGI presented the plan of internal and external communication of the General Council.

Carmela Addante, Coordinator for twinning in the Americas spoke about them and about the need of implementing mechanisms securing these activities.

Julio Cesar Lima, coordinator of the group America 3 made a presentation on the work of the children and adolescents conferences.

Finally, Sebastián Rivera from Brazil spoke about the mission carried out by Vinpaz in Bolivia.

In the afternoon the President General Michael Thio explained different lines of the CGI work and finished with a quote of mother Teresa: The life you have is a gift of God to you, what you do with your life is your gift to God, and afterwards he answered questions and engaged in a dialogue with all the Vincentian brothers.

After them, the frequency of the Latin-American meetings was examined, and the criterion of holding them every five years was agreed, and the City of Panama was proposed to host the future meeting; in case of have some inconvenience to do so, there is the possibility of holding it in Madrid or Lima.

The closing official ceremony was opened by the Vincentian Family's adviser, the president of Medellín Council: Margarita Henao and the President of Colombia's National Council, Manuel Flores; later, we received the message of the vice-presidents Ed Keane and Renato Lima. And finally, we listened again to the words of the PGI Michael Thio, who thanked the organizers and encouraged us to carry on and to improve the Vincentian work

After this ceremony the Holy Mass was said by Medellín's auxiliary Bishop, SER Hugo Torres Marín in charge of the Social Pastoral.



Mrs. Thio, Michael Thio and Carmela Addante



Praying the Rosary in front of the dining hall



# AGA 2013



## Ottawa ON – Gatineau QC

Central Councils in Ottawa and Gatineau invite all Vincentians to our national AGA that will take place in the national capital

**June 26 - 30, 2013**  
**Ottawa, ON**



More details on cost, accommodation, workshops, etc. will be communicated during the winter, via our Vincenpaul-Canada magazine and the National Council website: [www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca)



If you wish to know more about activities in the Ottawa (national capital) region, visit [www.ottawatourism.ca](http://www.ottawatourism.ca)

We are expecting many of you, in the hope of having the pleasure to share our Vincentian ties during that event.

**2013 AGA Committee**  
**Ottawa-Gatineau**





## CALL FOR WORKSHOPS- AGA 2013

The theme in 2013 is: “Let us put faith into action”  
**Blessed Frederick Ozanam**

### Workshops developed around the theme

At least 4 workshops in French and 4 in English that would develop this topic.

### Yearly administrative workshops

Usually the responsibility of the education committee.

- Role of the President and executive - Conference/Councils
- Role of Treasurer - Conference/Councils
- Role of Secretary - Conference/Councils
- Succession planning - Conference/Councils
- The meeting - Conference/Councils

### Other possible topics for workshops

- a. Fundraising
- b. Isolated conferences
- c. Systemic Change

Please submit your proposals and requirements for workshops to

Carol Horne, Education/Formation Committee  
806-290 Main Ave., Halifax NS. B3M 3V3  
svdp.horne@gmail.com



### Please fill form to present workshop

Title of Workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Language Presented: English \_\_\_\_\_ French \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Biographical Data: : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Topic Content Summary: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How does the topic tie into the AGA theme?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Handout Materials:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Required Room size/type  
\_\_\_\_\_

Required AV Materials  
\_\_\_\_\_

Associated Costs if any  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please send to*

**Carol Horne, Education/Formation Committee**  
**806-290 Main Ave., Halifax NS. B3M 3V3**  
**svdp.horne@gmail.com**

Approved by National Council Education Committee:  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Systemic Change

## VINNIE'S WALLET TO OFFER LOANS FOR MEN IN NEED

*Written by Michael Swan, The Catholic Register*  
Thursday, 22 March 2012 10:25

The St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Ursuline Sisters in Chatham, Ont., are not likely to make a dent in Canada's \$2 billion per year payday loan industry, but in their own small way will be taking them on.

On May 1, 2010 the Ursuline Sisters used \$20,000 to launch a microfinance venture they call Angela's Pocket. With close ties to The Women's Centre and the local United Way, Angela's Pocket has lent out about \$8,000 in small loans to women who otherwise couldn't raise money. The loans are for everything from a return to school to basic household appliances.

Now Chatham's St. Vincent de Paul Conference wants to get in on the local microcredit boom by providing a similar service to men. They plan to call their loan fund Vinnie's Wallet.

Ontario St. Vincent de Paul president Jim Paddon looks around his home town of Chatham and shudders at the proliferation of payday loan storefronts. With interest charges just below the criminal code limit of 60 per cent, plus cheque cashing fees, transaction fees and brokerage fees, a pay day loan to tide a family over can wind up costing big time.

"One of our biggest concerns is these corner money mart places," he said. "Maybe the rate is not too bad at the beginning, but boy if they don't pay it back on time the interest rate is astronomical."

Paddon wants to give people an alternative. For now, neither Angela's Pocket nor Vinnie's Wallet is taking business away from storefront loan operations. To qualify for an Angela's Pocket loan a client must not be eligible for a bank loan. Most Angela's Pocket clients have no paycheque coming in, said the Ursuline community's business manager Tafa Burd.

Clients who take an Angela's Pocket loan take on more than an obligation to pay it back. They have to have a plan for building a better future. "We're not just giving these women money and sending them out the door," said Burd. "We're empowering them with decision making."

A loan of \$200 can make a big difference for an Angela's Pocket client, said Burd. In one case a single mother was

accepted into a college program but didn't have money to cover incidental costs. Getting her life on track with a return to school is a good investment, said Burd.

"We're definitely teaching her how to fish," she said.

Vinnie's Wallet is part of a new emphasis on trying to make systemic changes on behalf of poor people, said Paddon. "We will certainly still do the charitable works to address what you would call the symptoms and the results of poverty, but we have to look at some of the causes," he said. "Can we change systems? Can we change things to get people out of poverty — give them a bit of hope?"

Two years ago the Ontario St. Vincent de Paul Society set up a \$20,000 fund to kick-start new projects that aim at systemic change. This year the Provincial Council will double that amount to \$40,000. "We're putting our money where our mouth is," Paddon said.

Unlike a pay day loan company, there won't be a storefront operation for Vinnie's Wallet in Chatham. "If we get the word out in the community, we'll get people coming to us," said Paddon. "We'll continue with it as long as there are funds."

The micro financing experience worldwide, beginning with the Grameen Bank established in Bangladesh in 1976, shows small loans to poor people are usually repaid. Still in the early going, Angela's Pocket has so far collected \$4,500 of the \$8,000 it has loaned out.

Microfinance isn't the only way the St. Vincent de Paul Society is changing its approach to helping the poor. The Society now has an advocacy committee and a communications committee. "We're also trying to get meetings with various levels of government. We do have people who are really good at that," Paddon said.

After a successful experiment with a youth chapter in Windsor, Ont., the Provincial Council wants to expand its outreach to young people. With about 5,000 members across Ontario, the Society would like to grow particularly in the Franco-Ontarian regions of Northern Ontario, said Paddon.

"We really have to focus on actually looking at different projects — things we can do," he said. "(St. Vincent de Paul) believed in action first and then words. I think we have to demonstrate that there are things we can do."

# Systemic Change

## TOXIC CHARITY – LOOKING AT POVERTY DIFFERENTLY

Churches and charities have fallen into the bad habit of creating programs to help the poor when in reality the only people they are helping are themselves, creating a toxic charity that needs to be reexamined and fixed.

In a groundbreaking book, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)*, Robert Lupton shows how good-intentioned people are actually hurting the very people they're trying to help. The poor end up feeling judged, looked down upon, only worthy of charity and handouts that end up making them more dependent instead of learning skills to help themselves. Charitable organizations, though good-intentioned, have missed the mark when it comes to serving the poor, creating a toxic form of charity. Lupton says that a better system would be to treat the poor as business partners, empowering them to start businesses, build houses, plan communities, etc. Together, we can serve our world in a way that actually effects life-altering change.

The blog of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina offers a review of the book and suggests looking at poverty differently: "One often wonders about how to best serve the poor and marginalized in our communities. We wonder whether we are maximizing our resources to have lasting results". At the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina, we recognize a distinct separation between generational poverty and situational poverty, and how we address them both. We view generational poverty as chronic, with many variables that have caused a person to live in poverty, including family structure, community structure, educational attainment, life skills, culture, value and attitudes. We view situational poverty as crisis poverty. A person is without food, clothing or shelter. In the Foundation's case, more than 85% of our grant funding goes to addressing generational poverty, but we also realize that situational and crisis poverty exists and needs support.

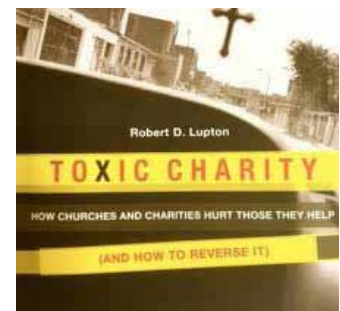
"Lupton explained the dilemma faced with providing services through our government, churches and nonprofit organizations. Lupton believes that we often apply crisis tactics to chronic problems, even when the situation is clearly persistent. Applying crisis intervention to a chronic issue can be harmful to a person or

a family and it fosters dependency, which perpetuates poverty. This is why people who are poor remain poor.

"The question becomes "what can we do differently?" Lupton feels the most important factor missing in most service programs for the poor is that the recipient has no "skin in the game." You give them something the first time and they appreciate it. You give them something a second time and they anticipate it. You give them something a third time and they expect it. You give it a fourth time and they depend on it. If you really look closely at a person in poverty, odds are that they would much rather be a partner or participant than a charity case. That is why free clothes closets are not good but thrift stores work. That is why free food banks foster dependency but inexpensive food co-ops allow the person to become a customer.

This is about looking at those we want to help, differently. This is about respecting the poor and building their ability to be self sufficient. Lupton: "We never do for someone else what they are capable of doing for themselves. Communities and organizations dealing with issues around poverty must be willing to shift.. But rather than just giving it away, can we find new ways to partner or help individuals become more independent? If so, they will become respected and confident consumers with a greater sense of self worth. It will also create an environment where individuals are no longer viewed as "charity" and where chronic issues are addressed more strategically and more collegially.

*Taken from Famvin News: [www.famvin.org](http://www.famvin.org)*



# Twinning

## COLOMBIA

St. Joseph's Conference, Bowmanville, is twined with the Santa Ana Conference in Guarne, Colombia. The Santa Ana Conference runs a retirement home for the needy. They have been renovating and extending this home. As you can see from the pictures the home is beginning to look better. They have repaired the sewers and have built a room for group activities, as well as, extra rooms.

**Barbara Twydell**  
St. Joseph's Conference, Bowmanville ON



## RICE PROJECT, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - UPDATE

We are no longer collecting funds for more land for the Rice Project of the Dominican Republic.

As Mrs. Alcantara, president of the DR National Council, has written, "The General International Council with the collaboration of Canada, USA and Spain donated (to) them about 52 thousand american dollars, to buy the land to expand the 50 hectares that they already have since they were donated on 2002. At this moment, they have land of 100 hectares, which is generating good benefits. I can assure you that they don't need at this moment funds; the project is already self sustainable."

I thank those Conferences who have contributed to this project since our appeal in the spring.

**Kathy Weswick, National Twinning Chairperson**



## VINCENTIAN FAMILY

The roots of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul lie within Frederic Ozanam. As many of you know Frederic was a young adult in his twenties, when he started serving the poor through Christ. He wanted to help the poor in a very humble way. He gathered his friends, who collected firewood from the forest and delivered bundles of wood to those families in need.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has continued the aspirations of Frederic by serving the marginalized in our communities with food, clothing, prayer, assistance, and friendship.

The Society has developed a family across Canada and throughout the world. In this family we cherish our Catholic values, respect, honesty, and kindness to achieve the same goal. The aspect of Vincentian family is key to our organization as we stick together to achieve one common goal. We have power by numbers and that allows us to help the poor in a holistic manner as well as advocate to our government bodies for systemic change. The relationships that we build as a family are stronger than we can imagine.

The youth groups across Canada see great turnover, but in each turn of leadership we have groups of students who bring their friends with them, just like Ozanam, to do the work of Christ in serving the marginalized. The youth would essentially fall apart if we did not allow friends to join and continue to foster growth and development of that friendship and family.

Every Vincentian wants to see change and growth in our marginalized communities, as well as, do the good works, while experiencing joy and happiness through helping and spending time with our Vincentian family.

Evidence in many research articles tells us that the relationships we build empower us to go above and beyond in our lives work, most important to serving the poor. Strength building within our

family will keep us strong and enable us to help the poor overcome poverty. It is very important to maintain our family and appreciate their efforts. We must continue to not only help the poor but also continue to develop growth and thanks among our Vincentian family.

God Bless,

**Joshua Pfaff, Past-President**  
**Windsor- Essex Youth Particular Council**  
**pfaffjr@gmail.com**



World Youth Day - 2011

# Youth

## 2013 WORLD YOUTH DAY, RIO DE JANEIRO

Next year, the new edition of the World Youth Days will take place in Rio de Janeiro! [The traditional Vincentian FamVin meeting will be held July 18-21, 2013 under the theme “Vincentians: missionaries of charity, let us go to the poor! », followed by the WYD, on July 23-28, 2013.](#) Registration must be sent at the latest by January 10, 2013.

In order to encourage Canadian participation, as Youth Representative and participant in 2011, I offer to coordinate future participants, as well as, contributors. Thus, Conferences which wish to help the young participants financially are invited to manifest their intentions to the National Council. At the same time, youths who wish to experience the WYD are invited to join us. By finding out who is interested in attending, I will be happy to forward all useful communications. Centralizing communications will ensure that all youths receive the necessary information, that financing goes smoothly and that the experience is optimized by allowing the participants to know in advance who they will be traveling with.

Furthermore, Conferences which wish to send young volunteers from their parish can have access to recommendations to help future participants prepare adequately for the adventure. The advice provided is based on previous participation and is strongly recommended.

1. It is proposed that the participant pays part of the expenses. That allows the participant to understand the financial aspect, sufficiently to invest personally in the adventure.
2. It is suggested to ask the future participant to write a motivation text, in order to find out what his/her objectives and expectations are. The reasons why the participant wishes to be part of the Canadian delegation must be worthwhile. I remind you that participating in the WYD is not considered as a vacation, but rather as a pilgrimage, a spiritual, personal and group experience in minimal comfort conditions.
3. It is recommended that the Canadian delegation be accompanied by a Spiritual Advisor. Therefore, volunteers who wish to join the group as Spiritual Advisor are invited to contact me.

FAMVIN days and WYD are a definite milestone in a life, but of course, one must be prepared. Let us unite therefore to ensure that we send to Rio a strong and inspiring Canadian delegation, which can fully benefit from the opportunity at hand, and bring us back energy from Catholics of the entire world!

**Caroline Gilbert, National Youth Representative**  
[carolinegilbert@live.fr](mailto:carolinegilbert@live.fr)



## Patrons and intercessors – WYD 2013

The next World Youth Day (WYD) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2013 has officially been placed under the protection of 5 patron saints and 13 intercessors.

The patron saints of the next WYD 2013, presented as true “masters and spiritual fathers” on the road to sainthood are: Notre-Dame d’Aparacida, Saint Stephen, Saint Anthony of Saint Ann Galvao, Saint Teresa of the Child-Jesus and Blessed John Paul II.

The intercessors are: Saint rose of Lima, Saint Teresa of the Andes, Blessed Laura Vicuna, Blessed José de Anchieta, Blessed Albertina Berkenbrock, Blessed Chiara Luce Badana, Blessed Sister Dulce, Blessed Adilio Daronch, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, Blessed Isodoro Bakania, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Saint Georges and Saints Andrew Kim and his companions.

(Extract of an article in Magazine Terres d’espérance, published by the Religieux de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, June 2012, vol. 36, no. 2)

All young Vincentians around the globe should rejoice in the knowledge that the main founder of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is amongst the intercessors of this huge gathering of the Catholic youth in 2013. This model of service to the poor will nourish the Faith of the young Vincentians participating in WYD 2013.

## National Council of Canada

## 2013 WYD logo

Officials of the World Youth Days that will take place on July 23-28, 2013, in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), unveiled on Tuesday, February 7, the logo of the event, which should bring together hundreds of thousands Catholic youths from around the world.

The heart-shaped logo aims to illustrate the “heart of the disciple” that completely converts to Christ, referring to the penultimate verse of the Gospel of St. Matthew that Benedict XVI has chosen as the theme for those 28th WYD: « Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations (...)” (Mt 28:19).

“In that episode, Jesus met his disciples on a mountain, after his resurrection” recall the organizers, therefore choosing two emblematic mountains of the carioca environment: the Sugar Loaf and Christ Redeemer, who dominates the city from atop the Corcovado.

### Christ Redeemer and the Sugar Loaf

The organizers explain, “The arms of Christ Redeemer embrace the heart, just as God will lovingly embrace people and youths who will be in Brazil. He represents our welcome, offered by generous and hospitable people.”

The green part symbolizing the Sugar Loaf is struck with a cross, recalling at the same time the pilgrim cross of the WYD, and that part of the Brazilian territory where Rio is located, and originally called Land of Santa Cruz.

Finally, the color blue represents the Brazilian coast and its beaches, and the three colours, green, yellow, and blue, recall the colors of the Brazilian national flag.



# 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 send nominations to the National Council, via the Regional Council President, by filling the official form on the next page. Every conference may present up to two candidates. Nominations must be approved by two co-signers. They can be conference members, or members of another conference. They must not be relatives of the candidate. **Every nomination must be submitted with a text explaining the entry, according to established criteria.**

The Regional Council President must receive nominations forms no later than February 1st. The Regional Council President will send recommendations to the National Council Youth Representative no later than March 1st. A selection committee will examine the nominations received, and select the recipient. Under special conditions, the committee may decide to award two scholarships.

## 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



Adam Keating, winner of the Emmanuel Bailly's Scholarship - 2012

On the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, September 27, 2012, a evening eucharistic celebration was held at St. Theresa's Church for all members of the society in the St. John's area.

Fathers Bidgood and English from the parish celebrated mass for the group. A social followed.

Winner of the Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship for 2012, Adam Keating, was presented with his scholarship to the delight of his parents who also attended.

**Christopher Ryan**

**Please send this application to your Regional Council President.**

**A text justifying the nomination according to the established criteria must accompany each application.**

**Photocopies of forms are also accepted.**

**Thank you!**



# Canada's Councils in Action

## ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Guelph Thrift Store Celebrates 25th Anniversary -The little store that grew

The story of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Guelph goes back to 1986.

At that time several Guelph Catholic churches were operating SSVP Conferences. As the need for services increased beyond just food vouchers and hampers, it became evident that we needed a place where we could collect and distribute clothing and household needs to those whom we were visiting. After discussing how to go about opening a store to distribute clothing and household goods, the Conferences called in Ontario Regional President, Ernie Grondin, who advised us to start up a Particular Council so that we could then operate a store as a Special Works under the guidance of the Council. Cathy Mahony was elected as the first President of the Particular Council, and we began the process of getting all our established Conferences on board. For those who did not have a Conference, we applied to have them recognized as Conferences and started the process to get them all aggregated.

The Thrift Store became an aggregated Special works Conference in 1987.

We began in a small store which we rented at 46 Quebec Street in downtown Guelph, with a complement of about 20 volunteers. We worked hard painting, building shelves and installing other equipment with all the volunteers donating their time to get the store ready for business. Others donated the use of their trucks to collect furniture which we stored in a donated warehouse. We operated the warehouse separately as we had little room for furniture at this store. An old cube van was then purchased and drivers and insurance needs were met. This location worked out for about 1 ½ yrs, but then we needed more room as supplies and stock grew. We moved to a larger facility at 123 Wyndham Street about two blocks away from our Quebec Street store. During this time we applied for and received a grant from the Trillium Foundation which enabled us to purchase a new truck in 1990.

This allowed us to make some deliveries, as well as, to do pickups of donations.

We stayed here until 1998 and then we moved to 133 Woolwich Street as we again needed larger premises. Some of this move was accomplished by a parade of volunteers walking out the back door of 123 Wyndham, down a laneway and across the street to 133 Woolwich carrying merchandise from one store to the other. For the first time we were able to actually house much of the furniture on these premises. The number of volunteers had grown to about 50 by now. We were really on our way; we were able to help more people at this location and offer a larger selection of goods. To this point all our personnel had been volunteers. Our Manager Carman Norris was given a gas allowance in lieu of a salary. We did very well in this location and, when a new supervised building supporting persons with disabilities was opened by Sister Christine Lyser, we were able to supply all the furnishings, including beds, dressers, linens and bath accessories for this building to the Drop In Foundation run by Sister Christine.

Our stay in the Woolwich Street address was not without some sad times as our long time Manager Carman Norris passed away in 2001. We had several short term managers until Kathy Masales was hired in 2003. We also hired an accountant and a truck driver with several back up drivers and assistants to handle the growth of our business and the increase in the amount of furniture donations being received. We replaced our truck with another, larger cube van in 2006. Under Kathy's management the store continued to do well, but once again we were faced with a lack of space and poor parking, especially for our truck and volunteers.

After a lot of searching the site of our present store at 74 Elizabeth Street became available for lease just before Christmas of 2007. This store is located close to downtown and to our previous store, in an area affectionately called "The Ward", with better bus service and a large parking lot. The premises had housed businesses previously but had been vacant for awhile. It needed a lot of cleanup work and required tons of volunteer hours by electricians, contractors, painters and general laborers to get it into shape. But finally the place was finished

# Canada's Councils in Action

and fitted out with new lighting, heating, wash rooms, change rooms, a lunch room, sorting room and lots of on-site storage. The large floor space helped us to set up better displays and gave us more room for customer browsing and shopping. And the ample parking and better bus service was a big bonus for the customers.

An opening and dedication ceremony and blessing was held on June 6th 2008, with many clergy, Conference members and store volunteers in attendance.

But sad times followed as our Store Committee chairperson Dennis Burton passed away in September of 2009. And yet again we were visited with sadness as our Manager Kathy Masales passed away suddenly in June of 2010. After much searching we hired our present Manager Bev Ross in July of 2010. Our store continues to grow and prosper and we now have 65 regular volunteers, a full-time manager, and 3 part-time staff.

This year marks our 25th anniversary as the Society of St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in the city of Guelph. We celebrated this milestone in June with a BBQ held at the store in the parking lot area. Many of the store volunteers and staff were there, as well as Council members and guests. Our spiritual advisor Father Mulhall of the Church of Our Lady parish said the blessing.

Countless people have passed through our doors and we hope we have shown them the face of Christ in our ministry to them. These folks have become our family and we will love them for as long as there is a world. With the leadership and unselfish attitude of our staff and volunteers we will continue to operate our store with caring and compassion for those we serve, in the spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederick Ozanam.

**Catherine Mahony**  
Store Committee Chairperson



Marg Burton and Gail Howden at cashier counter



Present store at 74 Elizabeth St.

# Canada's Councils in Action

## ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

When I heard that twenty two trailers were being sent to Attawapiskat to house families living in squalor I was relieved to hear that the government was doing something to help this Northern community. My question then was, were these trailers furnished? I set out to find out and the next day on CBC radio I heard that True North Aid, a non-profit organization based in Ottawa was fundraising \$80,000, to furnish them.

I immediately contacted them to get information, then sent off an email to Jim Paddon to see if we could help. With his approval I went to our parish priest, Fr. Michael Williams of St. Kevin's parish in Val Caron, who was more than willing to endorse our SSVP appeal. I spoke at all the masses and the response was amazing!

Each home cost \$3,900 to furnish, the parish raised \$4,000; St.Kevins' Conference added to that and from there the amount just kept increasing. Donations from Ontario SSVP, Southern Ontario Conferences etc. have helped us reach a donation of \$34,000 dollars.

True North Aid has been extremely excited and grateful to work with SSVP on this project. Jim, our Ontario president met with George Howarth a True North Representative a few times and hopefully we will be able to continue to help our friends in the Northern Native Communities, who continue to find themselves in a state of poverty.

Thank you to all who supported this effort

Yours in Christ,

**Michelle Jenkinson.**  
**St.Kevin's Conference**  
**Val Caron, Ontario**

### Each housing unit receives

- 1 Double bed , box springs and mattress
- 2 night stands
- 3 sets of 5 drawer dressers
- 1 set of steel bunk beds and mattresses
- or 2 single beds and mattresses or combination of both
- 5 piece dinette set
- 2 piece living room set
- 3 piece coffee and end table set

Cost includes transportation to Attawapiskat.





# Canada's Councils in Action

## ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wherever one person does something good for another, there God is especially near. That phrase serves to get us started on Atlantic Canada once again and the wonderful work done by the Saint Vincent de Paul Particular Councils and Conferences. For this issue I will concentrate on the services done by the St John's Particular Council of Newfoundland. Newfoundland is the largest province in Atlantic region with an area of 156 thousand square miles and a population of 514,538. Forty percent of the population of Newfoundland live in St. John's - hence the important service role being played by the St John's Particular Council.

The president of St John's Particular, Christopher Ryan, is a strong advocate for increased communication between all Particular Councils and Conferences across the province and our nation. Christopher kindly shared with me a report on the work done by the four Conferences making up the Particular Council of St John's. His report filled me with enthusiasm. I came away thinking that the members were filled with faith hope and love, that they know God knows of what they do for the needy and that they take these responsibilities seriously. They are blessed by serving their neighbours in need and our Lord. Two Conferences come to mind at the outset. St Peter's Conference under President Anne Marie Cox and Mary Queen of the World Conference under new President Bob Lovett.

St Peter's Conference consists of sixty youthful members, sharing food drives and fund raising with Mary Queen of the World Conference. They provide the only food bank service to residents of Mount Pearl a community of over twenty-four thousand residents. They work closely with The Anglican and Salvation Army parishes with strong support from The Mormon elders. Last year St. Peter's served over seven hundred families including, two hundred families at Christmas time. They operate outreach projects in support of homeless men and are known for their support of The Tommy Sexton Centre and the NFLD Aids Committee. They are twinned with Goderich, Ontario.

Mary Queen of the World Conference under new president Bob Lovett, has thirty-six members and another eight in the screening process. They served three thousand persons in 2011 providing ninety hampers a month

to those in need. They are open three days a week and work closely with St Peters Conference in serving the needy.

The third Conference of St John's Particular Council is Corpus Christi Conference under President Judy Peddle. They have forty members and enjoy the full support of parishioners. They operate out of an Out Building called 'the Hut' and are open three days a week providing a food bank and other services with seventy to ninety clients per month receiving help. Recently they received a van to pick up donations of food in support of the needy. They have been recognized for their support of the Iris Kirby Centre (for women) School Lunch Program.

St Theresa's Conference under president Jim Dinn has recently renovated its food bank, providing food hampers, as well as, clothing and hampers at Christmas. They are the only Conference still delivering hampers to the homes of the needy. They have fifty members and are currently digitalizing all client data. Shirley MacKinnon is our twinning representative from this Conference. They support the St. Theresa's School Lunch program and Youth network.

The Conferences provided 18,200 hours of service last year. One hundred and eighty volunteers gave of their time and resources to help the poor. Much of their revenues are derived from clothing sales and funds are shared by all Conferences and Particular Council. The Conferences are involved in many outreach projects reflecting, for me, their love of the poor and a strong desire to eliminate the causes of poverty. I am sure that our fonder Frederick Ozanam would have appreciated The St John's PC Thrive program, a community based youth program where drop out students are encouraged, supported and reintroduced to educational settings in the community. For more information on the St. John's Particular Council write to Christopher Ryan at christopher@nl.rogers.com

Next time more on Newfoundland and a note on Cape Breton.

**Dennis McCormack, President  
Atlantic Regional Council**

# Canada's Councils in action

## QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Fruitful Exchanges at the First High Tea Edition: Ozanam's Dream

The concept was unusual, the challenge, significant. People responded to that original call intended to gather a small community of business people, to share tea, salted sandwiches and sweets, while exploring together the theme of social commitment. The challenge was met! More than 50 guests thus gathered in the Saint-Paul salon of Downtown Montreal Delta Hotel, a partner to the event, for a convivial happy hour. As well, we wish to thank Copilote, a BrandAlliance enterprise, another partner without whom the evening could not have taken place. Various teas served to our guests were graciously provided by Camillia Sinensis.

The British High Tea formula was inspiring to most guests, fostering openness and dialogue. Robert Lachance's address allowed guests to think about the relevance of social commitment and its implications, individually as much as community-wise, whether as volunteer or donator. Thus the table was set for what followed: exchanges leading to several interesting and promising ideas intending to stimulate such social commitment, within businesses, but also in civil society as a whole. For example, let us highlight the idea of having a "commitment thermometer" in businesses, measuring the level of implication of employees towards various causes during the year.

Beyond exploring that topic, guests also had the opportunity to learn more about the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Montréal actions and mission, thanks to a presentation by Director General Lucie Alègre, and a testimonial from Pierre Portelance, Chairman of the Board. We think that we were thus able to light a few additional sparks that will help us propagate the fire that animates us, that of mutual assistance on a greater scale. We are certainly intent on feeding that fire by, among other things, organizing other editions of High Tea in the future.

**Mathieu Pigeon**  
Communications Coordinator  
ssvp-mtl.org





# Canada's Councils in action

## QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

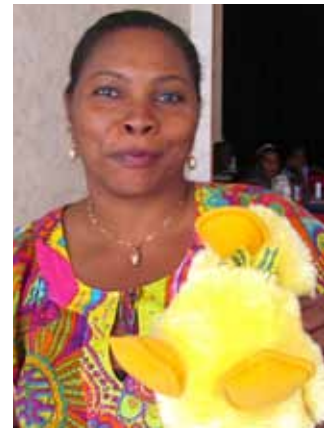
### Opération Bonne Mine

This provincial assistance program proposes a global approach through which the child or teenager's school needs are taken into account: academic or extracurricular activities, meals, mandatory educational material and school supplies, transportation, child care.

The Sainte-Angèle Conference has helped 24 children through the Opération Bonne Mine program. This year, we welcomed the children, along with their families, to a party during which we gave each child a \$50 certificate, as well as several gifts: pencil cases with glue sticks, pencils, erasers, and sharpeners. All pre-school age children received a colouring book and crayons. Everyone enjoyed a light snack of «Tim Bits», cookies, chips and such, as well as juice.

More than 60 "as new" plush toys from our store were raffled off, so every child, including younger sisters and brothers, parent, and volunteer had the pleasure of choosing one. Everyone was very excited to win a plush toy! The party was a success and all present, even the volunteers, had a great time.

**Ellen Schryburt, President  
Sainte-Angèle Conference, Montreal**



# Canada's Councils in Action

## QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Mrs Sylvie Gingras, winner of the Mérite vincentien Sainte-Louise-de Marillac for the year 2012**

Grant Regalbuto, President of the Saint-Denys-du-Plateau Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, announced that Sylvie Gingras received the Mérite vincentien Sainte-Louise-de Marillac for 2012.

Sylvie Gingras has been a volunteer for several years at the Centre Louise-de Marillac (CLM)<sup>1</sup> Management Committee and the Notre-Dame-de-Foy Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, which manages a clothing store of the same name. The store annually helps more than 100 families, which is approximately 200 people, among them about 60 children. Mrs. Gingras is also Chairman of the Centre Ozanam, in Old Québec, which receives and resells, at a low price, small articles, furniture and household appliances.

The CLM – a second-hand store – was set up by three Vincentian Conferences in Old Sainte-Foy: Saint-Denys-du-Plateau, Saint-Mathieu and Notre-Dame-de-Foy. The centre receives donations of used clothing and small articles, reselling them at very low prices. It is located in a central district of Old Sainte-Foy and welcomes over 10,000 clients annually. The centre recently merged with the Comptoir de Frédéric which also receives, repairs and resells and household appliances at low prices furniture.

The Mérite vincentien Sainte-Louise-de Marillac aims to highlight in a tangible way the remarkable contribution of a volunteer in the Saint-Denys-du-Plateau district of Sainte-Foy. It commemorates the co-founder, with Saint Vincent de Paul, of the Confréries de la charité in 16<sup>th</sup> century France, ancestors to the actual Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

**Grant Regalbuto, President  
Saint-Denys-du-Plateau Conference**



Mrs Sylvie Gingras, winner, and  
Mr. Grant Regalbuto, President  
Saint-Denys-du-Plateau Conference

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1 Previously the Centre d'entraide Notre-Dame-de-Foy



# Canada's Councils in Action

## WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Message from a New Regional President

After only a few months on the job, I am overwhelmed by the support and passion of our Vincentian Family. I am also delighted to see people outside our Catholic faith recognizing us for what we are – Catholics in action.

We have many Vincentians working in cooperation and collaboration with other service agencies. These Vincentians are giving their time and expertise to support community funded programs that provide furniture and food, housing for the homeless, meeting centres for health and living assistance, and other projects. There is so much to do, and the rewards are plentiful.

Since the early days of our Society, Vincentians have brought forth their passion and prayers to alleviate stress in the lives of the poor. A recent study in Alberta (Poverty Costs; An Economic Case for a Preventative Poverty Reduction Strategy in Alberta) has shown that poverty costs Albertans about \$9 billion per year. This indicates that the stress of poverty affects not just the poor, but all of us. (Details can be found at this video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpmxCmh9c64>.) The study also reports that the province has over 400,000 people living in poverty, and 73,000 of them are children. Clearly, there is a need.

We need to shift our focus from alleviation to prevention. Edmonton and Calgary both have active programs to eliminate homelessness in their communities, and our Bishops are involved with the Interfaith Community to aggressively pursue this goal. This work is a call for Vincentians to get involved. I urge you to be active in programs that will make a difference - programs small and large. Start these in your Conference and Parish or involve your Conference with existing programs in a collaborative way. Habitat for Humanity is looking for help. Pay Day Loan alternatives like Vinnie's Wallet have been successful in many areas. Teaching and learning centres for health and wellness have proven successful. Vincentians can be active in the spirit of our founder by making a difference in the lives of our poor.

**Peter Ouellette**  
**President Western Regional Council**



Peter Ouellette, President  
Western Regional Council



The Western Regional group  
at the 2012 AGA, Halifax NS.

# Canada's Councils in Action

## WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Food N' More – Calgary

Food N' More, a project of SSVP Calgary Central Council, is a unique bulk buying program. It started with a dream that those living in poverty should have sustainable cost effective access to good nutritious food. We teamed up with Community Kitchens, a non-profit society that had the facilities, freezers, delivery trucks and warehouse to accommodate a bulk buying program. We were successful in obtaining financial support from three levels of government. The strength of SSVP is that we deliver the food directly to our friends in need. At present, we have ten Conferences participating. They are able to buy their food over the internet and it is dropped off at their larder the next week. Vincentians of all ages have learned this process well and report that this service allows them to spend more time with "friends" and the savings on food costs means they have more dollars to help with rent, utilities, medications, etc. It is more than just saving money – it is better leverage of time, talent and treasure.

All levels of government, the private sector, churches, and other non-profits are beginning to see the value of this program. The Operations Committee is made up of representatives from SSVP, Community Kitchens and Family Community Social Services (City of Calgary). We also have a Steering Committee made up of 26 representatives from non-profits, private business and government that provide oversight of finances and effectiveness.

The collaboration enables agencies to save money and to do more than they could accomplish on their own. It is truly the catholic concept of subsidiarity. As the name Food N' More implies, there are needs beyond food that will be addressed in the future to ensure that marginalized citizens have access to the goods and services that they need. This program truly gives hope a home.

**Byron Price**  
Executive Director, Food "N" More, Calgary, and  
Past President of the SSVP Calgary Central Council



Vincenians Noreen Mac Donald on the left and Carol Gerritsen



Virgil Smith (Financial Administrator), Byron Price, SSVP Food N' More Executive Director, Mina Baluyot (Volunteer Coordinator) at Food N' More Calgary.



A helping hand from SSVP Volunteer Chito Villamil from St. Patrick's Conference Calgary.

# Canada's Councils in Action

## WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### "Jubilee 100 year"

*Archdiocese of Edmonton shares with Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and with the Diocese of Mackenzie – Fort Smith Gala Planned for Nov 21*

A "Jubilee 100" year has been declared by Archbishop Richard Smith who is inviting all to reflect on our rich history of faith and service, celebrate our continuing Joy in Christ and share in the Gospel call to serve out brothers and sisters in need.

As part of the year's program, a Gala Celebration is planned on Nov 21. This event promises to be an unforgettable evening of fine dining, entertainment and celebration, including a live auction and door prizes. All proceeds will be shared between the Edmonton Conferences of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the Diocese of Mackenzie – Fort Smith.

SSVP plans to use the money to continue its mission to love and serve the poor by assisting with basic needs such as rent, groceries and furniture - offered always in the context of dignity and friendship.

The Mackenzie - Fort Smith Diocese stretches over some 1.5 million square kilometers of the Canadian North and services a relatively small Catholic population of about 27,000. The money will assist in the construction of the church at Fort Simpson, supporting initiatives for the young people and providing resource materials and liturgical supplies.

Randy Yatscoff, a Vincentian with the Tri Parish Conference in Edmonton and Co-chair of the Gala Committee says that our support for both these causes will pay tribute to the roots of our faith in the last century and reaffirm our dedication to the mission of Christ and his Church through the next 100 years.



You may have met Nicole Zimmerman in Halifax at the National AGA. She is the President of the newest Conference in the Western Region, the St Katharine Conference in Red Deer Alberta. The Red Deer and District Community Foundation "Women of Excellence Awards Program" is a celebration of innovation, leadership, achievement and talent as demonstrated by women throughout Central Alberta.

A quote from Nicole is "I was nominated in the Community Building Category. (there were 8 nominees and unfortunately I was not the overall winner - but yet such an honour to be nominated!) If I was asked why I was so thrilled to accept this honor, I would answer that it is because I am happy to have the work of the Society recognized as valuable work in Central Alberta. I work with an amazing group of individuals who work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of others. We know that they are making a difference in our community! As Mother Teresa said, "we can do no great things, only small things with great love".



# Canada's Councils in Action

## WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### The Knights Help the Poor through Saint Vincent De Paul

A wonderful symbiotic relationship exists between the Knights of Columbus and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP), all for the ultimate benefit of those in our community who struggle just to meet their basic needs. The 450 volunteers of SSVP in Edmonton work long but fulfilling hours; meeting one-on-one with our less fortunate neighbours, providing food, utilities and rental assistance to prevent evictions, helpful guidance and moral support, in the example of Christ.

Over 1,200 calls are received each month by the Society – from neighbours-in-need asking for help or from supporters donating furniture and household goods.

This demanding work is supported generously by the Knights of Columbus Councils around Edmonton, and provincially. Each year local Knights Councils advance funds to SSVP to provide help to the needy.

In Spring 2011, the various Knights Councils around Edmonton gathered some \$40,000 for the purchase of a second 3 ton truck for SSVP, to facilitate the pickup and delivery of used furniture and household supplies donated for those in need.

Other Councils regularly advance what they can to SSVP Conferences in their Parishes, in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Every penny goes to helping the poor out of desperate situations.

In March 2012, the Alberta Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation gave a most generous donation of \$10,000. These funds will go to the Edmonton Council to be used primarily for the purchase of beds and cribs for needy children, including infants, in all Edmonton and area SSVP Conferences. There is a great need for these items and this donation will enable the Society to make bulk purchases and thereby help more needy families at less cost.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul workers remain continually grateful to the Knights of Columbus, who act as benefactors to the poor through these gifts.

**Robert McKenzie Past President**  
**SSVP Edmonton Council**



Dear Knights of Columbus  
Thanks for funding the  
Society of St Vincent de Paul.  
My son is so excited to get  
his brand new bed it is  
greatly appreciated.  
Raven J.  
A P den



# Canada's Councils in Action

## BC & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Expansion

The BC & Yukon Regional Council has participated in carrying out the Mission of the Society “*to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, and joy.*”

After 75 years of service and formation of the SSVP in BC the Flying Squad (National Formation & Extension Team) made their appearance with the express ‘commission’ of extending the Society outside the Vancouver and Victoria areas. Seven new Conferences were formed in the Archdiocese area, these being the first new Conferences in Vancouver in 24 years. This prompted another visit of the Flying Squad in 1988 with delegates from Prince George attending along with Vancouver PC and Victoria. In March 1989 the BC Provincial Council was formed and continued to expand into the Fraser Valley, Kelowna and Kamloops to become a truly Provincial wide Council. SSVP can thank Bro. Chuck Heffernan for expansion of the Society throughout BC.

Bro. Stan Taylor was the first BC Provincial Council President followed by Bro. Glynn Shepherd, Sr. Theresa Letchford, and Bro. Claude Bedard. In 2005 the National Council re-organized the Regions of Canada with the formation of 5 Regional Councils: Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Western Region and BC & Yukon. Bro. Thomas O’Flynn became the first president of the newly named BC & Yukon Regional Council followed by Nora Criss.

In 2012 the BC & Yukon Regional Council reported a membership of 498. In 2011, the works accomplished

by the member Conferences included 9,943 Home Visits (to 5,739 homes), 3,172 visits to hospitals and care homes, 561 friendly visits to beneficiaries, 624 prison visits, operating 9 stores, 5 soup kitchens, 3 food banks, 2 drop in centres, 1 housing development and 2 shelters. Special works have included: Christmas Dinners, Senior Dinners, Outreach truck of sandwiches & coffee to those on the East side of Vancouver streets, and Twinning with 12 Conferences outside & 1 inside Canada. Membership includes 1 Central Council, 6 Particular Councils, 43 Conferences, 1 non-aggregated Conference, and 24 inactive Conferences.

We have grown and expanded our Society throughout the years with a new emphasis on ‘Systemic Change’ - focusing on the root(s) of poverty and homelessness. Our founder Bl. Frederic Ozanam’s vision of “*covering the world with a network of charity*” is truly becoming a reality. As we approach our 100 years of service to those living in poverty throughout the province we are looking forward to the continuation and expansion into the Yukon giving aid to our Northern neighbors in need.

A huge thank you to all Vincentians & Volunteers who have served; Vincentians who served in leadership roles and various executive positions; benefactors & parishes for generosity and commitment to the poor; and all those we have served allowing SSVP to carry out our mission. God Bless you all!

**Nora Criss, President, BC & Yukon Regional Council**



# In Memoriam

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

**Gerry St. Pierre**, St. John the Baptist Conference, Amherstburg ON, January 1, 2012  
**Frank Maisonville**, St. John the Baptist Conference, Amherstburg ON, January 9, 2012  
**Dorothy McGarrigle**, St Charles Garnier Conference, Kelowna, BC, January 18, 2012  
**Andrew Tytgat**, Holy Name of Jesus Conference, Essex ON, January 25, 2012  
**Stan Chubak**, St. Francis of Rome Conference, St. Catharines ON, February 22, 2012  
**Carroll Gajraj**, St. Isaac Jogues Conference, Pickering ON, February 2012  
**Msgr. André Douin, p.h.**, National Council of Canada, Ottawa ON, June 4, 2012  
**Colleen Monier**, St. Michael's Conference, Calgary AB, June 8, 2012  
**Pierre Gagné**, Saint-Louis de France Conference, Québec QC, August 29, 2012  
**Eliette Pouliot**, St-Jean-Baptiste Conference, Québec QC, September 5, 2012  
**Roberta Diane Hallett**, Corpus Christi Conference, St John's NL  
**Joe Coyle**, St. Pius X Conference, Charlottetown, PEI  
**Francis Lobo Long**, St Andrews Conference, Toronto ON  
**Deacon Bernhard Harris**, Guardian Angels Conference, Orilla ON  
**Priscilla Cullen**, Sault Ste Marie, ON  
**Donna Timms**, St. John Bosco Conference, Edmonton, AB  
**Keith Yunkers**, St. Albert Conference, Western Region  
**Marie Labbe**, Tri Parish Conference, Western Region  
**Anne Mayhew**, St. John's Conference, Western Region  
**Betty Amerongen**, St. John's Conference, Western Region

They were our brothers serving the poor.

Lord, we pray that all the good they did bear fruit and be continued.

Help us keep their memory alive in our hearts. Let us keep them in our prayers.

*Please send your death notices to [editor@ssvp.ca](mailto:editor@ssvp.ca)*

*"If something consoles me  
to leave this earth  
before having done what I wanted,  
it is that I have never worked  
for the praise of men,  
but for the service of the truth."*

Frédéric Ozanam



Tomb of Frédéric Ozanam in the crypt of the church St. Joseph des Cames in Paris

# In Memoriam

Msgr. Drouin passed away on June 4, 2012 after a battle with cancer. He was ordained a priest on June 6, 1958 in Ottawa and exercised his ministry at various parishes in the Ottawa Archdiocese until his retirement in 2009. He was also chaplain for many groups including the Regiment de Hull. He also accompanied many patients with AIDS in their last moments on earth. Msgr. Drouin was named Prelate of Honour by Pope John Paul II in 1996.

Msgr. Drouin was Spiritual Advisor for the Society for more than 25 years. He was the spiritual guide to members of the Conseil particulier Saint Paul (francophone Council - Ottawa) and the Ottawa Central Council starting in the 1980's and until his death. As well, he was the Spiritual Advisor at the National Council of Canada for a few years until illness forced him to abandon his duties; he was a member of the National Spiritual Committee until he returned to the Father.

Msgr. Drouin is remembered for his commitment to his role and assiduity at meetings, as well as, his advice to members on moral issues and spiritual guidance in their tasks of serving the poor.

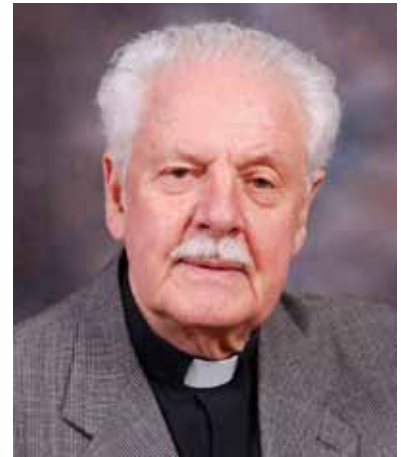
Please remember him in your prayers.

**Clermont Fortin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
National Council of Canada**

Msgr. Drouin was a great devotee of Mother Teresa and her teachings. Mother Teresa always expressed that what she and her sisters did, was done with joy as the work of Christ. She saw the face of Christ in all who suffered and did so with that joy.

When the mission statement for the National Council of Canada was being developed by the Board of Directors, Msgr. Drouin, as Spiritual Advisor was instrumental in adding the word "joy" to the statement. He wanted Vincentians to learn and experience the "Joy" that came with serving others.

**Penny Craig, President  
National Council of Canada**



**Msgr. André Drouin, p.h  
(1934-2012)  
National Past Spiritual Advisor**



# What's new?

## NEW ITEMS

Two new certificates are now available:

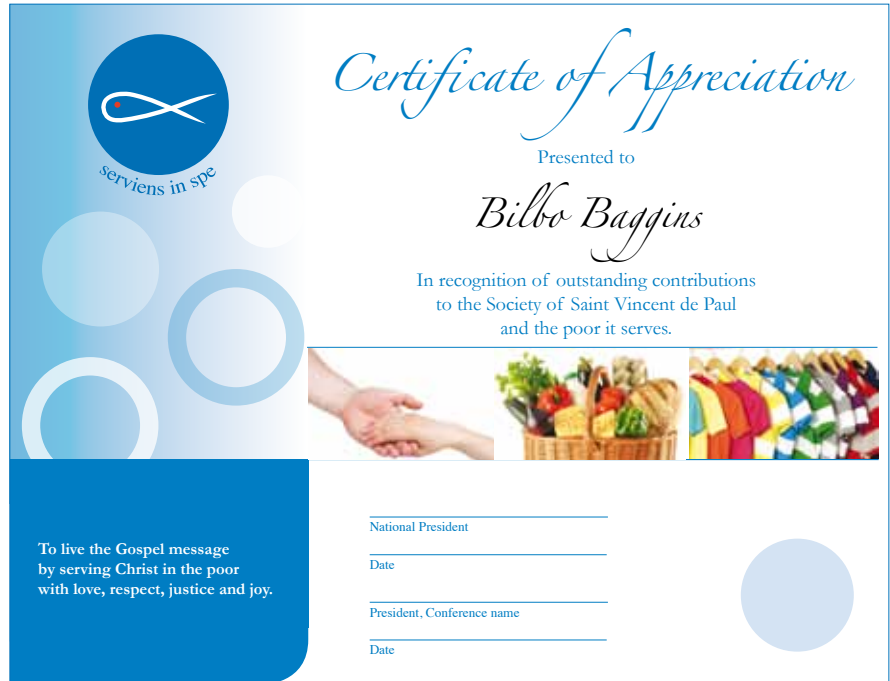
- **Certificate of Recognition** for Vincentian volunteer or employee.
- **Anniversary Certificate** for conference or council - 10, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200 years.

As announced in the 2011 fall edition of the magazine, we still have the certificates and pins for former presidents, as well as certificates and pins for the recognition of years of Vincentian service - 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 years.

In addition, we now have **small bags bearing our logo** for the secret collection at meetings.

See our online catalogue to order those articles, and several others, by visiting our website at [www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca).

You may as well order by phone at 1 866 997-7787.





## HALIFAX 2012 AGA

### An opportunity for social and spiritual growth

The Halifax Annual General Assembly (2012) attracted Vincentian delegates from all across Canada for a social development and spiritual growth experience. The gathering gave rise to fruitful and dynamic contacts, enhanced by everyone's experience. One had to be there to fully understand the meaning of those meetings.

### Training workshops

In order to enrich the exchange, Vincentians shared their experience and knowhow through several training workshops. Speaking about the Vincentian ministry in prisons, Msgr Schonenbach (national spiritual advisor) reminded us that there is some good in every person, and that we must seek it. "The prisoner is a human being in the image of God. He is not a reject from society, but rather a brother or a sister. Let us show him that we respect him or her! We need to be well prepared, avoiding prejudice. Prison for young people is a school of violence, a ministry of punishment. Let us rather apply the concept of restorative justice."

### Microcredit

Clermont Fortin (V.P. – National Council) gave us a snapshot of companies, specialized in payday lending, who harm the poor in a terrible way, by increasing their level of poverty. He also talked about the LILLI project that offers microloans allowing the poor to take charge of their own destiny.

### Personal remark

I found that during the last two assemblies, discussions were often far from applicable in the field of local Conferences. For our teaching to be productive, we must work and communicate FROM BOTTOM TO TOP, establishing a link between daily practice and principles that enhances it and help it evolve towards the ideal of the Society, a servant leader, relieving humanly and materially impoverished and marginalized people.

I also observed that English-speaking people show their faith in a more open manner than French-speaking people. Taking into account what were the practices of the past, if we want French-speaking people to adhere to the Society's ideal, we will have to express our spirituality in a way that reflects more closely their sensitivity and the way they live their faith.

### International Council

Edward Keane, Territorial Vice-President – America 1 at the International Council General (ICG) reminded the Canadian assembly that we are 700, 000 active Vincentians in 145 countries around the world. As an organization, we are now recognized by the United Nations (UN) in advisory status, to represent impoverished people globally. He told us that "We must want change in order to change."

In her AGA closing speech, our President, Penny Craig, reminded the delegates that clear statistics are important for our credibility as an organization. She asked that we improve our support towards the Catholic clergy, to stimulate our spiritual development, the basis of all of our actions.

It is impossible to summarize the entire contents of the conference. One really had to be there to understand. The conference acts as does the World Wide Web. One must navigate in it in order to find the way. As did Frederic Ozanam, we are seeking to "encircle the entire world in a network of charity."

**François Marquis**  
**President of the Ahuntsic PC (Montréal)**

# AGA 2012

THURSDAY

*Halifax NS  
June 6 - 10, 2012  
The Light of Christ*



Workshop



A welcome from our  
National President



The Halifax Town Crier welcomed  
all Vincentians to the AGA

## FRIDAY

### Opening ceremony



The youth form an honour guard to welcome the International Representative and the Regional Presidents



Maureen speaks on the theme: « The Light of Christ »



Sister Marie Poole, keynote speaker: "Vincent and Louise - how their response to His poor applies to us in today's world."



National Board of Directors



# AGA 2012

## FRIDAY

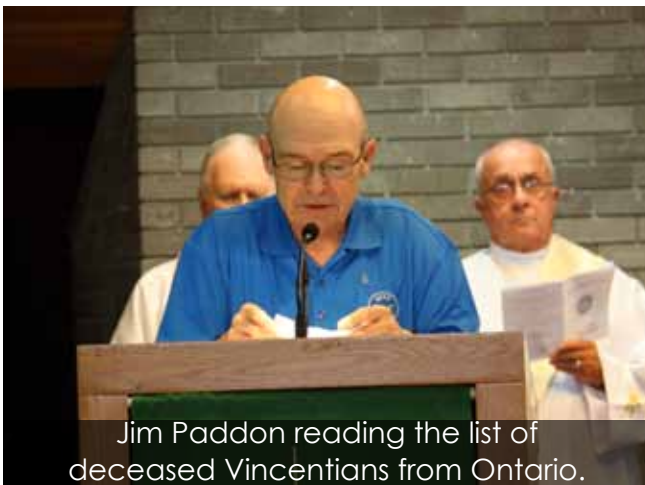
Commemorative mass  
for deceased Vincentians



BBQ and animation



Francophone group  
singing "Alouette"



Jim Paddon reading the list of  
deceased Vincentians from Ontario.



Dennis McCormack and Christine Christian  
entertaining the evening.



A candle is lit for each Region and  
one for National Council.





## SATURDAY

### Statutory meeting - Presentation of the President Elect AGA 2013 Presentation



Germain Souigny, treasurer, comments the budget and financial report.



Caroline Gilbert, Youth Rep, presenting her report.



Michael Burke, Past President, introducing Jean-Noël Cormier, President Elect.



Bernie Hartlin invites us to the 2013 AGA, to be held in Ottawa.

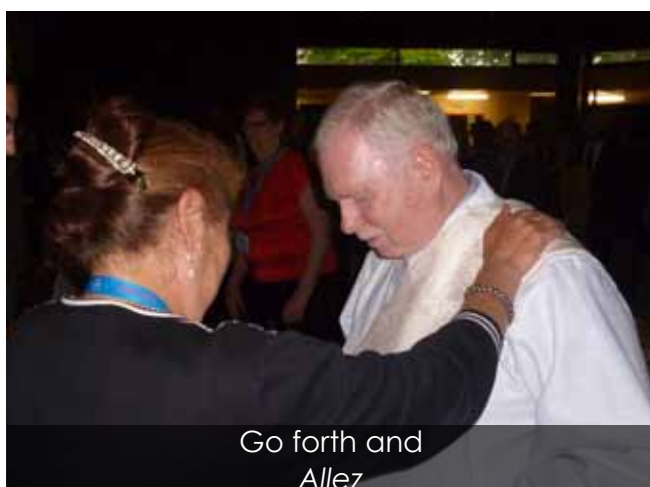


Presentation by the Ottawa and Gatineau Central Councils that will host the AGA next year.

# AGA 2012

SATURDAY / SAMEDI

Mass and Commissioning / Messe et Promesse





## SATURDAY / SAMEDI

### Banquet

