

Vincenpaul Canada

The Magazine of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
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**LET US BE AS CHRIST
TO ONE ANOTHER**

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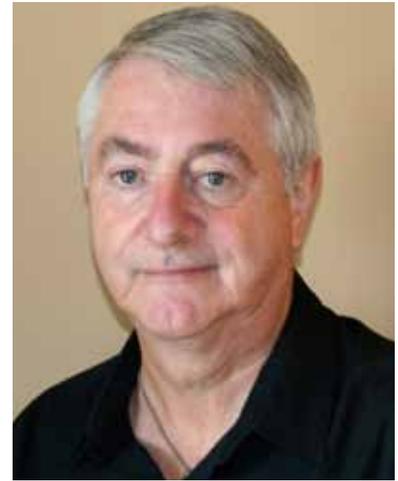
Message from the President

Dear brother and sister Vincentians,

2015 is well on its way already, however I wish to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very good year, full of GOOD HEALTH and HAPPINESS. I hope as well that you had the opportunity to see all your family members and spend some good time with them during the holiday season. For several of us, the Christmas season is a very busy time. Indeed, the preparation and distribution of Christmas hampers requires much of our time and energy, but it is our greatest tradition and an experience that makes us grow, every time. It is probably the reason why so many people want to participate.

We know as well that it is when we are the most active (the Guignolée or other projects of the same type) that people become more aware of us and that we attract new members. People see what we accomplish and several of them would like to become involved in a similar project. Unfortunately, once that activity is over, we go back to our premises, and try to be as discreet as possible. If we could develop another national level project at another time of the year, it would allow us to be visible for a longer period of time, while offering another opportunity to join our ranks for those who wish to do so.

It is my opinion that the “North of 60” project is an initiative that has much potential. The project aims to help very poor people who live in the Canadian Great North. Those people are completely left out and do not receive any help at all. I am not talking here about temporary workers, but rather about people who live there on a permanent basis. They live in a state of poverty that is unacceptable in such a rich country as Canada. Everything is very expensive and they cannot afford to buy food every day. It is obvious that those people need help and we (SSVP) are able to give them a break. However, it is a venture that needs to be carefully prepared, and the very first thing to do is to identify someone who will take care of planning the work in your own region.



Therefore, I invite you to have a discussion about that project in your own Conference or Particular/Central Council, to identify such a person, and as soon as it is done, to communicate that person's contact information to your Regional Council, which will transfer the information to us so we can contact that person and plan the next steps. We believe that it is preferable to take our time, and put together something solid, rather than doing things too fast and see everything crumble the moment there is a problem. (For more details on this project, I invite to read Peter Ouellette's article on page 5.).

As Vincentians, we cannot remain indifferent in the face of such misery. We must act, and that is the reason why I ask you to become involved in this project. Our organization does charity with justice, not philanthropy. That is why, as Christians, we are compelled to act when we see that type of situation. Moreover, our mission is to “Live the Gospel by serving Christ through people in need, with Love, Respect, Justice and Joy. So we cannot close our eyes to such injustice. I propose that all of us roll up our sleeves and put all our energy to make that project a successful venture, thus allowing a great number of people to have better access to food.

Message from the President

In conclusion, I invite all Conference Presidents to thank their benefactors (parishioners), informing them of everything that was accomplished thanks to their support. Whether via the parish bulletin, or a small article in the local newspaper, it is important to recognize that without their support, we would not be able to fulfil our mission.

As well, I thank all Vincentians who participated in our survey on strategic planning. Many of you responded and that gave us a more realistic portrait of Vincentian activity across the country. This will also help us develop a strategic plan that is closer to your reality. We intend to present that plan to voting members at our next annual general meeting (AGA) which will take place in Hamilton, Ontario, on June 24-28, 2015. I hope that many of you will attend workshops, share with your brothers and sisters, pray and celebrate. Yes indeed, we will celebrate, since it will be the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the first Conference in Hamilton. Hoping to welcome all of you there.

**Jean-Noël Cormier, President
National Council of Canada**

You may see here a few examples of prohibitively expensive articles. Those pictures were all taken in Nunavut stores.



North of 60 Project

AN UPDATE

Five empty sea containers arrived in Edmonton in May. They were placed in church parking lots and filled with donations from parishioners in the Edmonton area. After three weeks they were loaded onto trucks and shipped to the barge terminal in Hay River to continue their journey up the Mackenzie River and east on the Beaufort Sea. This was another amazing demonstration of Catholics in Action and local corporations working in collaboration with SSVP to assist those living in poverty in Canada's Arctic North.

How do we get this done and what is the plan?

Sister Fay Trombley in Tuktoyaktuk and Eileen Orysiuk in Calgary had a vision several years ago that resulted in a food pantry and a clothing outlet for those in need. With the formation of St Joseph's SSVP Conference and the local Vincentians in Tuktoyaktuk they developed a formula that works in this arctic community. It has become the model for considerations across the Arctic.



Sister Fay at the Food Pantry

You might ask why?

The food problem in the north goes far beyond individual and family food emergencies. Almost a third of households are what public health experts call “food insecure” — not always sure how they're going to feed themselves tomorrow, or today. People often eat whatever is available or what is cheap — a diet that robs them of health. Commonly, mothers don't eat so their children will have whatever there is.

From school performance to underdeveloped immune systems and the re-emergence of tuberculosis, a deprived northern diet is costing the next generation.

Now SSVP is providing support for those in need in the communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, and Inuvik in NWT and Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak in Nunavut. The project has shown growth.

Next year your Society will support more northern communities. Next year more support from more Parishes and Vincentians will be needed. Next year more corporate support will be provided. This is what Vincentians do. This is serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

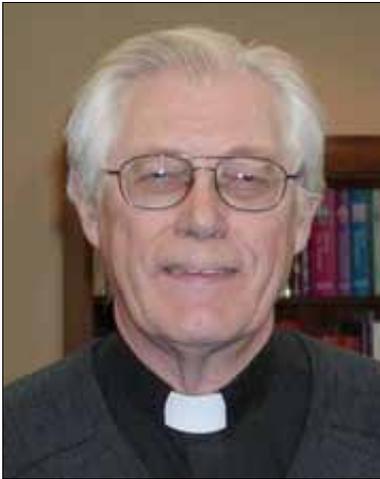
**Peter Ouellette, President
Western Regional Council**

Let Us Embrace the North in our Network of Charity



Spirituality

THE IMPERATIVE OF PERSONAL CHARITY



Last year, a book appeared that spoke eloquently about charity in the Judeo-Christian Tradition and of its inherent imperative. The book is: *Charity, The Place of the Poor in the Biblical Tradition*, Yale, 2013, by Gary Anderson, Professor of Catholic Theology at Notre Dame University. The following is taken from the said volume:

Charity, in short, is not just a good deed but a declaration of belief about the world as created by God.

When we see our current Pope Francis in action, when we ponder the life of St Theresa of Calcutta, when we recall the human transformation brought about by Vincentian action we have been privileged to do, we glimpse the type of world that God desires for the people He loves.

Good and decent people have been building such a world since early Biblical times. We recall communal habits such as leaving the sides of the field unharvested to allow harvesting by the poor, or doing a single harvest of olive trees so that the needy could finish the job.

Individual responsibility was underlined in the post-exilic period. The book of Tobit notes: **It is better to give alms than to lay up gold. For almsgiving saves from death and purges away every sin (Tb 12, 8-9).**

Indeed the biblical concept of alms is not seen as a gift to the poor but rather as a loan to God to be used by the person in need. One might say that our action allows Providence to show itself. At the same time this concept is respectful of the dignity of the poor person.

The Emperor Constantine (271-337) established Christianity within the protection of Law. One of his successor, Julian, known as the Apostate (331-363) attempted to bring back the old Roman 'religion'. One of his documents is most interesting. He writes to Temple officials, pleading that they assist the poor. He notes: **The Christians and the Jews look after all the poor, even our own.** The identifying mark of the Christians was their Charity.

The idea that good works were our response to God's saving grace was the prevalent concept in the Christian world until the Protestant Reformation which downgraded *merit* in favour of grace alone. Out of this change grow noteworthy ideas such as philanthropy and social work.

The Catholic Tradition always retained the notion that every Christian had the imperative of caring for those in need. This imperative was intimately linked to one's own salvation.

Against this background we can see the importance of the work of Frédéric Ozanam (1813-1853). Especially important was that, through the Society of St Vincent de Paul, lay Christians were enabled to work together in creating that special world which would allow the words of Genesis to be heard, **And God saw all that He had made, and, behold, it was very good (Gn. 1,31).**

Msgr. Peter Schonenbach
National Spiritual Advisor

LET US BE AS CHRIST TO ONE ANOTHER

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him “ **Which commandment is the first of all?**”

Jesus answered “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**” **The second is this “You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these”**(Mark 12 29-32).

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is not an organization that we join for a time until something else attracts our interest. It is a call from God to love and care for His people. It is a call that changes our lives as we respond to that call, for it is in those we serve that we see the suffering Christ. We are asked to be the heart, the voice and the hands of Christ as we serve His people. What a gift He has given us. What an honour it is to serve His poor.

As Vincentians, we are called to treat those we serve with love, respect, justice and joy. Our task is not always an easy one but it is the task that He has given us. There are times when we fail to carry out His work in the way He wants. We should not be too quick to criticize ourselves or others when we fail in His service to His poor. None of us is perfect and we make mistakes. We sometimes get so caught up in the work that we are asked to do that we forget to take care of one another.

We are called to a love that refreshes and unites, and to reach out so as to find in each man or woman our brother and sister. Christian love and charity must extend not only to those we are called to serve but we must extend that same love and charity to one another.

Each of us is very special in God’s eyes and we need to treat one another in the same way. All of us have gifts to offer. All of us have our difficulties and our own personal trials in our private lives and in the work that He has asked us to do. We must always try to be there for one another. Praying together is the first way we can help each other. We must never forget that all we do we do with prayer. There are two reasons that our Founder Blessed Frederic founded the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The first is to serve His poor but also for the sanctification of our own soul.



The needs of those we serve are great and the challenges we face are many. We need to be strong in order to help in any way we can. This is why prayer is so important. Personal prayer strengthens us but praying together is very important as well. This is why we must always begin and end everything we do with prayer. We must ask Him to guide us in all that we do and to help us recognize when one of our Vincentian family may need our help, our strength and our love.

I will close with a little story about my first AGA. I had been active in another national organization before so I told myself that it would take some time before I was comfortable at the national level. I had come to the meeting alone, not knowing anyone so I was a little timid as I made my way down to breakfast. To my surprise I was warmly greeted either with a smile or a good morning by everyone in the line-up! That night as I said my prayers I thanked God for the wonderful gift that He had given me. He had given me a family where I felt completely at home. After almost thirty years later, that feeling has not changed. The Society is my home. It is a home where love and joy and compassion are expressed by all. My prayer is that your love for God and all His people is always there and He gives us what we need in order to carry out His work.

Maureen MacIsaac
Spirituality Committee

Spirituality

The author of this homily was an active member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for a number of years prior to his ordination to the Priesthood. Needless to say, he has an excellent understanding of the work that we have been called to do in serving His poor. It is fair to say that his homily deeply touched everyone who was present at the feast day Mass. Father Michael has been ordained for a little over a year. Please keep him in your prayers.

Earlier this year, Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, a Polish prelate, as the official Papal Almoner, for charity done in the name of the Holy Father. Pope Francis, who has called for a Church **“that is poor, and for the poor”**. The Holy Father told me **“You can sell your desk. You don’t need it. You need to get out of the Vatican,”** said Krajewski. **“Don’t wait for people to come ringing. You need to go out and look for the poor.”**

He visits people.

HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED!!

WWII is a high point in our society!! Governments at no other point in history enacted laws which were based on the teachings of Christ

Socially conscious government policies and strong unions resulted, through **just compensation** for **labor and safety nets for the unemployed**, in economic security for virtually all in the industrial world.

But what has happened since then?

But since then we have increased productivity, YEAH isn’t that GREAT. Ask any economist and what could be greater that **increased GDP, YEAH!!**. and the flip side is **fewer jobs, reduced worker compensation, lack of work place safety, AND inadequate environmental** restrictions on production.

Do you know what mission statement of corporations is?.. to “Maximize profit for the shareholder”. This is done in one of **three ways; buy cheap, reduce wage costs and charge as much as you can**. In summary, exploit the environment, the worker or the customer.

Today we have three levels of society, those Elite Rich [increasing wealth,] exploited [upper,middle and minimum wage] and the outcast, [the leftovers].

This has resulted in an unprecedented concentration of wealth (about 85 individuals holding half of the world’s wealth), reduced **economic security** for billions, **unjust competition** in pursuit of profit, **increased unemployment**, relatively little reduction in poverty, and a **weakening of safety nets**.

CONCRETE EXAMPLE - Federal taxation - who is rewarded and who is not? What incentives does the government provide? Tax planning, \$200, **what should I do with it?** Help the unemployed = working poor? Or those earning over 160K? **Silly question isn’t it!** BUT our government doesn’t think so. SSVP \$200 GOC will provide a **\$88 tax credit**, BUT if I donate it to my MP (163K) my **tax credit is \$150**. Minimum wage is \$22,000 vs \$163,000 not including travel, housing allowance, office staff etc..

Pope Francis advises us:

“Just as the commandment ‘Thou shalt not kill’ sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say ‘thou shalt not’ to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills.”

He asks - **“How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a clear example of exclusion”**. Evangelii Gaudium 53

He challenges the **United Nations** and governments to create an economy directed, primarily, **to meeting human needs and serving the common good**, not to creating wealth. That economy must be **environmentally sustainable**, rolling back the great harm done in the industrial era.

And another favourite of mine.

“I encourage the financial experts and the political leaders of your countries to consider the words of Saint John Chrysostom: “Not to share one’s goods with the poor is to rob them and to deprive them of life. It is not our goods that we possess, but theirs.”

(5/16/13)

Pope Francis’ call for a Church “that is poor, and is for the poor” – that is, for a Church that identifies closely with the poor – and in his insistence that this entails **personal, loving service to our brothers and sisters**, as well as **systemic change** Missionary discipleship. Pope Francis, like Blessed Frederic Ozanam before him, **is calling all of us to “go to the poor.”**

We thank you and appreciate that you and others do care for the outcasts and those on the edges of society. No doubt Pope Francis blesses you, as do all who follow that great **commandment LOVE your God and LOVE your neighbour.**

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



Social Justice

THE SPECTACLE OF MISERY

In consideration of the present context marked by the election of Pope Francis and his prophetic discourse about poverty, I would like to look at Frederic Ozanam's relationship with misery. Following is a historical study on how Ozanam responded to the misery of his time, enlightening us about the attitude to adopt nowadays.

Misery, extreme poverty, is very present in Ozanam's time. While until then it existed mainly in the countryside, at the beginning of the 19th century, through industrialization giving birth to the proletariat, and urbanization bringing into cities a strong concentration of people from the countryside, misery has moved to the city. Thus the Mouffetard district becomes what Ozanam sadly describes, in September 1848:

“On both sides of a foul stream are five-storey houses, some housing up to 50 families. Low-ceiling, damp, and nauseous rooms. [...] Higher levels are hardly better. Under the rafters, an attic room without a window, only two openings, each one closed by a piece of glass, housing a poor tailor, his wife and eight children [...].”

With the Revolution and the end of corporations, traditional solidarity disappears, weakening social connections, and giving way to the emergence of individualism.

At the time, in 1848, Paris has a population of approximately one million people, and Ozanam refers to two hundred and seventy seven thousand *“individuals without work that we must save from hunger!”*

Frederic knows about misery, because from the moment he met it, he chose to confront it.

That is exactly what characterizes the emerging Society of Saint Vincent de Paul: contrary to common usage, the students, guided by Sister Rosalie, visit the poor in their own house. They see them in their own environment, and the shock was thus more violent most probably.

Once confronted to misery, what is Frederic's attitude? We can witness four different types of attitudes.

1. Assistance that honours

The first type of attitude appears in a text written by Ozanam in 1848: **“Assistance humiliates if it has no reciprocity, if all you bring to your brothers is a piece**

of bread [...]. However, assistance honours when it considers man from the top down, when it pays attention, first to his soul, to his religious, moral and political education, to everything that frees him from his passions and part of his needs, to everything that makes him a free man, and that makes him grow. Assistance honours [...] when it treats the poor with respect, not only as an equal [...].”

2. No judgement: See misery behind certain behaviours

Amélie Ozanam tells about her husband's reaction when a poor Italian, for whom he had found employment, and who had later been dismissed for bad behaviour, came back to see him. Frederic sends him back at first, without giving him anything, and then changes his mind:

“He regrets his harshness, saying that we should never turn down someone who is desperate, that we do not have the right to refuse giving a piece of bread, not even to the lowest of scoundrels, and finally that one day he would need God to not be inexorable for him, as he had been for that man. Unable to refrain himself, he grabbed his hat and ran with all his strength to the Luxembourg where he caught up with the man to give him what was necessary.”

Sometimes, we are tempted to break off the relationship with the poor who behaves objectionably. We are tempted to make a distinction between “good” and “bad” poor, between the poor who tries to improve his condition and the poor who experiences misery through his own fault.

On the contrary, Frederic sees behind such behaviour another manifestation of misery, however without losing his lucidity.

3. The spectacle of misery as spiritual nourishment

That may seem paradoxical, and indeed shocking, but Frederic contemplates the spectacle of misery. In a 1853 speech, he explains:

- Assisting someone who lives in misery helps us gain a better understanding of our own misery.

“Ho, How many times I, myself, [...] penetrated, full of sadness, in the home of the poor that I came to care for, and there, at the sight of so many unfortunate people, most to be pitied, I regretted feeling discouraged, I felt stronger against pain, and I blessed that unfortunate person who consoled and fortified me at the sight of his own misery.”

- The spectacle of misery awakes sleeping souls

In an 1853 letter to an Italian priest who complains about the state of noble youth, Frederic writes:

“Soon, your best young people [...] will climb up the stairs of the indigent. You will see them come back at the same time sad and happy, sad from the wrong they will have seen, happy from the little good they will have done. A few will do it coldly, without intelligence. However, others will be set ablaze [...].”

- For Ozanam, what awakes those souls at the sight of misery is the sign and the sacrament of the presence of Christ:

“You are our masters and we will be your servants, you are for us the sacred images of the God that we do not see, and not knowing how to love Him any differently, we will love Him through your person.”

4. Fight the causes of misery

However, Ozanam does not fall into the pitfall where, from wanting to sanctify the poor too much, we do not really want to fight against misery. Although he rejects the communist solution, he advocates a solution in an individual and collective morality.

For him, the morality of the rich wants that he gives voluntarily. That is what he exhorts them to do in an 1848 *L'Ère Nouvelle* article: **“Rich people [...] you can be forgiven for providing for the future, thinking about your children, and save sufficiently in case of exploitation and exile. However, foresight has its limits, and He who taught to ask for our daily bread never suggested that we ensure for ourselves 10 years of luxury.”** He tells them they should spend to keep the economy rolling: **“Spend, do not abstain from legitimate pleasures in moments when they can be worthy”**

and sharing: **“Give alms through giving work, but also give alms through assistance.”**

The morality of the priest requires that he goes outside of his bourgeois parish: **“French priests, [...] the time has come for you to seek those who do not call you, who relegated in bad neighbourhoods have perhaps never known the Church, the priest, or the gentle name of Christ. [...] Use whatever credit you have left among so many Christian families, press them in season and out of season, and believe that you can force them to divest themselves.”**

The morality of the poor leads to hope: **“You, for whom the rigor of the times has eaten away at whatever surplus you had, and you who lack the basic necessities, you can do more than any other person for afflictions that you know about. Anyone who has experienced public charity knows that the poor are never served as well as by the poor.”**

However, Frederic also sees the necessity of political action through legislation. He talks about progressive taxation, based on individual wealth, and he invites the people representatives to use their imagination against misery: **“Representatives of the people, [...] you will not have worked one day if you neglect this formidable issue of misery, which does not suffer delay.”**

Ozanam's solution to fight misery is the conversion of individuals to a spirit of sharing and service, rather than a spirit of enjoyment and domination. It is the individual and collective morality. In their fight against misery, Frederic and his friends were heirs and innovators. They rooted in the experience of Vincent de Paul, adapting it to the realities of the 19th century. Today's Vincentians, heirs to Ozanam, must be faithful to his message: to remain inventive as he was, and invent new ways to face misery in the 21st century.

Charles Mercier, Historian – Summary of the 13-04-20 speech given at the international conference for the Bicentennial of Frederic Ozanam

Twinning

TWINNING AND SPIRITUALITY

Vincentians assist people living in poverty through their faith in Jesus Christ. Twinning is a special way of putting our faith into action, aiming to create an international network of love, solidarity and sharing. Individual prayer, within our small Vincentian communities and with our brothers and sisters in twinning countries, is an integral part of that engagement.

Twinning includes three major elements: correspondence, prayer and financial assistance. The spiritual basis of the Society requires that any twinning relationship involve a union of prayer. It is the essential element of a successful twinning arising from the original mission of the Society, that is the sanctification of members through service of the poor. It is the basis upon which the relationship between partners can deepen, **“In every Conference throughout the world and in their personal lives, Vincentians raise their prayers to God, united with the prayer of Christ, on behalf of one another and their masters the poor, whose suffering they wish to share”.**⁽¹⁾

Correspondence and spirituality go hand in hand; prayer reminds us that it is Christ whom we serve through the poor within our community and elsewhere, and that we must maintain a spiritual link with our twinning partner.

There are several ways of deepening the spiritual link between twinning partners. Vincentians pray for all members of the Vincentian Family; they pray for the members of the twinning Conference or Council during mass, at meetings, or privately. Twinning Conferences or Councils may also offer a mass on a specific date, and recite the rosary for one another. The member in charge of correspondence may also send prayer intercessions, or organize a common prayer via videoconference (e.g. Skype), if possible. It is encouraged to exchange

greetings on Vincentian feast days (e.g. St. Vincent de Paul – September 27, Easter, etc.). Prayer strengthens fraternal bonds between twinning partners, and emphasises our faith in Providence.

Thanks to prayer, twinning is one way to fulfil the will of God while satisfying our own spiritual quest to serve the poor as if it was Christ himself. The quality of our exchanges with our partners is enriched accordingly.

I ask all twinning partners to maintain that element alive in all your exchanges with partners in foreign countries, who expect to receive spiritual help as well as financial support.

Clermont Fortin
National Twinning Chairperson

**I would like to embrace the World
in a network of Charity.**

Frédéric Ozanam

(1) *Rule and Statutes of the International Confederation, SSVP, 2004.*

EMMANUEL BAILLY SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship are now open! The Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship, sponsored by the Monica Martineau Foundation, is an initiative of the National Council to reward young Vincentians for their contributions to the Society.

Emmanuel Bailly was 40 years old when he met Frederic Ozanam. He was very close to the youth, helping them with their studies and religious formation. Having a great devotion to St. Vincent de Paul, Emmanuel Bailly linked the first Conference of Charity to the Vincentian spiritual family and agreed to become the first President of the Society. He remained a member of the Society almost until his death in 1861.

Applications are open to all youth and young adults pursuing a post-secondary education in Canada. For full details on eligibility and to get an application package, visit www.ssvp.ca/youth. Applications are due by March 31.

Jason Hunt, Youth Rep
National Council
youth@ssvp.ca

“The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was started by youth and for the youth...It is necessary to find young members. It is essential for us that young people receive preferential treatment and that they appear on the frontline.

*Emmanuel Bailly, President General,
March 1, 1844 (Circular Letter)*

“I invite you to plant seeds in your young people that one day will grow to nourish in the future development of the Society. I remember when I was young how Emmanuel and Sr. Rosalie believed, guided and encouraged me to serve the poor. I encourage you to do the same.”

Frédéric Ozanam



Canada's Councils in Action

ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

Tribute Debbie Farrell 1951 - 2014

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in." Matthew 25:35

Debbie Farrell, wife, mother and grandmother, had no problem identifying those to whom the King was referring in the scripture about the righteous.

As President of St. Vincent de Paul, serving the area of Harbour Grace for well over two decades, Debbie Farrell went beyond the call of duty to make certain that those who asked, received. A very busy woman, challenged with a crippling stroke and stricken with cancer; she was the Chief Administrative Officer at the Harbour Lodge, one of the largest and busiest senior level three care facilities in our province.

A tireless worker, she quietly and effectively organized a group of local women and men to set up and run a food bank under the sponsorship of a Catholic organization, St. Vincent de Paul. Founding members recalled having to fundraise by selling tickets in the local mall and the Royal Canadian Legion in order to buy food to share with the needy of our area. The ledger barely balanced as dollars were scarce and times were lean.

She and her committee soon realized that they needed to expand their services to a much greater degree, for the need far exceeded their resources. With some representation from the other main churches, Debbie initiated a partnership with Community Food Sharing Services so that the food bank was able to receive food on a regular basis to be distributed on a nondenominational basis.

Each Christmas, since the mid 1990's, Debbie undertook the massive task of ensuring that each needy family was given a food hamper. Under Debbie's leadership, St Vincent de Paul went into service to carry out this project. This involved registering each individual family, acquiring the necessary food and planning its effective distribution with dignity and compassion. In some years, as many as one hundred and fifty families were served.

From the very beginning the food bank had become Debbie's passion. This woman was driven to answer the cry of the hungry and became an advocate to make sure that no one person would be without. This was no easy task!

Always a skilful negotiator, an exceptional administrator and a patient listener, Debbie Farrell never swayed from her objective. Using her organizational skills, she called monthly meetings and created critical pathways for volunteers to follow. Weekly and daily scheduling had to be planned so that the food bank had regular hours. She saw to it that food was transported from St. John's on a weekly basis. Monthly collections, donations of money and food drives had to be organized; while other foods needed to be purchased and the shelves had to be stocked. Debbie made sure that all of this was done without great inconvenience or sacrifice to anyone. Many of her friends can recall Debbie using her cane as she struggled to carry bags of food from the supermarket to the food bank on cold slippery days.

When issues arose that would cause ordinary people to throw their hands up in frustration, Debbie would use her problem solving skills and turn a negative situation into a positive one. She was no ordinary person!

Reverend Don Martin, an Anglican Minister with the Congregation of St. Paul's and a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, captured it very well at a prayer service when Debbie was finally resting at peace. He said, "Debbie Farrell was our very own Mother Theresa. She refused nobody. We will miss her very dearly."

"Well done, my good and trustworthy servant!"

Rest in peace.

Canada's Councils in Action

QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

Jacquelyne Lord, recipient of the Quebec Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Merit

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul National Council was proud and delighted to hear of the awarding of the Quebec Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Merit to Mme Jacquelyne Lord, of the Particular Council of La Pocatiere, QC for her extensive charitable work in the community.

The Honorable Pierre Duchesne made the presentation to Jacquelyne on June 15 in La Pocatiere during a reception and dinner.

Locally, Jacquelyne has been a long standing member of the Society and has worked with a great team of Vincentians in La Pocatiere to support the needs of those less fortunate, with food and friendship. One of their successful activities is the clothing store that operates out of the local church.

Nationally, Jacquelyne's greatest contribution was in the preparation of the Rule of the Society completed in 2006. This major project was undertaken to update the National Rule for Canada following the completion of the International Rule in 2003.

As a key member of the Rule Committee, Jacquelyne worked tirelessly to produce a document that was referred to by one of the Society's international rules experts as the "best" document produced. Much of the credit has to go to her.

On behalf of the National Council, congratulations Mme Lord on this latest recognition of your generous outreach work for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Michael Burke
National Past President



The honourable Pierre Duchesne and his wife, accompany Jacquelyne and Gérard Lord, surrounded by the Lord family members and friends of the SSVP.

Canada's Councils in Action

QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

VISITORS FROM BENIN

We have welcomed two young volunteers from Benin, within the scope of the Canada World Youth project. They worked as volunteers at the food bank for almost two months. They easily integrated into the community, being an active part of our great family of volunteers during their stay. They told us about their values, their way of life and their family.

They also participated in the March to Overcome Extreme Poverty on October 17, 2014.

It is with regret that we will see Nadège and Tallia go back to their country very soon. We have learned much from them. We wish them Good luck and have a good trip back!!!!

Lise Boyer
Chairperson of the Board
SSVP in Saint-Jean

"TAKE A BITE"

Volunteers from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul gave apples at the Place Versailles commercial mall, in order to collect funds which will help provide food aid to needy people. That campaign could not have taken place without the volunteers. We found out that with a motivated team working hand in hand, we were able to reach a common goal; that is to help our clientele in need.

That activity consisted in giving an apple and in return, people gave a donation. Thanks to a multitude of positive factors, and some luck, the activity was a great success. We plan to repeat the campaign next fall.

Thanks to all donors who took a bite!

Gilles Blanchette, President
Saint-Francois-d'Assise Conference



Canada's Councils in Action

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

MIGHTY MITTEN MAKERS

Many St Vincent de Paul projects start when someone says "Why don't we ..?"

This is one of them. However it started many years ago when a friend from Michigan sent me several craft items, that maybe I could copy for my Craft business. One was a pair of mittens. My first reaction was I do not knit. However on taking them apart I realised they were made from old sweat-ers. So, many mittens were made to give to our SSVP Conference.

Then I became President of our very active Conference and ONRC Secretary as well, so of course spare time was nil. This summer we started a youth committee in our Conference and were looking for ways to help and involve the local youth. A very successful Babysitting course for 20 students was a good start, with another course to start in New Year.

The idea was floated about the mittens. I thought that it was easy and here is the pattern. No such luck. This evolved into a mitten making bee with the Grade 8 class

from St. Ursula's school, as well as several ladies with sewing machines.

Our goal is 200 pairs of mittens, to sell some to make money for youth projects but also to give some mittens to those in need. We are well on our way.



An added project was 20 fleece blankets, donated to 'Loads of Love' to go to the Ukraine, using some of the fleece we had been given

Now we are thinking, maybe a sewing class to teach such skills as using a sewing machine, or maybe making beanies (Toques) to go with the mittens.

The ladies are enthused and want to meet once a month for Craft activities.

So a simple idea has helped and enthused the youth, invigorated the ladies, made many hands warm, helped people in need in Ukraine and even saved the environment by recycling sweaters.

Geraldine Campbell a.k.a. The Mitten Lady

ST. JOSEPH – ST. URSULA CONFERENCE FAMILY DAY

To honour and celebrate Family Day in February it has become one of our customs "to honour our family of Vincentians" with cake and coffee as part of our meeting.

This tradition started two years ago to help foster "family".

Each member brings something unique to our family table. Our members are part and parcel of a family that prays together, works together and shares something special. This important day has boosted our Vincentian pride and Vincentian dedication as a family encompassing all those whom we help.



Canada's Councils in Action

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

HUMANITARIAN AID DRIVE TO PALESTINE

Six years ago we were asked to support a group (Omahat Without Borders) with help in the line of children's clothing, diapers, formula etc., for children in Palestine. We gladly did so. (Omahat means Mothers) www.omahatwithoutborders.com/about-us This group started in 2009. We met and ate with members of the group that worked long days gathering goods, packing them into boxes and filling a container. It was humbling to see how hard they worked for this project. I wish we could have done more to help the hundreds of children, wounded by bombs, hungry and without clothing. Surely we can do more.

Over the years we had requests for financial help to keep Catholic schools open in Palestine. The amounts needed were larger than we could deal with and unfortunately we could not help.

In September I received an e-mail from Omahat (Mothers) Without Borders telling about a container being made up for Gaza. It was half filled in Windsor and was moved to Mississauga to finish filling and then to ship to Palestine.

We visited their site in Mississauga after mass Sunday, September 28th. The storage unit was piled high with bags of clothes, boxes of diapers, bedding, hospital beds, crutches, etc. (much of it emptied from the truck in the picture).

The group had a permit to ship these containers (and there will be at least two). The permit only allows for clothing and medical supplies with all boxes labelled describing the contents.

The collection of clothes and medical supplies started in Windsor and the following are the words of one of the daughters.

Quote: Today we filled up a semi-trailer truck full of the items Windsor collected for Gaza! Here is my beautiful mother, at her proudest moment for guiding and leading this humanitarian aid for Gaza. Alhamdulillah for Windsor's community, and Alhamdulillah for my

beautiful mother for setting such an amazing example. Thank you to everyone who made our dream become a reality! — feeling excited with Omahat Without Borders. Unquote.

We passed the word on to many of our friends telling them what was needed. According to the World Health Organization, over 500 children were killed and more than 3000 children have been injured. How can we not help at least in some small way?

In the first week of October we visited again and it was heartwarming to see the Vincentians arriving at the Dundas Street location with materials to donate to the Omahat (mothers) Without Borders for their Palestine drive. A lot of clothing, personal supplies and even a wheelchair, as well as, donations of money towards expenses. Thank all of you that helped.

A large part of the mountain of materials we saw there a few days ago was packed into boxes, labelled and ready to be packed into containers. A terrific amount of work mostly all of this done by these committed women.

While most of us donate without concern about tax receipts they told us that people donating can make cheques out to "Medical Aid To Palestine" and they would receive a tax receipt.

I am pleased to see our Society reach out to people in Iraq who are suffering so many hardships. Surely we must help all that we possibly can. As a Vincentian, Christian and human being, I fully support these efforts. It is mind boggling to see the number of countries and groups being helped by our International arm. We can be assured that money being passed up is well used. We do this for children who live in a war zone and for their parents who know nothing other than war.

As Vincentians we think we do great thing, and we do. But we are humbled to see some of these groups that also do so much for their fellow man with no thought of reward or praise.

Canada's Councils in Action

Turning our back on these unfortunate people is easy but we must remember how well off we are and that only by the grace of God we have what we have and He expects us to share our good fortune of goods and our time.

I am requesting that we, as Vincentians, seize the opportunities to also reach out to other groups to the best of our abilities. I am not concerned about resources, because, as Vincentians, we all know that if we commit to help with a good heart, the Lord will provide as He always has.

What can we Vincentians do as:

- Conferences
- Councils
- National
- International

Can we gather Clothing, Diapers, Medical supplies?

Can we give funds towards the costs involved to all levels of the Society?

Can we give our time to sort clothes, pack and label boxes. Our time is often our most valuable gift.

Certainly we cannot solve all the problems in the world, but we surely can help by doing our part.

Yours in Christ.

William Graham, Vincentian
svdpbill@hotmail.com, 416-659-8713



Canada's Councils in Action

WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

COMMUNICATIONS IN THE WESTERN REGION

A few years ago the Western Region adopted Improved Communications as a primary objective. If you look at the map you can understand why. There is a lot of geography to cover - 54% of all of Canada with only 18% of the population. How can we get this done? We found two ways – teleconferences and websites.

With the help of a Vincentian and the generosity of his company, Network Telsys in Calgary we were able to get assistance in support of teleconferencing and web broadcasting. Imagine Vincentians getting together to share their experiences and best practices across this large region and doing it from the comfort of their own homes. Meeting frequently with no extra time required or cost of travel - a great way to exchange ideas and discuss solutions. Not as good as face to face, but a very effective alternative that allows so many more to participate.

So we extended this teleconferencing to teletraining. Can we train without a classroom? Is it possible to stay at home, listen in on the telephone, watch on the computer and by doing this learn more about our Society. Yes, of course you can. Treasurer training by telephone has given many of our Vincentians the opportunity to hear from the professionals on how to take care of business for their Conference and how to ready themselves for the year end reports. They have a chance to listen, see, ask questions and get reports. Teleconferencing has increased the knowledge of Vincentians from the Arctic north all the way to the western prairies.

The latest in what is happening around the region is available now on three websites.

The regional reference is available at www.ssvpwrc.ca. Here we have provided weekly prayer and monthly reflection for all. On this website there is reference to the status of projects run by the region and supported by Vincentians across the country. Projects like the North of 60 Program, the status of the disaster relief projects (we have had two of them – the fire in Slave Lake and the

southern Alberta flood) and encouragement to others for Twinning with SSVP Conferences in the countries that are in need.

The Edmonton website followed shortly after the Regional site. Check it out at www.ssvpedmonton.ca. I love their stories about how the 18 Conferences in Edmonton are working together to serve those in need - so many different ways and such great examples of what can be done as Vincentians to provide for others.

The newest of the websites is from Calgary at www.ssvpcalgary.org. A very professional presentation of what Calgary Vincentians are doing - telling the stories of their Works to help friends in need. This site strengthens the mission of Vincentians in Calgary by unifying them under the new Central Council Executive. This is the type of communication that will allow our Society to grow strong in support of those living in poverty.

As Vincentians you know that our time is valuable and best given to those that are calling us for help. As we climb the steps of the poor to do our home visit, we want to be prepared with all that is available to assist those in need. We want to have all the tools, all the ideas, all the help that Vincentians from across the region and the country have provided others. Seek out the latest information that is available to you. Check out these websites.

**Peter Ouellette, President
Western Regional Council**

Canada's Councils in Action

DEVELOPMENT DAY FOR EDMONTON CENTRAL COUNCIL, NOVEMBER 8, 2014

We are Canadian! On a cold snowy day, the first of real winter, Vincentians got out of their warm beds, and braved snow covered icy roads in record numbers. To those who set out and were unable to make it because of traffic or the blizzard—you were in our thoughts.

Congratulations on a fine accomplishment. Vincentians were treated to a moving Commissioning Ceremony and a talk from our new Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Hyland Fraser. The talk highlighted why we do what we do, and confirmed our resolve to continue fulfilling



our mandate working with our mission and values. The Fish presented to the 45 newly commissioned, serves as a reminder of our role in a larger picture, a greater unit, and a following in the footsteps set for us by Saint Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Eight sessions included: Guide for new Vincentians, Understanding our Call Centre and use of Statistics, Recruiting and Retaining members, Home Visitors, How our Distribution Centre Operates, Youth Are Valuable, Drivers and Helpers Need to be on the Same Page, and Roles and Influence of Spiritual Advisors.

When we work together, pray together, share together and grow together in the light of our mission, we know that we are blessed by our communal strength.



Canada's Councils in Action

BC & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL

ROSALIE'S VILLAGE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

It is anticipated that after almost 7 years of planning, Rosalie's Village, a Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) housing project for homeless women and children located in Royal Oak, will begin construction in the spring of 2015. Inspired by the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" the concept of this project is to provide housing and accessibility to the many services the CRD (Capital Regional District) offers to vulnerable women and children. Working with many partners builds community and the confidence to move forward.

The vision is two-fold:

- to make available safe, affordable housing for young mothers with small children on their journey to independence and the transition into market rental housing;
- to offer a home to older women coming out of various homeless/at risk situations until they qualify for appropriate seniors housing. Needs assessments reveal that this type of housing is much needed in the CRD. It is estimated that the region needs at least 250 supportive housing units and 1,500 affordable/low-market units.

Rosalie's Village will be a 42 unit housing project which will include an infant/toddler daycare with capacity for 37 children, priority being given to residents of Rosalie's Village. This daycare, Mary's Place, will provide secure childcare so that their mothers can focus on bettering their lives and those of their children through education and employment. It is difficult to break the cycle of poverty, but it has been identified that finding a home is integral to success along with access to childcare, education and employment. Giving young mothers a 'hand-up' will affect subsequent generations in achieving a good standard of living. The children of Mary's Place will be able to attend, free of charge to the mothers, through the federal day care subsidy and a top-up provided by Saint Vincent de Paul. The Society

has taken on the fund-raising of \$1.2 million dollars for Mary's Place, the community kitchen, Social Concern office and the community gardens. To date the Society has raised \$650,000.

Funding which has been provided for the project was accessed through the District of Saanich, Capital Regional District, CMHC and The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness with SSVP donating the land. BC Housing has provided preliminary project approval. Other partnerships include, Pacifica Housing, M'akola Housing and Joe Newell Architects. BC Housing.

In order to achieve the goal of transitioning to independence, several programs will operate from Rosalie's Village. There will be resident support workers who will develop a plan with each tenant to map out a road to independence. This will be a case managed agreement between the Society and the tenant and may involve attending high school or college or beginning a career path. Placement and the transition to seniors housing for the older women will also be done with the assistance of the resident support workers. As well there will be a Social Concern Office in the building where tenants can access services include work training programs, women's day programs, life skills training, an income tax program etc. All of the foregoing services are already funded by the Society through donations and sale of goods at the six Victoria area thrift stores.

The Society has almost 100 years of experience providing support to those in need through home visits throughout the Capital Regional District. In fact, SSVP is celebrating its 100th anniversary of service on Vancouver Island in 2015. Our home visitors would extend this support to assist the tenants of Rosalie's Village, offering a variety of support including the donation of food and clothing and advocacy in accessing local services.

Canada's Councils in Action

The Society is counting on the support of Victoria residents and accepts donations in person, by phone, by mail, or over the Internet.

More information is available on the Rosalie's Village website: www.rosaliesvillage.ca. Spreading awareness also really helps and "I Support Rosalie's" buttons are available and can be ordered at 4349 West Saanich Road, Victoria, BC Canada (250) 727-0007.



Looking North-East towards proposed development

Bits of History

FOUNDATION OF THE SOCIETY IN HAMILTON, ONTARIO

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the first Conference in Hamilton, Ontario. The Annual General Assembly of the National Council will be held in that city June 24 -28, 2015, and this milestone in the Society's history will be celebrated.

In searching the Society's archives, a reference related to the foundation of the first Conference in Hamilton was found. It is a letter and report dated December, 3rd, 1896, sent by Mr. A. C. Best, Secretary of the Particular Council, Hamilton to Mr. Marcel Chabot, Secretary, Conseil supérieur du Québec. This correspondence was sent for the Golden Anniversary Celebrations in Quebec City of the foundation of the first Conference in 1846 in what was to become Canada.

The letter and report are reproduced below:

Hamilton, December 3rd, 1896,

Mr. M. Chabot,

118½, Richelieu Street,

Quebec,

Dear Sir,

The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in this city request me to acknowledge the receipt of your kind invitation to the Jubilee Celebration, and, to say that they regret not being able to send a representative. However, they will be with you in spirit and pray that the good work may continue to prosper. I wish to tell you also, that all the clergy are of the friendly nature. And that we are given every assistance to collect funds and every encouragement to establish new Conferences whenever a new parish is formed.

I enclose you a short account of the different Conferences here in compliance with your request, and hope the information may prove satisfactory.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

A.C. Best,

Secretary of the Particular Council, Hamilton.

Report of the Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Hamilton

SAINT MARY'S CONFERENCE

This Conference, which is the mother of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in this city, was organised by the Right Rev. John Farrell, D. D., first Bishop of Hamilton, in 1865, and was aggregated on the 18th of June, 1866.

The first meeting was held in St. Mary's Chapel, 30th July, 1865. The Minutes of the meeting show that the following gentlemen were elected officers:

- Spiritual advisor: Very Rev. E. Gordon, V. G.
- President: Bernard Dolan.
- Vice-president: John M'Cauley.
- Treasurer: P.S. McHenry.
- Secretary: John Quinn.

The above with 17 others formed the Society. Three are still members in the city: Thos. Walsh, Thos. Lewis and Ed. Crofton.

On the 10th of December, 1865, the first general report was given showing that in six months the membership increased to 36, and in 1878 the books show a membership of 68. At that time there was but one parish in the city. Since then three new ones have been formed, and a branch of the Society established in each parish.

Membership of the first Society were transferred to their respective parish societies and hence membership of St. Mary's is now reduced to 36.

- Saint Patrick's Conference (Established 11th March, 1878)
- Saint Lawrence Conference (Established 5th February, 1891)
- Saint Joseph's Conference (Established 24th June, 1896).⁽¹⁾

Comment

As the report shows, the Society expanded rapidly soon after the first Conference was established. One hundred and fifty years of Vincentian presence in the Hamilton region has made a difference in the life of thousands and, we shall pray that by the blessing of God and the intercession of our Holy Patron St. Vincent de Paul the Society continues to expand in the region.

(1) Reference: *Les Noces d'or de la Société de Saint-Vincent de Paul à Québec 1847 - 1896. Québec, Librairie Montmorency - Laval, Pruneau & Kirouac, libraires-éditeurs, 46 rue de la Fabrique, - 46, 1897.*

AGA 2015 - Workshops

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS - AGA 2015

The theme presented at the 2015 AGA is:

“Extend a Hand to Our Neighbours in Need”

The theme has been set so we as Vincentians may take time to reflect on how we relate to those we serve. Workshops will be developed around the theme - workshops will be in French and English to open up this theme to all Vincentians.

Yearly administrative workshops:

1. Role of the President and executive - Conference/ councils
2. Succession planning - Conference/councils
3. The meeting - Conference/councils

Other workshops

1. Structural Causes of Poverty
2. A Taste of Poverty Experience
3. Spirituality of the Work of a Vincentian
4. The Live Benefits of Twinning
5. St. Vincent de Paul - the First Vincentian
6. The Face of the Society - Our Stores
7. Ozanam - 150 yrs. of Vincentian Work in Hamilton, Ontario
8. SSVP in North of SIXTY (60 deg. latitude)
9. Advocacy (title to be announced)
10. Systemic Change (ttba)
11. Prison Ministry (ttba)

Please submit your proposals and requirements for workshops to:

Lynn L'Heureux
Education/Formation Committee
calgaryssvpadm@gmail.com
15 Grafton Dr. SW
Calgary AB T3E 4W1
Phone: 403-686-8368

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?

“Extend a hand to our neighbours in need”

Handout Materials:

Required Room size/type

Required AV Materials

Associated Costs if any

Please send to:

Lynn L'Heureux, Education/Formation Committee

calgaryssvpadm@gmail.com

15 Grafton Dr. SW, Calgary AB T3E 4W1

Approved by National Council Education Committee:

Date: _____

AGA 2015 - Program

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
6:45 PM - 7:45 PM
8:00 PM

ACTIVITIES

Registration & Hospitality with sales table
National Council Committee Meetings
Tours start at:
12:30 pm for Niagara Falls and Winery Tour;
12:45 pm for Whitehern, Dundurn Castle & Cathedral Basilica
1:15 pm for the Good Shepherd facilities
Supper at McMaster Cafeteria
Regional Meetings
Celebration of Feast Day of St. John the Baptist -
led by Quebec Regional Council

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

6:45 AM - 7:00 AM
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
8:45 AM - 10:15 AM
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
5:45 PM
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Rosary
Breakfast
Registration & Hospitality with sales table
National Council Board Meeting
Workshops
Break
Workshops
Lunch
Workshops
National Council Committee Meetings
Break
Workshops
National Council Committee Meetings
Memorial Service – Mass
Buses start to leave for Royal Botanical Gardens
Evening Reception & Official Welcoming (includes supper)

**“EXTEND A HAND
TO OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED”**

AGA 2015 - Program

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

6:45 AM	-	7:00 AM
7:00 AM	-	8:30 AM
8:00 AM	-	9:00 PM
8:45 AM	-	9:30 AM
9:30 AM	-	10:15 AM
10:15 AM	-	10:30 AM
10:30 AM	-	12:00 PM
10:30 AM	-	12:00 PM
12:00 PM	-	1:00 PM
12:00 PM	-	1:30 PM
1:00 PM	-	3:00 PM
3:00 PM	-	3:15 PM
3:15 PM	-	4:30 PM
4:30 PM	-	5:30 PM
5:45 PM		
6:30 PM	-	9:00 PM

ACTIVITIES

Rosary
Breakfast
Registration & Hospitality with sales table
Parade of Banners – Official Opening
Keynote Speaker - Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., D.D. - Bishop of Hamilton
Break
Presidents' Round Table with voting members
Workshops
Lunch
Spiritual Advisors' Luncheon
Plenary
Break
Regional Reports & National Committee Reports
Mass
Buses start to leave for Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
BBQ Reception

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

6:45 AM	-	7:00 AM
7:00 AM	-	8:30 AM
8:00 AM	-	12:00 PM
8:45 AM	-	9:15 AM
9:15 AM	-	10:15 AM
10:15 AM	-	10:30 AM
10:30 AM	-	12:00 PM
12:00 PM	-	1:00 PM
1:00 PM	-	3:30 PM
3:30 PM		
4:15 PM		
5:00 PM		
6:30 PM		
7:00 PM		

Rosary
Breakfast
Registration & Hospitality with sales table
Spiritual Reflection on the Theme - Msgr. Peter Schonenbach
National Committee Reports Continued
Break
Statutory Meeting
Lunch
Statutory Meeting Continued/Presentation 2016 AGA hosts
Free time
Buses start to leave for Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King
Mass (Note: SSVP Commissioning Ceremony follows Mass)
Buses start to leave for Hamilton Convention Centre
Closing Banquet followed by Official Closing of AGA 2015

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

7:00 AM	-	8:30 AM
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Breakfast

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday June 24 to Sunday June 28, 2015 - Hamilton ON

McMaster University, Hamilton ON

THERE ARE TWO WAYS YOU CAN REGISTER TO THE AGA:

To register online, please go to: www.ssvp.ca/generalassembly/registration
Payment by Paypal.

To register by mail, please fill this form. Payment must be sent with completed form.
Make cheque payable to SSVPA AGA 2015 and mail to
Jack Springstead, 27 Park Row South, Hamilton, ON L8K 2J5

Early Registration deadline : April 30, 2015

If you need to use this form, please print clearly

***** DO NOT FILL THIS FORM IF YOU REGISTER ONLINE. *****

Name:		Tel:	
Address:	Apt:	Email:	
City:	Prov:	Postal Code:	
Conference:	Council:		
Contact in case of emergency:		Tel:	
Spiritual Advisor:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<p>WestJet has been recognized as the preferred airline of travel for the Annual General Assembly and has offered at 10% discount for all flights into and out of the Hamilton International Airport (15 minutes from McMaster University) and Toronto Pearson International Airport (45 minutes from McMaster University).</p> <p>Applies to the fare at the time of booking. Either book online or</p> <p>Call WestJet at 1-888-493-7853 (07:00 – 17:30 MST, Mon. – Fri. for help/info). Quote booking code CC8559.</p>			
Arrival date:		Departure date:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Plane <input type="checkbox"/> Train	Arrival Time:	Airport:	Carrier / Flight No:
	Departure Time:	Airport:	Carrier / Flight No:

Available Tuesday to Sunday only :

Would you like a volunteer to meet you at the airport, train or bus station?

Yes / No

Do you require transportation back to the airport, train or bus station?

Yes / No

Do you have any special mobility needs? _____

LODGING ON CAMPUS

Accommodation arrangements are to be made directly with McMaster University. To book your accommodation, call (905) 525-9140, extension 26898. Single Room \$58.00/night; Double Room \$45.00/person/night; Suite (4 beds) \$199.00/night. All prices are subject to applicable taxes.

WEDNESDAY DAY TOURS (optional, check box if interested)

- Tour # 1 - Niagara Falls and Winery Tour in Niagara-on-the-Lake (cost \$25)
- Tour # 2 - National Museums (Whitehern and Dundern Castle) and Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King (cost \$25)
- Tour # 3 - Good Shepherd Facilities (free)

Visit www.ssvp.ca/events for details on the tours being offered. Select only one tour. Fee due on date of tour. Tours subject to cancellation based on interest.

REGISTRATION FEE

Before April 30, 2015 : \$250.00; From May 1, 2015: \$265.00; This fee covers conference registration, Welcome Reception, Friday BBQ, and Saturday banquet.

Registration fee, per person:	_____	x	\$250/265	=	\$ _____
Youth registration fee, per person:	_____	x	\$175	=	\$ _____
Additional Welcome Reception tickets:	_____	x	\$35	=	\$ _____
Additional BBQ tickets:	_____	x	\$35	=	\$ _____
Additional Banquet tickets:	_____	x	\$55	=	\$ _____
			Total A	=	\$ _____

ONE DAY REGISTRATION

Registration fee, per person (NOTE: does not include meals or evening events)	_____	x	\$60	=	\$ _____
			Total B	=	\$ _____

MEALS

Do you have any dietary concerns or allergies? Please specify :

Select desired meals:	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Number of meals			
Breakfast	---	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	_____ x	\$9.00	=	\$ _____
Lunch	---	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	---	_____ x	\$16.00	=	\$ _____
*Dinner	\$ 18,00	---	---	---	---	_____ x	\$ 18,00	=	\$ _____
							Total C	\$	\$ _____

* Please note that we must have a minimum of 50 reservations in order to provide a supper on Wednesday.

TOTAL PAYMENT: A + B + C = \$ _____

Payment must be sent with completed form.
Make cheque payable to SSVp AGA 2015 and mail to
Jack Springstead, 27 Park Row South, Hamilton, ON L8K 2J5
Tel: (519) 722-3374 • Email: jason.hunt@icloud.com

PLEASE NOTE: Refunds will be made for cancellations received 30 days prior to arrival date. Refund, less \$50.00 will be made for cancellations received up to 24 hours prior to arrival. No refunds will be made for same day registration or for any unused meal tickets.

A confirmation of registration will be sent to you in May by email (or by regular mail if no email address is provided).

In Memoriam

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

- Alphonse Charron**, St. Paul's Conference, Thamesville ON, January 4, 2014
Glenn Peltier, Blessed Sacrament Conference, Chatham ON, January 4, 2014
Renée Lessard, (née Caron), Maison Ozanam, Repentigny QC, January 4, 2014
Theresa Carrier, St. Jerome Conference, Windsor ON, January 6, 2014
Donna McNight, Holy Name of Mary Conference, Windsor ON, January 10, 2014
Clément Dion, Conférence Saint-Charles Garnier, Québec QC, January 28, 2014
Ron Tarnowski, Edmonton South Particular Council, AB, February 3, 2014
Paul-Émile Meunier, Conférence St-Charles-Borromée, Vanier ON, February 21, 2014
Lily Chiro, Holy Name of Mary Conference, Windsor ON, March 30, 2014
Gerald St. Amour, St. Alphonsus Conference, Windsor ON, March 30, 2014
Rev. Leslie Horvath, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Conference, Windsor ON, April 7, 2014
Floyd Morin, St. Stephen Conference, North Vancouver BC, April 11, 2014
Diane Turcotte, Conférence Saint-Alphonse, Victoriaville QC, April 14, 2014
Viola Toole, St. Ignatius Martyr Conference, Ottawa ON, April 17, 2014
Clément Poitras, Conférence St-Noël Chabanel, Laval QC, April 19, 2014
Lydia Marie Lirette, Holy Family Conference, Amherst NS, April 23, 2014
Alberto D'Agostini, St. Andrew Conference, Edmonton AB, June 12, 2014
Albert Moore, Sacred Heart Conference, LaSalle ON, June 14, 2014
Catharine Mahony, Church of Our Lady Conference, Guelph ON, June 25, 2014
Alban Babin, St. John Conference, Guelph ON, July 4, 2014
Betty Lewis, Holy Family Conference, London ON, July 5, 2014
Louis Nicolas Siou, Conférence St-Pascal, Montréal QC, July 24, 2014
Denis Cadotte, Conférence St-Isaac-Jogues, Montréal QC, August 19, 2014
Conrad Hamel, Montréal QC, August 20, 2014
Rodrigue Gobeil, Conférence Notre-Dame-de-Grâce de Chicoutimi, QC, August 21, 2014
George Dorner, Good Shepherd Conference, Windsor ON, August 22, 2014
Harold Leonard, St. Thomas More Conference, Niagara Falls ON, August 23, 2014
Debbie Farrell, Immaculate Conception Conference, Harbour Grace NS, September 6, 2014
Mary O'Gorman, Corpus Christi Conference, Thunder Bay ON, September 8, 2014
Herb Jones, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Conference, Windsor ON, September 21, 2014
Len Jennings, Good Shepherd Conference, Windsor ON, September 25, 2014
Byron Ducharme, St Peter's Cathedral Conference, September 29, 2014
Julie Van Dongen, Corpus Christi Conference, Windsor ON, October 2, 2014
Roger Hachey, Our Lady of Fatima Conference, Elliot Lake ON, October 3, 2014
Owen «Scotty» McAllister, St. Denis Conference, St. Catharines ON, October 5, 2014
Douglas H. White, Assumption Conference, Windsor ON, October 9, 2014
Suzanne Ménard, Conférence St-François Solano, Montréal QC, November 10, 2014
Patrick Taylor, St. Mary's Conference, Collingwood ON, December 26, 2014

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