SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA 47th Annual General Assembly 2018

Conference Self Assessment Tool Using W 5 Guiding Principles Toronto Gentral Goungia





"Together as Family"





AGENDA

- OUR HISTORY OF SHARING
- > THE IDEAL CONFERENCE
- CONFERENCE HEALTH CHECK
- > THE FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES (5GPs)
 - CONFERENCE SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL
 - Home Visits
 - 2. EQUITY OF SERVICE
 - 3. CONTINUOUS SERVICES
 - 4. RENEWAL
 - 5. SHARING
- SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS
 - TORONTO CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS AREAS (CONFERENCE RESOURCES)
- ▶ Q&A





- * Vincentian for over 25 years
 - Member of St Leonard Conference in Brampton Ontario & President Peel North Particular Council
 - Toronto Central Council Vice President & Membership Development Committee Member
 - Ontario Regional Council Rejuvenation Committee member
 - Married 20+ years with son and daughter





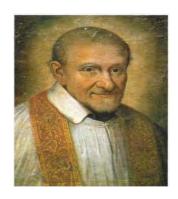


OUR HISTORY SHARING AS BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST

DIVINE PROVIDENCE AND THE VINCENTIAN VOCATION

St. Vincent de Paul

In 1617, Divine Providence called an ordinary man to an extraordinary mission, by touching the heart of Vincent de Paul and leading him to the service of the suffering and destitute poor of the villages of France. In the small village of Chatillon-les-Dombes, Vincent founded the Confraternities of Charity (Ladies of Charity), ordinary lay women in the parishes who served the sick in their homes. In 1625, he founded his community of priests, the Congregation of the Mission, to evangelize the poor. And in 1633, Divine Providence gave an ordinary woman an extraordinary mission, by touching the heart of Louise de Marillac. Together with Vincent, she co-founded the Daughters of Charity, to serve the poor through health, education and social ministries.

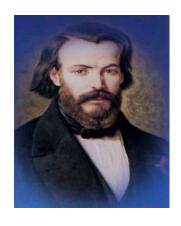


Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660)





OUR HISTORY SHARING AS BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST



Blessed Frederic Ozanam (1813 - 1853)

Blessed Frederic Ozanam

In 1833, Divine Providence once again called an ordinary man to an extraordinary mission, by touching the heart of Frederic Ozanam to bring hope to the hopeless in the streets of Paris. Frederic was mentored in serving the poor by another ordinary woman with an extraordinary mission, Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity working in the slums of Paris. Frederic Ozanam, together with his companions, founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and they soon found that "no work was foreign to the Society."





OUR HISTORY SHARING AS BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST

Legacy

The Rule of the Society evolved out of the life and faith of Frederic. Authentic Vincentian service assists the impoverished and the troubled but it is done in love and with love. As Vincent, Frederic knew that this is what our Lord asks of his followers, namely, that they seek and find Jesus in the poor. Vincentianism is Faith in Action: it is a reaching out in friendship and with helping hands to those who are poor or who are suffering. Vincentian helping is person-to-person, by a personal gift of the heart, in humility, simplicity and charity. Being a Vincentian is a vocation.





OUR VINCENTIAN CALLING

- * Being a Vincentian is a calling, a vocation, to go out and serve our neighbours in need.
- * We are all connected through **Prayer**, by our **Personal** contact with the **Poor**.
- * Our story in Canada begins with the first Canadian Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) founded by Doctor Joseph Painchaud in **1846 in Quebec City.**
- * Together, we have been serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy with over 793 conferences, 88 particular councils, 13 central councils, 5 regional councils (BC & Yukon West Ontario Quebec Atlantic)
- * The poor can count on receiving help from our 15,301 Vincentian members, who made 246,492 visits last year, thus helping 349,614 neighbours in need across Canada.





OUR VINCENTIAN STRUCTURE





- * The 'Saint Vincent de Paul Conference' is the basic unit of the Society
- * It is also the first level of the Society's structure
- * Vincentians form a **Conference**, which functions within a specific area, such as a parish, a school, a workplace, etc., and engage in person-to-person service to the poor.
- * Our volunteer members **turn concern into action** through direct, compassionate service to those in need.



"The main role of a conference is to group together Christians who wish to pursue the Society's mission. A conference is a gathering of people similarly motivated to serve Christ by serving the Working within the conference, members can nourish and renew their faith, and sustain each other through prayer so that each member will grow closer to God." (The Rule, 2.2.2)









THE IDEAL VINCENTIAN CONFERENCE

'Non-Existent'

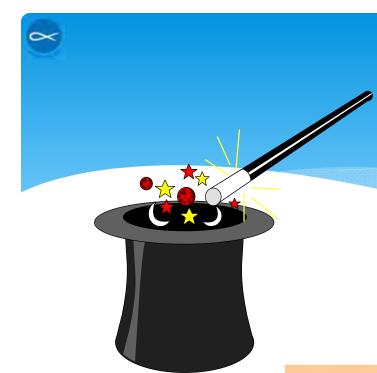
Characteristics of the IDEAL Conference

- 6 12 members
- Meets once or twice a month for about 90 minutes
- Meeting Agenda with the prayer, spiritual reading & reflection, etc.
- Servant Leader President with strong Executive members' support
- Active Full member participation
- Proper records keeping
- Client Home visitations are appropriately anchored through Vincentians Sharing,
 Ongoing Renewal, Continuous Learning and Effective Equity of Service.

Meetings are held "in a spirit of fraternity, simplicity, and Christian joy", providing "for consideration in common of the experiences of each member and the problems encountered in the pursuit of a better service" (The Rule, Schema I, Art. V, 1 & 2)



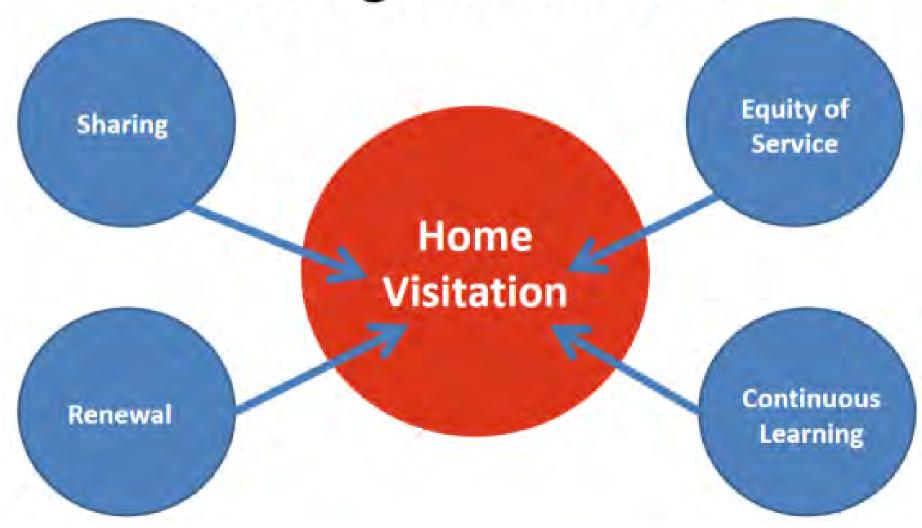




WHAT!!!
This man
must be
mad!!!



Our Five Guiding Principles to Serve Our Neighbours in Need







5 Guiding Principles for Conferences

- 1. Home Visits Are Important Visiting Neighbours in Need in their homes is the primary and preferred form of meaningful, person-to-person service by Vincentians in each conference.
- 2. **Equity of Service** Neighbours in Need in similar circumstances and with similar needs receive similar levels of service across the GTA.
- **3. Continuous Learning** Since we strive to serve our Neighbours in Need by helping them to meet some of their immediate needs, as well as by assisting them in their efforts to move forward, Vincentians strive to continue to grow in the knowledge and skills required to achieve these goals.
- **4. Renewal** In order to appropriately and effectively serve Neighbours in Need, the conference needs to be spiritual, active, committed and creative. Such a conference is difficult to maintain without a sufficient number of active Members and without the addition of new Members.
- 5. Sharing Since a fundamental principle of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is that funds are moved within the Society to where they are most needed, conferences send excess funds up, normally keeping a balance in their account of no more than three months reserve (i.e. the average amount that they would spend in three months).





Conference Health Check

- What are we doing well?
- What can we do better?
- Are the conference members kept busy?
- Too busy? Recruit!
- Not busy enough: let us go to the poor... what else can we do?
- Do we have regular conference meetings?
- Along with the usual agenda items, what do we talk about? Do we share a laugh or two?
- How do we as Vincentians live and deepen our spirituality?



HOME VISITATION - GUIDING PRINCIPLE #1



The primary and preferred form of service is to visit Neighbours in Need in their homes

* Visiting neighbours in need in their homes is the primary and preferred form of meaningful, person-to-person service by Vincentians in each conference.







HOME VISITATION GUIDING PRINCIPLE #1



Overall purpose of Home Visitation

- 1. Listening
- 2. Referrals
- 3. Friendship
- 4. Material Assistance
- 5. Spirituality













• Enter the Name of Conference: and Date:

Home Visits	The primary and preferred form of service is to visit Neighbours in Need in their homes	
Current Situation:		
Average number of visits we make per month		
Average number of monthly visits conducted in the neighbours' home		
Where do we make visits, if not in the neighbour's home?		
If appropriate, please exp	lain the reason (s) for not making all visits in the Neighbours' home. Are these reasonable?	
Do we have any service restrictions? (e.g. periods of time when you are not responding to calls) Are these reasonable?		
Do we have any service restrictions or priorities on who we serve? (e.g. giving priority to serving 'the working poor' before		
those on social assistance	e or not serving single men)	
Assessment Summary/Action Plan for Improvement		











CHARACTERISTICS OF A MEANINGFUL VINCENTIAN VISITATION:

- * Takes place in the home of the neighbour in need. This acknowledges our roles as invited guests looking to maximize the level of comfort and convenience on behalf of our hosts. In exceptional cases the visit might take place elsewhere, but in an environment where privacy and meaningful person to person contact can be maintained.
- * Takes place in a timely manner (usually 24 48 hours) by a minimum of two Vincentians.
- * Vincentians engage in a **respectful, meaningful dialogue**. The goal is to discover the need and to address it in as appropriate a manner as possible, not to cast judgement or lecture. Vincentians should do most of the listening and encourage our neighbour to do most of the talking.
- * Vincentians are knowledgeable about the resources and services available in the community. They are familiar with the basic benefits provided by social assistance.









CHARACTERISTICS OF A MEANINGFUL VINCENTIAN VISITATION:

- * Vincentians are **familiar with the neighbour's situation** through careful record keeping concerning past visits and assistance rendered. They will have attended regular conference meetings and heard the discussion regarding past calls. They are keenly aware of the **importance of maintaining confidentiality** regarding our neighbours in need.
- * Vincentians **explain who we are and what we can do as an organization.** This sets up an understanding of mutual expectations and should the relationship extend beyond the initial visit.
- * Vincentians will bear in mind their mission as **emissaries of Christ** and this knowledge will influence them in all that they do or say during the home visit.



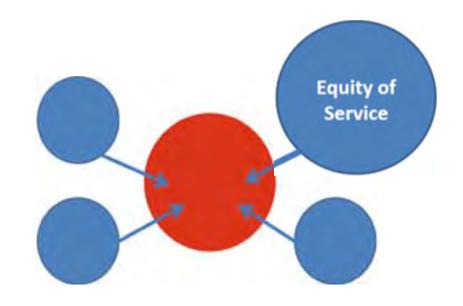


EQUITY OF SERVICE - GUIDING PRINCIPLE #2



Neighbours in Need with similar needs receive similar levels of service

* Neighbours in need in similar circumstances and with similar needs, receive similar levels of service.





EQUITY OF SERVICE - GUIDING PRINCIPLE #2



Equity in service:

- * our fundraising efforts.
- * our response time to calls.
- * our availability.
- * the information and resources we share.
- * serving with the person-to-person contact, personal gift of the heart, humility, respect and discretion.









CONFERENCE SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL

Equity of Service	Neighbours in Need with similar needs receive similar levels of service	
Current Situation		
What is our average time between receiving a call and making a visit?		
What are your assistance guidelines? (for an adult and for families) (please attach your guidelines if you have them)		
How often do we normally provide assistance to longer term neighbours?		
as often as required		
monthly		
every two months		
other (please state)		
Do we need to adjust the level of assistance we provide to meet the equity of service guideline? Explain		
Assessment Summary /Action Plan for Improvement		











Guidelines for Conferences for the Provision of Material Assistance

Conference members <u>decide</u> how much to give and this is dependent <u>on how the funds flow</u>:

Deciding How Much to Give:

Conferences and members bring their **compassion**, **judgement** and **experience** to bear when making the decision on how much assistance to provide. Nevertheless, an attempt should be made to bring consistency and equity across the conferences in terms of amounts of assistance being given.

When deciding what to give, some criteria to consider:

- the family/persons needs and circumstances (including whether the circumstances are exceptional)
- Current source and level of financial/ material support, if any;
- * an immediate need and if the need is food how much is required to relieve the emergency
- how many people are in the family and their approximate age
- * the other services available in the area (contact 211 for a listing of social services available)
- previous assistance given and frequency of calls
- how has the family coped in the past
- * Is there any relief in sight for the crisis?



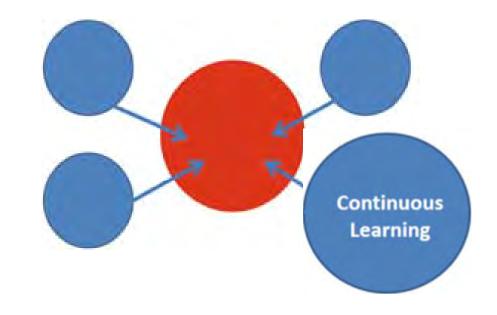


CONTINUOUS LEARNING - GUIDING PRINCIPLE #3



Conferences should strive to grow in the knowledge and skills required to better serve our neighbours in need

* Since we strive to serve our neighbours in need by helping them to meet some of their immediate needs, as well as by assisting them in their efforts to move forward, Vincentians strive to continue to grow in the knowledge and skills required to achieve these goals.





CONTINUOUS LEARNING - GUIDING PRINCIPLE #3





Growing in Knowledge and Skills to better serve our neighbours in need.





CONFERENCE SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL

Continuous Learning	Conferences should strive to grow in the knowledge and skills
	required to better serve our neighbours in need

Current Situation

What are we currently doing to improve member knowledge and skills?

What topics would we like to receive more information and training?

- Government assistance programs (Ontario Works, etc.)
- Other service providers in our area (food banks, immigrant services etc.)
- Mental Health
- Addictions
- Safety
 - Serving our Longer-term Neighbours in Need
- Tips on engaging in meaningful conversations with our neighbours
- Conference roles and responsibilities
- ____Duties of the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer
- Other (Please specify)

Assessment Summary /Action Plan for Improvement







Education & Training Programs

- Executive Officers Workshop
- * Annual General Assembly & Seminars
- Particular Council Meetings, Fellowships & Training Sessions
- National/Regional/Central Councils Training
 Workshops
- * SSVP Members Resources Websites
- Membership Orientation







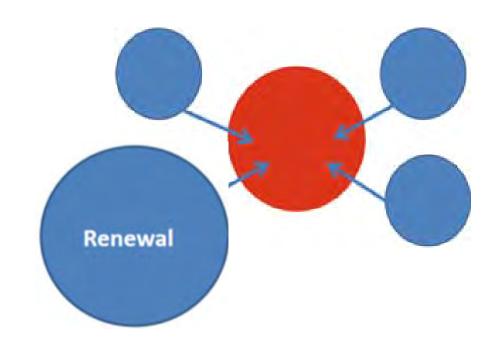
RENEWAL

- GUIDING PRINCIPLE #4



In order to serve our Neighbours we need to have spiritual, active, committed and creative conferences, with sufficient number of active members

In order to appropriately and effectively serve neighbours in need, the conference needs to be spiritual, active, committed and creative. Such a conference is difficult to maintain without a sufficient number of active members and without the addition of new members.





RENEWAL

- GUIDING PRINCIPLE #4



Vincentian Renewal Activities:

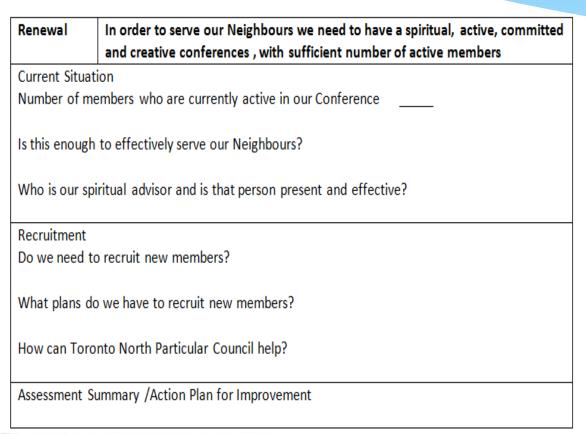
- Recruiting new members
- Be prepared, form a renewal team and develop a plan
- Draw on available support and resources
 Particular Council, neighbouring
 Conferences, Regional Councils.
- * Welcome, Nourish, Encourage and Mentor new members, particularly those first few months are very critical.







CONFERENCE SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL









CONFERENCE SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Toronto Central Council



Recruitment & Renewal Guide

February 2014

Vincentian Renewal:

- * Spiritual Renewal
- * Conference/Council Renewal
- * Succession Planning Session



SHARING

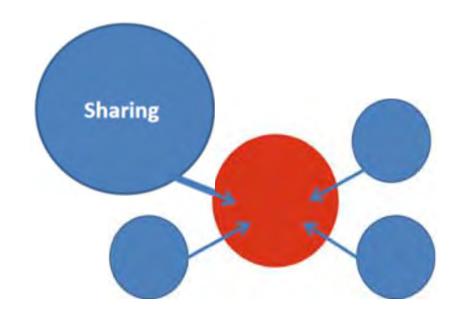
- GUIDING PRINCIPLE #5



Neighbours in Need with similar needs

receive similar levels of service

* Since a fundamental principle of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is that funds are moved within the Society to where they are most needed, conferences send excess funds up, normally keeping a balance in their account of no more than three months reserve (i.e. the average amount that they would spend in three months).





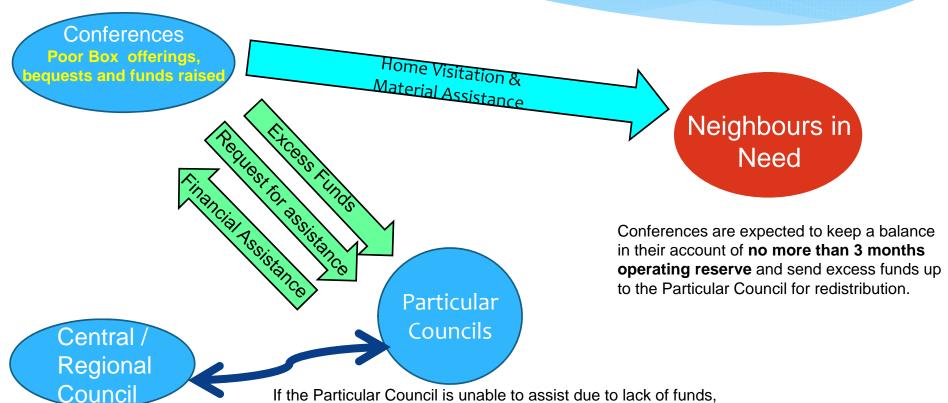


SHARING

- GUIDING PRINCIPLE #5



The SSVP Path of Sharing:



If the Particular Council is unable to assist due to lack of funds, then it will reach out to the Central or Regional Council for help.







CONFERENCE SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL

Sharing

A fundamental principle is that funds are moved within the Society to where they are needed. Conferences are to send excess funds up, normally keeping no more than 3 month in reserve.

Current Situation

Do we follow good stewardship of donated funds leaving no more than 3 months in reserve and passing up excess funds to TNPC to be shared with those in greater need? What is your 3 month reserve?

Does our Conference raise enough funds to meet our neighbours in need? Why or Why not?

Particular Council

In the past year did we pass up funds to Particular Council?

In the past year have you received funds from Particular Council to help you serve your neighbours?

Assessment Summary /Action Plan for Improvement











- * A fundamental principle is that funds are moved within the Society to where they are needed.
- * Conferences are to send excess funds up, normally keeping no more than 3 month in reserve.
- * Councils send funds down to assist Conferences





Completing the Action Plan for Improvements:

Prioritizing	List our Conference improvement needs in order of priority:
Action Plans for	
Improvement	
	Identify the areas(s) that we focus on improving in the next 6 months/ 12 months::
	List the actions we will take to achieve this change:







Sample Action Plan to Help with Our Guiding Principles:

HOME VISITATIONS

Current Situation:

Conference is only visiting NINs on the first call and then for any repeat calls they have the NIN come to the church to pick up the vouchers.

Goal - to visit NINs in their home every time they call:

Current issues preventing this activity

- Not enough members to do all the calls
- Members too old to go to the homes
- . Members feel there is no need to visit as the story doesn't change with the NINs
- · Area is unsafe, or bed bugs in the home
- Members do not drive

Action Plan:

- 1. Recruit more members to handle the call volume. Do you need help from TCC?
- Plan to engage the new Vincentians quickly with an experienced Vincentian to do home visits
- Have older members doing tasks that do not require travelling i.e. holding poor boxes, doing bulletin notices, taking the incoming calls, providing guidance and mentoring to the newer members, doing spiritual readings, plan fund raising, etc.
- 4. Provide more training on how to address needs of the NIN especially longer term NINs
- 5. Ensuring you have a good list of reference resources available to help the NIN get the assistance they require







THE FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES – 5GPS

SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

Take-away Activities:

- * Share what you have learnt with your Conferences & Councils
- Review & Reinforce 5GPs
- * Next steps Complete Conference Action Plans
- * For more information visit:
 - Toronto Central Council Members Areas - <u>http://svdptoronto.org/members-</u> area/conferences-resources
 - Five Guiding Principle -<u>http://svdptoronto.org/members-area/five-guiding-principles/</u>
 - 5GPs Conference Self Assessment Tool - <u>http://svdptoronto.org/wp/wp-</u> content/uploads/2013/12/Selfassessment-.pdf







Thank You...