

Vincenpaul Canada



The Magazine of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
Volume 40 No. 3 - Fall 2014



**LET US BE AS CHRIST
TO ONE ANOTHER**

Return Address :
National Council of Canada
2463 Innes Road
Ottawa, ON K1B 3K3



Table of content

Message from the President	3
National President's Annual Report	5
Strategic Planning	7
Vincentian Activities Accross Canada	8
Spirituality	10
North of 60 Project	14
Twinning	16
Survey - Strategic Planning	17
Social Justice	18
AGA 2015 - Hamilton ON	20
Youth	21
Canada's Councils in Action	
Atlantic Regional Council	22
Quebec Regional Council	24
Ontario Regional Council	27
Western Regional Council	31
In Memoriam	37
AGA 2014 - Edmonton AB	38

Official publication of the Society
of Saint Vincent de Paul - Canada • Dépôt légal
Bibliothèque nationale ISSN0703 6477
Agreement no. 1751697

Made with the collaboration of : Ghislaine DuNord,
John Grocholski, Nicole Fortin, Clermont Fortin
Editors : Nicole Schryburt, Ellen Schryburt

Graphic Design : Nicole Schryburt
Printing : Impressions Daigle Inc.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
2463 Innes Road
Ottawa, Ontario, K1B 3K3
Tel. : 613-837-4363 - Toll Free: 1-866-997-7787
Fax: 613-837-7375
Email: national@ssvp.ca

Canada Revenue Agency
Charity Registration No. 132410671RR0001

Time to renew your subscription

Please send this form and a \$20 cheque to:		New subscription:	<input type="checkbox"/>
SSVP National Council, 2463 Innes Road, Ottawa Ontario K1B 3K3		Renewal:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Conference or Council: _____			
Name of President: _____			
Name of Subscriber: _____			
Address: _____			
City: _____	Province: _____	Postal Code: _____	
Tel: _____	Email: _____		

President change

Please send this form to: SSVP National Council, 2463 Innes Rd., Ottawa Ontario K1B 3K3			
OR send all these information by email to: national@ssvp.ca			
Name of Conference or Council _____			
City: _____	Aggregation Date: _____		
Particular Council: _____	Central Council: _____		
Name of Past-President: _____			
Name of President Elect: _____			
Start Date: _____			
Address Conference or Council: _____			
City: _____	Province: _____	Postal Code: _____	
Tel: _____	Email: _____		

Message from the President



Dear brothers and sisters Vincentian,

September is here, and our activities are picking up once again. I welcome you back, hoping that you were able to enjoy summer.

Let us start the 2014 / 2015 year by going back to two elements which I addressed last year. I am talking about home visits, and visits to people living alone.

Home Visits

We are the only humanitarian organization using this approach systematically. That is more or less what sets us apart, but also what identifies us. That approach was the one chosen by Saint Vincent de Paul when he decided to do something to help the poor. The religious orders which he founded, those communities of fathers, brothers and sisters, all had the same mission: **Go to the poor**. In other words, get out of your home and go where there are needy people.

Several years later, Sister Rosalie Rendu, Daughter of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, continued using that approach. When Frederic Ozanam and his friends went to see her, asking her to help them, she taught them about home visits. For them, even after founding the first Conference, they never intended to stop that practice. On the contrary, they even included it in the very first Rule of the Society.

Why should we perpetuate this approach nowadays? Simply because we know that most of the people we help are marginalized, and that no one takes the time to listen to them. They go from one desk to another and nobody has any time for them. Everyone thinks that, after all, what could they have to say, besides complaining. With time, they end up losing any self-respect they might have had, together with any hope of a better future. >>>

Survey

We invite all Vincentians to complete a brief survey that will help the Strategic Plan Committee in developing a five-year plan to be presented at the 2015 AGA, in Hamilton.

You will find the survey on page 17 of this magazine.

Once completed, please send it to our Ottawa office at the latest on November 16, 2014, to the address indicated on the form.

You may also complete the survey electronically, by using the appropriate form available on our web site (Forms section), and send it via e-mail, once completed.

Thank you!

Message from the President

Home visits, when they are not hurried and when we take the time to establish a relationship with the person, or persons, we visit offer them an opportunity to recover some self-confidence and to realize that they are human beings, as worthy as any other human being that God created. Often, that is the trigger which will help them find a way out.

When one decides to join the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, is that not what one wishes to accomplish? I am certain that you have dreamt about finding a way that would help those people to improve their condition. I am convinced that no one wishes to visit the same people, month after month, leaving them each time in their misery.

The Society gives you the opportunity to attain this objective by reaching out to people in need where they live, taking the time to listen to them. That practice will change you, humanly as well as spiritually, and I can assure you that it will be for the best. If, for whatever reason, you have not done home visits for a while, and you wish to review basic techniques related to that activity, you may visit our website at: www.ssvp.ca and, under Formation, click on Module 3, The Visit. You will find all the information you need on the subject.

Visits to People Living Alone

As you certainly know, solitude is about to become one of the main problems in our modern society, in spite of every communication means at our disposal. When you read the Society's annual activity report included in Appendix A, you will see that very few people living alone were visited last year. Therefore, there is a need for improvement. For this reason, I invite you to include that activity in the scope of activities of your Conference.

As for the reasons behind my proposition, they are exactly the same as the reasons behind home visits.

People who live alone on a permanent basis develop the same problems as marginalized people. They lose

self-esteem to the point that they stop having faith in their own capacities.

For us who have always done home visits, it is the continuity of our mission, a natural and necessary addition to the help which we bring to needy people, and what is most fascinating is that it will make you become a better person, spiritually and humanly. The people you will visit will live more happily and you will become better from it. It is a win-win situation and all it takes is to go somewhere and have a chat with someone. This is the main reason why I believe that all Conferences could easily include such visits in their monthly activities. All you have to do is recruit

Vincentians to do the visits, and organize the meetings.

Have a good visit!

Jean-Noël Cormier, President
National Council of Canada

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



National President's Annual Report

2013 - 2014 REPORT

One year has gone by already since I started my term, and I must say that there was never a dull moment. Fortunately, I am surrounded by a formidable team, from administrative assistants, to Executive Committee, to members of the Board. They are a group of motivated and dedicated women and men who never count their hours and all work towards one purpose: ensuring that we give you the best service possible.

Indeed, we are here to serve you as well as support you in your mission to help needy people, and that is what we try to do as best we can.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

All national committees have been very active this past year, and I wish to give you a brief overview of the work accomplished.

Education Committee

Basic training modules were updated and posted on our website. We still believe that group training with a trained instructor is preferable, but when that is not possible, you can always go to www.ssvp.ca and access the training modules.

Social Justice Committee

We think that by regrouping the Voice of the Poor, Systemic Change and Prison Ministry committees, we will become more efficient and consistent. In reality, even though those committees can easily work separately, we think the three of them working together will help better understand the national issues needing to be addressed.

Strategic Planning Committee

That Committee was very active in the last year, and during the coming months, you will hear more and more about strategic planning, the reason being that your opinion is essential to the development of a strategic plan. The strategic plan that will guide our actions for the coming years can only be built upon everyone's ideas.

Youth Committee

Our National Council Youth Representative, Jason Hunt, worked very hard this year, recruiting young members from all Canadian regions to put together a National Youth Committee. That Committee will help us develop programs that will allow to improve youth recruiting and to better serve that specific age group.

Twinning Committee

There was a lot of work done to increase the number of twinned conferences, and I can tell you that the results are very encouraging.

Finance Committee

This past year, the objective of the Committee was to rejuvenate our methods, by using available technological tools to reduce delays required to complete transactions, but particularly to help us access real-time data on our financial situation.

In addition to that, thanks to the generosity of a supporter, the Finance Committee was able to renegotiate our mortgage on the national house, at a much more favourable rate.

National and International Emergency Committee

It is a Committee that we would prefer not to need, but given the reality of things and the intensity of recent natural disasters, that Committee has been increasingly active.

Spirituality Committee

That Committee has the heavy task to ensure that we never forget who we are and what we have chosen to do. We are Catholic lay people who have chosen to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ by serving needy people with love, respect, justice and joy.



National President's Annual Report

Because we have selected to work with an organization based on the Christian faith, it is essential that sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ guide us, to help us remain in touch with that reality. My opinion is that the members of that committee do an excellent job in that respect.

At the end of April, they organized a day of retreat for the Board members. It was a great way to help us establish a very clear link between the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our mission to help needy people.

Expansion

There is a team from the Western Region who, under the leadership of Peter Ouellet, work very hard at bringing help to Northern Canadian communities. The project, known as "North of 60", is for now limited to the Western Region, but I believe all regions should participate in the effort, and help those Canadian people who live in a state of poverty that is unacceptable in a country as rich as ours. Children regularly remain as long as 48 hours without food. How can we not react when we are aware of that situation?

That is why the Board has accepted that this initiative becomes a national project and that all regions participate to the effort and help those people who are abandoned by everyone. In the coming months, various initiatives will be undertaken to collect and send supplies to the North before winter makes operations more difficult. I invite you to participate in those initiatives, thus ensuring that as many people as possible receive the help they need.

Communication

All of us agree that in order to serve more people, we must increase the number of Vincentians, as well as our revenues. One of the things we can do to achieve those objectives is to increase our visibility so that more people find out who we are and what we do. We have started doing just that and for now, we limit our interventions to those parishes where we are the most active, where we recruit and where our benefactors are.

So, to start with, we make sure that we do everything we can to reach as many people as possible in those communities. Once that is accomplished, we will look

into disseminating information in parishes where the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is not established. Finally, we will determine how to increase our visibility among the public in general, by using the media and other means of communication.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you, all Vincentians across the country, for the fantastic work that you have accomplished once again this year. To our two employees, Nicole and Josée, many thanks for your support and your dedication.

To all our donators, thank you for allowing us to realize our mission, to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ by serving the needy with love, respect, justice and joy.

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

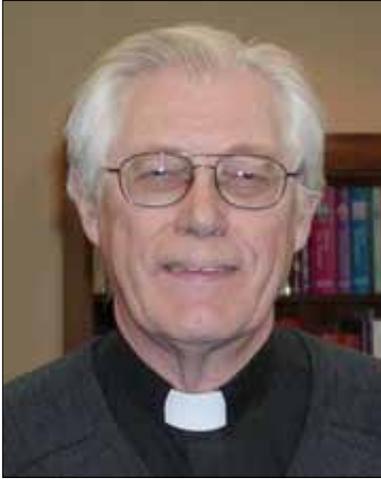


Vincentian Activities Across Canada

	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
	2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014
Home Visitations				
Number of homes visited	2,730	3,788	10,438	10,130
Number of visits to these homes	5,880	11,471	13,436	15,488
Number of adults served	3,593	10,533	13,747	15,184
Number of children served	2,716	5,821	9,958	15,007
Total of persons served	6,309	16,354	23,705	30,191
Other visits				
Number of visits to the sick (homes/hospitals)	1,759	2,153	217	175
Number of friendly visits to persons	1,334	630	475	427
Number of inmates visited in prison	1,650	30	3	41
Activities				
Number of stores	8	8	0	0
Number of outlets	1	6	2	2
Number of soup kitchens	2	1	0	0
Number of foodbanks	3	6	3	2
Number of shelters	2	0	0	0
Number of drop-in centres	1	1	2	2
Number of low cost housing units	46	43	38	0
Number of children attending summer camps	0	11	0	0
Twinning				
External (outside Canada)	12	9	7	7
Internal (inside Canada)	1	0	1	0
Financial operations				
Receipts	\$ 5,143,966	\$ 5,150,734	\$ 1,369,921	\$ 2,028,823
Expenditures	\$ 4,992,270	\$ 4,573,306	\$ 1,241,150	\$ 2,017,867
Conference Membership				
Number of full members (age 36+)	447	466	738	838
Number of young adult members (18-35)	12	11	54	97
Number of youth members (under 18)	10	7	26	87
Number of auxiliary members	165	143	180	194
Total members	634	627	998	1,216
Spiritual advisors	17	19	23	34
# of councils and conferences included in report				
Central councils included in this report	1/1	1/1	1/1	2/2
Particular councils included in this report	5/6	6/6	6/6	6/6
Conferences included in this report	34/43	43/44	42/52	53/57

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014
35,853	55,753	104,021	105,179	5,800	6,400	158,842	181,250
68,541	68,354	104,021	105,179	7,862	6,918	199,740	207,410
82,271	98,008	142,359	137,467	9,058	12,455	251,028	273,647
61,723	73,989	72,365	73,905	5,427	7,285	152,189	176,007
143,994	171,997	214,724	211,372	14,485	19,740	403,217	449,654
3,573	2,709	107	2	5,144	300	10,800	5,339
5,957	7,001	-	1	1,213	1,300	8,979	9,359
489	1,856	15	0	0	0	2,157	1,927
30	27	93	93	2	2	133	130
26	25	0	0	0	0	29	33
11	12	1	1	1	1	15	15
62	46	2	3	13	13	83	70
4	4	0	0	0	0	6	4
2	1	0	0	0	0	5	4
202	202	0	0	0	0	286	245
2,474	2,454	775	338	0	0	3,249	2,803
70	65	10	6	6	3	105	90
17	3	0	0	3	0	22	3
\$ 10,001,915	\$ 19,576,996	\$ 16,751,950	\$ 17,029,261	\$ 1,362,584	\$ 1,366,559	\$ 34,630,336	\$ 45,152,373
\$ 9,112,382	\$ 18,456,925	\$ 16,186,073	\$ 16,427,495	\$ 1,183,757	\$ 1,146,593	\$ 32,715,632	\$ 42,622,186
4,050	4,071	2,864	2,982	n/a	800	8,099	9,157
91	136	96	68	n/a	35	253	347
70	130	0	0	n/a	0	106	224
532	739	1,749	1,419	n/a	0	2,626	2,495
4,743	5,076	4,709	4,469	1,024	835	12,108	12,223
168	189	250	250	n/a	n/a	458	492
5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	0/0	0/0	12/12	13/13
35/36	35/35	37/37	36/37	5/5	5/5	88/90	88/89
275/317	291/316	254/282	278/282	46/54	44/54	651/748	709/753

LET US BE AS CHRIST TO ONE ANOTHER



Reflection on the Theme

We often fail to realize how lucky we are to have a bilingual organization. Both of our languages have a specific way of expressing reality and we can take advantage of the treasure of meaning in each linguistic expression. For instance, our theme is a case in point. In English, we express our theme as follows:

Let us be as Christ to one another

The proper translation in French is:

**Soyons pour les autres
ce que le Christ est pour nous**

Although different, through both expressions we see clearly two concepts that are equally important. The English version tends toward the suggestion that we become Christ-like. Here we follow the Pauline teaching, as in: 1Cor. 12, 27: *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

The idea here is that our entire being projects the reality of Christ, and to follow the theme we are exploring we actively display the full reality of Christ to one another.

On the other hand the French version tells us to be for others what Christ is for us. Here we acknowledge what Christ gives us and we want the same for others. One might detect a greater reliance on tradition and we are reminded of the medieval book *The Imitation of Christ*.

Equipped with both linguistic versions we may say that the meaning of the theme is as follows:

1. We must be open to the Grace coming from Christ so as to live according to the values that He projects into our lives. Personal conversion is called for.
2. This dwelling of Christ in us must lead us to be a Christ-like presence that we bring into our relationship with others. The reality of Eucharistic communion becomes our way of life.

Having established that both French and English expressions of the theme provide us with much encouragement and leadership, we can now explore the specific implications that the theme has for us. These implications fall into two divisions, that of **being** and that of **doing**.

However, before moving further on this reflection, we must acknowledge the elephant in the room. This theme most definitely raises the religious bar quite a bit. Some of you may be saying that this probably will not fly with the folks back home. Indeed with the pile of stuff we all have to deal with, is there time for deep religious reflection? Do we not find indifference, if not hostility, even in areas, where at least nominally, the religious dimension is honored.

Yes, this is a theme that leads to an adult relationship with God. It calls for more than empty motion-making. The trick to make the theme work is to link it to an aspect that **is** honored in the secular society, authenticity. The theme, *Let us be Christ to one another* is super authentic. It calls forth the best in each one of us. It speaks not of a holy-picture religion but it points to what is most real and valuable in our Faith. It is without doubt a theme for our time.

Returning to our reflection, as regards **being**, the theme pushes us to a deeper relationship with Christ. We understand better the teaching of the Fathers of the Church that we are, above all, citizens of the Kingdom of God. We are to be people of light displaying great solidarity with all of God's children, being free of prej-

udice. We are to be solid followers of Paul's teaching on love, so well expressed in 1Cor 13, 1-8a:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have no love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic power and understanding all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith so as to move mountains but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have and deliver my body to be burned but have no love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind, love is not jealous or boastful. It is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, endures all things, Love never ends

In short, we must convert our idiosyncrasies so that our person itself may project the full values that we live by.

At this point in our reflection on **being** it is, I believe, appropriate to ask ourselves the following question:

Is my life, as I am living right now, loudly advertising my Christian belief?

To finish this section on **being**, I would like to tell you of a priest who truly exemplified what I have been talking about and who played a great part in moving me toward the priesthood. How did he enter my life?

In the 1930s, Rémi Dauphinais was a young member of the Order of Preachers commonly known as Dominicans. He was looking forward to going to Paris, France to study Church Music. One of his colleagues in the Order was equally looking forward to going to Japan with other members of the Order to establish a new diocese. However this was not to be since this young man and two other Dominicans drowned in the Ottawa River as a result of a freak boating accident. Consequently Father Dauphinais did not go to France but replaced his friend on the Japan contingent. When WWII broke out all the Canadian religious in Japan were expelled. The new Bishop Marie-Joseph Lemieux became bishop of Gravelbourg and two years later,

Archbishop of Ottawa. Father Dauphinais became the 5th curate at the Dominican Parish, St Jean Baptiste in Ottawa. As a result I got to know him in his role as chaplain to the Scout movement

He was quite the chaplain. In the 1950s he regularly conducted dialogue homilies at the camp masses. His talks were always interesting and to the point. He was always available. The Dominican convent was buying quantities of paperback books that required book binding. Our chaplain created a little book-bidding workshop that gave us great experience and at the same time earned money to buy scout uniforms for many of the boys from poor families. He also introduced the scouts to the St Vincent de Paul Society. He gave me a concrete example of a man walking the talk. This is what this theme is about.

Dauphinais never complained about the dream of musical studies that had been dashed. He bloomed where he was planted which is so important for all of us.

What about the aspect of the theme that relates to **doing**?

First of all it is doing well what we are called upon to do: our daily responsibilities. The motto of the French writer Jesuit Father François Varillon, encapsules this concept. It goes like this: "In one hand the beauty of the world, in the other, the suffering and misery of humanity and both feet in my daily duty."

However our theme calls for more. In a recent album entitled *Quelqu'un m'a dit*, the French singer Carla Bruni (who is also the wife of Nicolas Sarkozy, a former President of France) has an interesting piece entitled *Tout le monde*. Here we find the following lines:

Il faudrait que tout le monde réclament

Auprès des autorités

Une loi contre l'indifférence

Que personne ne soit oublié!



Spirituality

The English translation would go something like this:

*People should draw up a petition
to those in authority
for a law against indifference
so that no one is forgotten.*

Her point is well made. Because of widespread indifference many are those who are forgotten, many are the invisible voice-less poor.

So our work must be pro-active. Cooperation with parish, school and church and civic organizations is not foreign to Vincentians. We must be at the same time the best Band-Aid people and the best builders of a more just and fair society where fewer and fewer will be forgotten people.

It happens sometimes that relatively small actions have great repercussions. Some thirty years ago I was in a suburb of Ottawa known as Kanata. I had been sent by the Archbishop to establish a new parish. It had been two years since I began masses in schools (the parishioners used to refer to this time as the Holy Gymn phase of the parish). Quite a bit of money had to be collected and donor fatigue was setting in.

One summer afternoon the doorbell of the temporary rectory rang. Upon opening the door I discovered four young children. One gave me a plastic bag filled with coins and said, *Father Peter, we sold lemonade and this money is for the new church.*

When I counted the coins there was \$22, 45. You can imagine the effect of this story on the parishioner the following Sunday. Two years later we began construction of the new church.

Here are a few ideas to put this theme into practice in our Councils and Conferences.

Have the theme as a regular agenda item. This should lead to interesting discussion on how the theme is playing out in the lives of members.

Our baptism offers a clue on being a better disciple of Christ. Indeed, during baptism ceremony, we are asked to follow Christ as, Priest, Prophet and King. The Cursillo people have translated these three ideas into Prayer, Study and Action. Why not examine ourselves on a weekly basis on these three topics. To be Christ-like we cannot escape praying. We should not be an ignoramus regarding our Faith: study should be an on-going concern. Our Christian action should concern our Vincentian work but should extend to family, Parish and Society at large.

In conclusion, being Christ to one another is not small potatoes. It is a huge undertaking. However from the days of Frederick Ozanam, the Society of St Vincent de Paul has always maintained that one of the goals of the Society is to make its members saints. Not as the wonderful French expression says, *grenouilles de bénitier*, but rather saints who follow the teaching of Pope Francis to bring Christ to the poor and suffering wherever they are.

Msgr. Peter Schonenbach
National Spiritual Advisor

*“Let us be
as Christ
to one another”*

MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

In the story in Matthews Gospel -Jesus comes toward them walking on the stormy sea and the disciples cry out in fear. Jesus responds "It is I, do not be afraid." Peter asks "Lord Command me ...to COME to you on the water". Jesus invites him to "COME". Peter responds eagerly, then discovers that it is a rough world outside of the safety of the boat. His attention shifts from Jesus. He loses focus and of course starts to sink.

Like Peter, we all have all had a similar experience of losing focus and the unexpected happens especially when we experience something new.

Pope Francis has challenged us to try something new. He has challenged us to become missionary disciples. This requires us to leave the safety of our boat, the church, and to enter the rough waters of the world outside. It is a change. Change is always uncomfortable. The advantage we have is Jesus. Jesus is our source of peace and He will always be with us.

Jesus told his disciples at the Last Supper (John 14:27), "Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid." The world cannot provide peace as Jesus can and does. It is for us to seek the Jesus who gives peace in the ups and downs, in the storms of our own lives. Jesus is always with us both in the good

times and in the bad. Jesus touches our cheeks with his gentle breezes every day but sometimes we are too concerned about the buffeting winds, the earthquakes and the fires in our lives that attract both our attention and our fears.

There is never any need for fear and anxiety, for Jesus is always close to us and, no matter what may be happening in and around us, His peace is always there for us to share. When He answers COME as He did with Peter ,we can and should respond yes I trust in you. We have to reject the ambitions and dreams of the world and separate ourselves from them (as when Jesus went into the mountains to pray) but, at the same time, that world which both attracts and threatens us



as we live out our missionary discipleship building the Kingdom of God.

As Missionary Disciples we are called to lead people to an encounter with God. They fully accept that, Jesus, the Son of God is always present and active in their lives. As we respond to His calling to Love and care for His poor, we must never forget that He will always be with us with gentle breezes to help us deal with the earthquakes, the wind and the fires in our lives.

**Maureen MacIsaac, Chair
National Spirituality Committee**



North of 60 Project

VINCENTIAN NORTH OF 60 PROJECT

This great program started a few years ago with Vincentians from SSVP Western Region supporting the community of Tuktoyaktuk. With the help of Vincentians from Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and BC, the project has grown substantially. Food, clothing, household items and building materials have been donated from Parishes in both Kelowna and Edmonton, sorted with many Vincentian volunteer hours and then loaded into 20 ft sea shipping containers. Financial support has come from the Ontario Region and St Timothy's Conference in Winnipeg, as well as, from individual Vincentians. Your Society is feeding hungry kids. Corporate support for sea containers, truck and sea barge shipping has been donated by Landtran Systems and NTCL Corp.

Five sea cans are currently in transit to each of Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. Many more Arctic communities have people living in need of support from the Society of St Vincent de Paul. With help from Conferences and Councils across Canada, our ambitious program seeks to assist the needy in other Arctic communities.

If you want to know more or you can help with this project contact:

Peter Ouellette at pres.wrc@ssvp.ca

A LIFE FULL OF GIFTS FROM GOD

Tuktoyaktuk; a small community in the greater Northern Arctic that is full of adventures to be had, potential to be made and stunning beauty to be seen. This is my third trip to Tuktoyaktuk and each time I come here I fall more in love with everything the Arctic has to offer. But personally, my most beloved thing about coming here each summer is the children who are waiting for my arrival. Their smiling faces, happy expressions and laughter fill my heart with a joy that I have only experienced while here in Tuktoyaktuk. I am so blessed to have each and every one of them in my life. We teach each other many things, learning from one another and working together to make my stay here in Tuk memorable.

All children enjoy playing, exploring, asking questions and learning new things. A child here in Tuk just may do those things differently than a child in Southern Canada. Children here in Tuk spend anywhere from 4-14 hours outside playing, running around and exploring the world around them. A child in other parts of Canada would very rarely spend that much time outdoors. During 'a Tuk Summer' kids play out to the wee hours of the morning (between 3-6am) and go to bed soon after, to only get up in the late afternoon (between 1-4pm.). With such a weird sleeping schedule kids rarely have a concept of time, making it harder to get back into the school season. Kids in Southern Canada would have a more regulated sleep pattern and therefore understand the concept of time and be geared up for the school year more readily.

One big difference between the children of the North and South of Canada is that Northern kids are often facing their fears at a young age and on a daily basis.

Let Us Embrace the North in our Network of Charity

North of 60 Project

Thus, young kids are overcoming their fears earlier in life and becoming more courageous. Older kids are helping the younger ones gain those courageous qualities and face their fears. This helps build bonds between a wide range of age groups so all kids feel loved and included. In my time spent here I have seen so many children overcome their fear of dogs and pups, and soon after are seen rolling around in the grass together playing.

Since I am a young adult of only 18, I am seen by the kids as someone they can trust and talk to. Many of the issues they talk to me about are not that much different from other children all over the world, but are more detrimental than issues of a child the same age in Southern Canada. I believe the children here in Tuk are some of the bravest, strongest and most willing children I have ever met. Kids are always coming over and asking if they can have gloves and bags to pick up garbage to make the yard look better. They are always willing to lend a helping hand in any way they can.

Kids all around the world want to be shown love, kindness and warmth but kids here in Tuk return that love and kindness to a depth that can only be felt first hand.

The kids here make me so happy that they let me be a part of their lives and I feel absolutely blessed to have them in mine.

While writing this I am sitting here in Tuktoyaktuk, and as I look around me I am surrounded by God's wonderful creation. The ocean, the wind, the birds in the sky; all make me realize how lucky I am to come to this stunning place and tell of God's love to the children of Tuktoyaktuk. They are all so willing and wanting to hear of the good news God's love brings and I am blessed enough to tell them of that love. We can all learn a lot from the children around us, their imaginative minds and vibrant ways of life can teach us all so much. I know I have

learned many life lessons from them!

Andrea Wan



"In my time spent here I have seen so many children overcome their fear of dogs and pups, and soon after are seen rolling around in the grass together playing."



They really wanted ice cream, but I said they couldn't have any that day, so they said they would make the cutest faces until I have in... Which I did... Andrea

LET US BE PROACTIVE WITH TWINNING

We all know groups of students who, driven by their faith, spurred by the desire to contribute to the reduction of poverty and economic inequalities, or concerned by peace and social justice, seeking adventure or feeling responsible towards marginalized people, participate in humanitarian missions in emerging countries. There, they meet villagers and build a house, or a clinic, or dig a well, etc. They seek a human experience as much as school credits. It is fashionable among young people all over North America. Their travel stories are very touching, and show how much those youths were changed by the humanitarian mission; several of them want to go back. Young people, more than adults, are full of enthusiasm and energy, and feel they can change the world, at least a little. Defeatism, indifference and inertia do not suit them well. As for us, Vincentians driven by faith, what can we learn from them? Are we as convinced, as those youths are, that we want to contribute to a better and more caring world?

The Society does not send its members to missions across the world, except for particular projects such as restructuring of the Society, training of members, or emergency assistance following a disaster¹. There is no need: the Society is present in almost 150 countries serving people suffering from poverty. Vincentians in emerging countries already work for the cause, and what they need is our moral and financial support. They want us to help them, as brothers and sisters of the same family, provide courage and hope to those most in need in their communities, applying a little salve on their wounds, for as long as necessary.

Are Canadian Vincentians responding to the expectations and requests of Vincentians in third world countries? Do we feel sufficiently concerned by misery occurring beyond our frontiers? It is true that in recent years economic crisis has impoverished everyone, and that aspirations and hopes are being put to the test. As members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, we must continue dreaming of a better world and working for it, in the tradition and the philosophy of our founders and our patron, sustained by our faith in Jesus, Servant of the poor.

The 2013-2014 Annual Twinning Report² tabled before the members of the General Assembly gathered in Edmonton last June, shows that Conferences and Councils should be more involved in external twinning (outside of Canada – 9 designated countries). 2013-2014 statistics, as compared to those of previous years, show that the number of external twinning remains almost unchanged. Are we becoming less concerned by or aware of the plight of millions of poor people in the 9 designated countries assigned to Canada by the Council General International (CGI)? Of our 855 active Conferences and Councils, less than 11 % are engaged in a twinning partnership. Is indifference or despair gaining ground? I know that Vincentians in our country feel united with those suffering and that, supported by faith, they want to do more.

Faithful to our religious roots, we should be driven to help others close to us, but also those far away. In order to change the world, we must first change ourselves, daring to trust the Divine Providence. I encourage Conference and Council Presidents to consider twinning as a basic activity, and to send in a twinning application. You may contact me (e-mail: twinning-chair@ssvp.ca) or Nicole Schryburt (e-mail: twinning@ssvp.ca) for information.

Working towards a more just and equitable world through actions in Faith.

**Clermont Fortin, Chair
National Twinning Committee**

1. The Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) of the Council general International (CGI-CIAD) is in charge of that program.
2. See www.ssvp.ca, 2013-2014 Annual Report.

Stratagic Planning's Survey

STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY – PLEASE RETURN BY NOVEMBER 16, 2014

You may also complete the survey electronically, by using the appropriate form available on our web site (Forms section), and send it via e-mail to national@ssvp.ca, once completed.

Project Name: 2015 SSVP Five Year Plan

Please return Survey to: Josée Lemieux

Date : September 2014

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

2463, Innes Road, Ottawa, ON K1B 3K3

Fax: (613) 837-7375

E-mail : national@ssvp.ca

Prepared by:

Vincentian Name of Group	
Vincentian Conference or Council Name:	
City and province:	

Vincentian Questions:

ID	Question	Selection	Responses/Comments
1	Do Vincentians in your Conference do Home Visits? If not please advise why.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
2	Does your Conference have the support of your Parish Priest? How can this relationship be strengthened?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
3	Does your Conference have a Spiritual Advisor	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
4	Do you have active Systemic Change Projects? What assistance could be provided to increase the activity of systemic change?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
5	How would you rate your Vincentian leadership at your Conference? What can be done (tools or resources) to strengthen leadership?	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong leaders <input type="checkbox"/> Good leaders but need training <input type="checkbox"/> Poor leadership	
6	Would you like to have more training? Please identify what area of training.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
7	Do you tell other Parishioners and neighbours about the good works that you do as a Vincentian? How would you suggest that we spread the good news of SSVP in your area?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	

Social Justice

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The restructuring of the Advocacy Committee as the Social Justice Committee is complete. The Social Justice Committee mandate includes advocacy, systemic change and prison ministry. The following policies have been renamed, revised and adopted by the National Board to reflect the change: ADM 002 – *Social Justice Committee*; 4.3.10 – *Committee Terms of Reference*; and 8.1 – *Guidelines for Social Justice*. These policies will be available online in the near future.

The prospective objectives of this new committee are:

- Advocate from a Gospel point of view;
- Provide National Council leadership;
- Promote the Principle of Subsidiarity¹;
- Generate and distribute official position papers on various issues;
- Create a Social Justice webpage;
- Open networking lines of opportunity;
- Adding Social Justice as a line item on all meeting agendas;
- Branding and marketing SSVP Social Justice
- Publish handouts on current issues of national concern;
- Partner with other groups on issues of common interest;
- Promote advertizing Social Justice issues in Parish Bulletins;
- Promote letter writing campaigns;
- Create checklist for Conferences/Councils; and
- Create opportunities or programs to educate and inform members.

We are now awaiting the appointment of the five regional representatives. Prospective members of the Social Justice Committee should be persons of prayer who are open to providential guidance and who possess a firm understanding of Gospel principles of justice and orthodox catholic social doctrines. Prospective

members must be fully aware of the Canada Revenue Agency rules and regulations governing a charitable organization's social justice initiatives and activities that may be perceived as political activities thereby jeopardizing our status as a non profit society and which could lead to the loss of the Society's Charitable Registration.

Vincetians desiring to serve on the National Social Justice Committee should approach their respective Regional Council President to express their interest and aspirations to work on social justice issues as a member of the National Social Justice Committee.

Recommended reading materials:

- The Poverty and Justice Bible
Purchase: www.amazon.ca
- The Catholic Prayer Bible; Lectio Divina Edition, New Revised Standard Version
Purchase: www.amazon.ca
- Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church
Purchase: www.amazon.ca
Online: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_en.html
- Canada Revenue Agency; Charities Program Updates 2014
Online: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/chrts/bt/chrtsprgrm_pdt-2014-eng.html

Claude Bédard, Vice President responsible for the Social Justice Committee

Notes:

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Chap. 4 Sec. IV The Principle of Subsidiarity Art. 185 – 8

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF PERMANENT HOUSING.

The Mental Health Commission of Canada published a report in April 2014 called '*Homelessness and Mental Health – at Home/Chez Soi*'⁽¹⁾. The report is the result of a 4 year research project in 5 major Canadian cities⁽²⁾ to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the "Housing First" approach to deal with homelessness/precarious housing for people afflicted by addiction, mental illness and poverty. A total of 2148 individuals, men and women living in the 5 targeted cities, were enrolled in the project.

The study demonstrated clearly the overall benefits of permanent housing for those involved in the program and for society. "*Every \$10 invested in Housing First services resulted in an average reduction in costs of other services of \$9.60 for High Need participants and \$3.42 for Medium Need participants*"⁽³⁾. The study found that participants with access to subsidized housing and clinical services were healthier than those not benefiting from the program, had less stress, did restore relationships with family members and reduced their use of drugs and alcohol. Finding permanent accommodation for homeless people facing various health issues resulted in savings on spending on other services

such as hospitalization, shelters, police services and the judicial system.

Comments:

This research is the first of its kind in Canada. Its conclusions show that housing is the main stepping stone to a better life for all homeless people and that it reduces social/medical costs for communities. We are all winning by selecting 'housing' as a priority in our service to those living in poverty and suffering from various ailments. I invite members of the Society volunteering within Conferences and Councils to read it and to discuss it amongst themselves at one of their meetings. Housing can be a Systemic Change project.

Let's make a difference in the lives of those living in the streets.

Clermont Fortin
National Council of Canada

1. See web site: <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/initiatives-and-projects/home> and look at the National At Home/Chez Soi Final Report, April 2014, 48 pages.
2. Major cities were Winnipeg, Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto, and Moncton.
3. Report, Homelessness and Mental Health – at Home/Chez Soi, Chapter 5, Service use and cost outcomes, p. 23.

AGA 2015 - Hamilton

*The Hamilton Particular Council
is awaiting your arrival....
“TOUCHDOWN in HAMILTON”
for the AGA2015,
the dates are June 24th to 28th.*

*Come early and get on a tour
on the 24th. We have tours to Niagara
Falls & a Vineyard, a Museum tour of
two of Hamilton’s National Historic Sites
of Canada designation, Dundurn Castle
and Whitehern Museum, also a tour of the
Good Shepherd facilities.*

*Come with your cameras and ready to
help Hamilton celebrate its 150th year
of Vincentian work. The official opening
dinner will be held on Thursday 25th at
the Royal Botanical Gardens, the BBQ
will be at the Canadian Warplane
Heritage Museum, where we will have
dinner surrounded by vintage planes and
the Closing Mass will be at the Basilica
Cathedral of Christ the King.*

*We will soon have info on discount airfares
to pass on....for our friends from the East
and the West, WestJet flies into Hamilton.
So circle your calendars and prepare for
your «Touchdown in Hamilton»....
it will be «spectacular»!*

*The theme of this AGA will be:
“Extend a hand to our neighbours in need”*

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: _____

GABRIELLE HARTE 2014 EMMANUEL BAILLY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Gabrielle has been active with St. Kevin's Conference in Val Caron, Ontario for five years. She participates as a youth member, helping out with BBQs, fund raising events, volunteering at the Elizabeth Centre (a home for the elderly), the Conference's annual meet & greet, and as a volunteer at Valley East Days. She has also attended the National Council's AGA in Ottawa in 2013 and two BAMs (Big Awesome Meeting's) with the Ontario Regional Council.

She is an honours graduate at Bishop Alexander Carter Catholic High School, including a Specialist High Skills Major in Information and Communications Technology, a high level Computer Visual and Graphics Program at the school. In September, Gabrielle entered first year at Sheridan College in Oakville in their Gaming Design Bachelor Program.

Gabrielle comes from a family that is active in the Society. The President of St. Kevin's Conference is her father, Rod Harte, while her mother, Maria Harte, is a Project Coordinator and assists the local Particular Council as a Youth Advisor. Gabrielle is one of six girls in the family, all of whom volunteer in some capacity with the Society.

Congratulations Gabrielle on being named the recipient of the Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship for 2014. Best of luck with your studies!

**Jason Hunt, Youth Rep
National Council of Canada**

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Emmanuel Bailly Scholarship, sponsored by the Monica Martineau Foundation, is an initiative of the National Council of Canada. Its purpose is to reward young Vincentians for their contributions to the Society. In addition to attending school and working part time, young Vincentians find the time and energy to assist those who are less privileged in their community. Each year, the National Council recognizes one of these young members in Canada who has demonstrated their commitment to the Society, to Vincentian spirituality, and to the Catholic Church.

It is in the name of Emmanuel Bailly, who saw the importance of helping youth combine their studies with their religious formation, that the National Council of Canada recognizes a young person each year for their exceptional contribution by offering a bursary of \$1,000 to assist them in the pursuit of their studies.

Applications for the scholarship are due by March 31 of each year to the National Council office. Details of the scholarship can be found on the National website. The full application for 2015 will be available in the fall of 2014.

Canada's Councils in Action

ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

HALIFAX VINCENTIANS GO BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

St. Theresa's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has about 10 active members and operates in the north west section of Halifax. The Conference meets every Friday morning and once a month Brother Nathaniel Foh presents a spiritual reflection and discussion for the members.

The members of St. Theresa's Conference in Halifax have been working with the residents of a large rooming house within their parish area for the past 15 years. The residents, mostly single men, but also a few single women and a couple of couples need the usual material necessities of life which the Vincentians have been providing. In Halifax, like in most Canadian cities, the number of rooming houses has been reducing drastically over the past 10 years as redevelopment

of the properties occurs. In 2004 there were over 230 registered rooming houses in the greater Halifax area; in 2013 there were only 23 left. This rapid reduction in available rooms has placed extreme pressure on those looking for rooms. Many of the people we serve only want a room, they do not want "affordable housing" units that include kitchenettes etc; only a safe (clean would also be nice) room that they can go to and lock the door. The above factors really contribute to the importance of this property.

As you would expect most of the residents are on assistance although there are a few "working poor" in the building as well.

This year the Conference put together a "Rooming House" kit. Many people living in rooming houses do not have adequate bedding, towels or toiletries. We are now keeping a supply of these kits on hand to be able to respond quickly to any requests.

Each room has its own small refrigerator and there are a couple of sparkly equipped common kitchens. Many of the residents do not cook, so their meals are usually packaged foods that can be heated in a microwave oven. There are very few "home cooked" meals prepared in the building.

Over the past 5 years in early December the Conference has purchased all the food requirements for a Christmas

turkey dinner, which was prepared by the then building manager (who has since moved on). This dinner would be prepared and served around the 8th of December. The residents would come down to the common kitchen and get a plate full of food and return to their rooms to eat.

This year (2013) the Conference decided that it would prepare a

Christmas Day meal and arranged with the parish to serve the meal to the rooming house residents in the basement of the church. Working with the building manager we promoted the meal for a few weeks before Christmas as well as when we delivered Christmas gifts to the residents around Dec. 20th. I am not sure how many of the 36 residents we expected, but we had 9 people turn up, and we sent 3 meals back to the building to a few guys who were "drinking" and did not come over. A month later the parish Youth Group hosted a Spaghetti Lunch for the residents and got 3 people. Based on these two attempts to get the residents to come to the church for a meal we decided that if we still wanted to provide a meal to the rooming house tenants, we would have to go to them.

Attempt number 1 was a pancake and sausage supper on Shrove Tuesday. Again we purchase the food and went to the rooming house and with the manager cooked pancakes and sausages and served the residents - one



Canada's Councils in Action

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARLOTTETOWN CONFERENCE,

woman commented as she piled her plate high that “this is the first meal I have had today” - and it was 6:00 PM. We served about 20 people that day which was considered a success compared to the Christmas attempt.

The Conference members were definitely pumped up by this success and quickly suggested we try a meal for St. Patrick's Day - which was on a Monday this year, so we decided to serve it on Sunday. We enrolled the help of the Catholic Women's League which had offered support and assigned the task of cooking a large pot of Irish stew to three members. We delivered the meal around 12:00 noon on March 16 and the crowd gathered almost immediately resulting in about 30 people being fed.

On the heels of this success the Conference is now planning an Easter meal for April 20th. This will probably include a baked ham for starters with veggies and dessert. One of the members has three young daughters who will be preparing hand drawn Easter cards for the folks. This is so reminiscent of the days of Frederic when they delivered the pots of soup prepared by Sr. Rosalie; we are now delivering Irish stew and baked ham that was prepared by Conference members and climbing the steps of the rooming houses of Halifax to deliver the food.

This program appears to be working very well and meeting the objective of providing a good home-cooked meal to the residents of the rooming house. The Conference is also showing signs of rejuvenating as the members enthusiastically embrace this new approach of serving our brothers and sisters - by going back to our roots.

Michael Burke

In 2014, Prince Edward Island is marking the 150th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, the meeting that led to the creation of the Canadian nation. The Fathers of Confederation formally discussed federal union, and bonded over dinners, dancing, music and visiting that scenic Island in the sea.

On September 1, 1864, the meeting that led to Canadian Confederation convened on the SS Victoria in Prince Edward Island. Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick had originally set the date to discuss the possibility of a Maritime Union. When the Province of Canada (what is present-day Ontario and Quebec) asked to attend the meeting, the topic of Maritime Union became secondary to forming a nation.

Over the next seven days the merits of Confederation were discussed at formal meetings, grand balls and banquets. Though further deliberation was required at conferences held in Quebec and London, the matter was settled - the concept of Confederation was approved.

In light of the work done and the goodwill fostered at the Prince Edward Island meeting, the Dominion of Canada became a reality on 1 July, 1867 with the proclamation of the British North America Act.

Featured in the photograph are members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Atlantic Region. They gathered for the Annual meeting of Atlantic held at Slemmon Park Hotel and Convention centre in Summerside to take a close look at the operations of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and its work for the needy and poor over the past year in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.



Canada's Councils in Action

QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

A CELEBRATION OF PERSEVERANCE - MONTREAL

In a sumptuous décor, the 2014 awards gala put in the spotlight 30 young students who worked very hard on the path to success during the past school year.

That special evening was organized to acknowledge the determination shown by Tatiana, Vincent, Ali, or Oishee, who was “so timid at the beginning of the year that she did not dare put her hand up”, as well as several others.

“It is not the grades obtained at the primary or secondary levels that will make a difference in their lives, but rather the efforts, challenges and successes which they will know during their school life that will help them become accomplished individuals”, said Martin Bérubé from the Financière Banque Nationale.

Their exemplary perseverance allowed them to go up the ladder while carefully avoiding the pitfalls. With their proud loved ones looking on, the recipients accepted their well-deserved scholarships. The 22 primary level

and 8 secondary level \$250 bursaries will allow the youths to finance a school or after-school project, such as homework assistance program, purchase of instruments or equipment, specialized course, etc.

The awards gala is part of our Opération Bonne Mine program which allows preschool, primary and secondary-level students, aged 5 to 21, to receive financial help in four different areas: Back-to-school assistance; Scholarships; Arts workshops, and Educational projects.

The program helps families in reducing the financial stress related to the beginning of the school year, and allows young students to have a positive school experience which encourages them to continue studying.

The Opération Bonne Mine program has supported more than 116,000 youths in Québec since it was created.

Marie-Eve Allaire
Communications Coordinator
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Montreal

All the grant holders and their educators. Photo : Mélanie Dusseault



Canada's Councils in Action

QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE QUEBEC SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL 2014 FAMILY GATHERING: A PHENOMENAL SUCCESS!

It was on August 9th, a perfect summer day, that the Quebec Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVPQ) held its fifth edition of the great Family Gathering! For the occasion, the Domaine Maizerets had become a vast playground offering festive activities to both kids and grown-ups, who were captivated by the “Arthur the Adventurer in Africa” show and by the variety of animations on site! The celebration was such a success, with an estimated **4000 visitors** participating in the event and flocking to the site all day long. Moreover, the smiles on the kids’ faces and the enthusiasm they showed are a tangible measure of the success of our programming and for us, our greatest satisfaction!

We definitely met our objectives with this rallying event, which is to allow disadvantaged families to attend a low-cost and very entertaining event, while fostering solidarity and social diversity, thanks to a very attractive and diversified programming: **Arthur the Adventurer**, the Logico productions itinerant entertainers: **two energy**

creators and Professor Fada (mad scientist), the Less Loulouzz **circus workshops**, the Centre d’escalade Délire **climbing wall, inflatable and fair style games**, the Initiative 1, 2, 3 Go! Limoilou **minibus for the little ones**, the **Tiroline clown/ Évolurire**, makeup and crafts, music, animation, **zumba** (Coeur à l’ouvrage), **dance** (baladi – Académie de danse orientale de Québec, hip-hop – Dance-teen-y), the Graff’Cité **graffiti wall**, a garage sale, hot-dogs, corn on the cob, and door prizes!

The Family Gathering was made possible thanks to the collaboration of our major sponsor, **EKO**, of our other top sponsors Desjardins, Ville de Québec, the 102.9 and FM93 radio stations, Groupe Leclerc, and our many volunteers and participants!

We sincerely thank all those who contributed directly or indirectly to the event, a truly successful day of fun!

Danielle Galarneau, Liaison Officer
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Quebec

Photo : Caroline Gilbert



Canada's Councils in Action

QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

A LOOK BACK AT THE QUÉBEC SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL 2014 PERSEVERANCE SCHOLARSHIP TRIBUTE EVENING

On last Wednesday, May 21, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Québec (SSVPQ) held its Perseverance Scholarship Tribute Evening at the Les Etchemins Secondary School in Charny, during which primary and secondary school students received **38 scholarships**, as well as five laptops with USB keys, worth a total of **\$13,750 \$** granted as educational assistance for the year 2013-2014.

Every year, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Québec grants **\$250** scholarships to primary school fifth and sixth-graders, and **\$500** scholarships to secondary-level students from the following five school boards: de la Capitale, des Découvreurs, des Navigateurs, de Portneuf, and des Premières-Seigneuries. Those scholarships aim to encourage the efforts of the young students, reward their perseverance, and prevent dropping out of school. The perseverance scholarships help recipients pay for various costs related to regular and extracurricular school activities during the following year.

The event was made possible thanks to financial assistance from the Comité d'aide aux démunis de Beauport and the Corporation du Noël des enfants, in addition to the contribution of the Université du Québec, who donated new laptop computers and USB keys. Moreover, we wish to acknowledge the important cooperation of the Navigateurs School Board, especially

their warm hospitality and for organizing the evening entertainment and performances.

We also wish to thank all the teachers and administrators of participating schools, as well as the very talented young students who entertained us with great performances, and greatly contributed to the success of the event!

For over 168 years, the **SSVPQ** has had the mission to fight poverty and social exclusion on behalf of disadvantaged families and individuals in all of Greater Québec. Thanks to the dedication of our 800 volunteer members working in 80 different service points, people who experience difficult living conditions can receive direct help in the form of: food, clothing, financial assistance, furniture, medicine, transport, producing income tax reports, moral support, access to summer camp, help in starting the new school year, etc.

Danielle Galarneau, Liaison Officer
418 522-5741, ext. 223

For information: Nathalie Couture, Responsable for Events 418 522-5741, ext. 225



Winners from the
Commission scolaire des Navigateurs



Winners from the
Commission scolaire de Portneuf

Canada's Councils in Action

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

TESTIMONY

My mother immigrated in 1953 and brought my sister who was 1 ½ years old from Italy. As most immigrants they did not have very much money. When my brother and I (twins) were born in 1954 it was even more of a burden on them financially. New in the country, with little money and no English, it was a hard life for my parents.

Someone from SSVP came to my mother and offered to send my brother and me (we were maybe 6 or 7 years old) to camp.

I enjoyed my time at camp very much and mostly I remember holding my breath underwater which was the beginning of my swimming lessons. Because of that I had no fear of water and learned how to swim later in life.

I remember greatly the fond memories I had of camping at SVDP and loving it since. The experience that I had as a child at camp has remained with me and will forever.

I am so grateful for that time I had spent and will never forget your kindness.

May God Bless SSVP and all that they do.

Sincerely,

Marsia Leo

As a result of the kindness of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul members many years ago, Marsia Leo is now sponsoring two children to camp this year.



Winners from the
Commission scolaire des Découvreurs



Winners from the
Commission scolaire de Portneuf



Winners from the
Commission scolaire des Premières-Seigneuries



Canada's Councils in Action

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE WEDDING DRESS STORY

This story is told by Donna Ellis of Peterborough, a former president of Immaculate Conception's SSVP group. She has been supportive ever since. Following is the 60th anniversary story of Donna and her husband Hender...

As my Diamond anniversary was approaching I decided that I wanted a special dress. I bought some fabric and it was just waiting in the Fabricland bag for me to get started.

I happened to be in the St. Vincent de Paul store, Vinnie's Feel Good Shopping, and lo and behold there was the most beautiful white satin wedding gown and in just the style that I was hoping to make, an A-line skirt, beaded bodice. Ideas began to formulate and I decided to try the dress on. With the help of Charlene, one of the volunteers in the store, we put our heads together to see what we could come up with.

The dress was a little too big for me, (that could be adjusted). It had a very long train on it (that could be cut off). It had no back in it (this was the biggest problem), but nevertheless I decided that the price was so reasonable that I would give it a go.

It hung in the closet for a bit, hidden from my husband, (after all the groom is not supposed to see the bride on her wedding day until they get to the church): it hung there for a month or two perhaps because I was a little afraid to tackle it. Finally, I decided that if it didn't go as planned, then I really wouldn't lose a whole lot, and besides I still had that fabric in the bag.

Out came the dress, out came the scissors, and with a little help from my sister, we cut off the long train so the

dress was one length to the floor. I took in the shoulder seams, put a couple of tucks in the front, and the dress fitted just fine. However, what was I to do about the back? Okay, just make a piece from the train that was cut, and sew it on. It worked fine. Then the final decision had to be made. Should I take a chance and dye the dress so that it looked more like an anniversary, rather than



a wedding. The usual dyes are not easy to find nowadays, however, I wondered if folk art paint might do the trick, and besides there are a myriad of colours in folk art paint. I chose a teal colour, mixed it with hot water, filled the bathtub with just enough water, stirred it well and, holding my breath, swished the dress around in the tub. It was not the vivid teal that I wanted, but it turned out to be a lovely soft turquoise. I was very pleased with the result. Finishing touches became a little flower and feather arrangement hair clip, with a birdcage net sewed to it. All these things took place in the afternoons when my hubby was having his pm sleep. I knew that my getting this dress was a good

decision when I came out before going to the church and I saw the look on his face. It was a look that said, "we're good for another 60 years."

Thank you Charlene, thank you Vinnies. It was a wonderful anniversary, and a good time was had by all.

By the way, my husband's tux came from Vinnie's as well! Another plus to this story is making a new friend. Charlene and I will continue our coffee chats

Canada's Councils in Action

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

FAITH, FRIENDS AND HUMBLING WISDOM

Five years ago I became a member of Holy Family Society of St. Vincent de Paul ministry.

I did not one day awaken to “know” that I needed to join a new ministry. I was asked to join by a friend who is also a member, and who felt I might be a good fit. I knew very little about this ministry, so she asked me to come and check out a meeting or two. I started attending meetings and quickly made many new friends. I have come to respect and be grateful to these members who are so loving and selfless to others. In the practice of this ministry, I have grown in knowledge about, and compassion for, those we call our “Friends in Need”. As an unexpected but very welcome “side effect”, my faith has grown stronger as well. It....just.... happened!

Volunteering on the front lines with this organization has challenged me, and opened my eyes to the plights of the poor. I want to share a little of what I've learned:

A recent report by the Ministry of Health states that those living with mental illness are by far the most frequent repeat users of our hospital emergency system. I think I understand why.

Years ago, a government decision reduced the number of in-patient psychiatric beds, in the hope that integrating the mentally ill into society would encourage an outcome of better health for them.

Today, many who live with this often invisible illness must live in “normal” society with outpatient medical support. There are few if any outward signs to alert others that all is not well within. We expect everyone who looks physically “normal” to be able to manage all the curves that normal daily life living can throw at us. This places huge pressures and unrealistic expectations on those afflicted.

Some lack control of their emotions and behaviours, exhibiting paranoia, or hearing voices, which then induces fear in others.

Others cannot get a job because of the stigma an unaware society associates with their diagnosis. Being labelled unemployable, they live on welfare

and so, must live in low rental housing which has its own negative realities. Some employers will not hire persons with a subsidized housing address.

Loneliness is very common. The mentally ill are in some ways “quarantined” from normal society. Many can't keep friends due to recurring symptoms of their illness....perhaps paranoia, acting out or hearing voices. Their friends are often others in the same situation....they understand each other's plight. Negative habits such as drinking and doing drugs allow temporary escape from realities of life but this further closes them off from developing normal relationships. Many are ostracized by their families because of their illness-related behaviours.

The strong medications prescribed have side effects intolerable to many, so they stop taking them and illness pathology symptoms return. The cycle starts again, which prompts the emergency visit.

In the ER, they see staff who know them from previous visits and now consider them as “friends” looking forward to seeing them again. Here they feel acceptance, even if it is only because they have a problem and staff shows them the care and compassion which is inherent to their profession.

Society sees the results of all this, and judges.

I thank God that I have learned all these things vicariously and that my understanding of mental illness has grown, in part due to my SSVP membership. I believe I am a better person for it.

**Dora Johnston, President
Holy Family SSVP London**

Canada's Councils in Action

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE FACE OF GOD

The day was a Tuesday, when I actually saw that light, God's face in one of our clients who came into our office. We had just opened the doors to start our shift when I saw an older gentlemen with a cane coming through the door. He stopped and looked around

the hall wondering where to go. I asked him how we could be of help. He sat and slowly responded that he had just come from the church beside us having asked God to please help him and to send someone to his aid. He carried a dirty old hankie in his hands and I could see that he had tears in his eyes as he spoke. I asked what it was that he needed and he said "a bed". The old gent continued to tell us how he had suffered a stroke a while back, was having a hard time now and that he had been sleeping on the floor without a pillow. He said he was willing to pay for the bed over time because he was on disability for the elderly and was just making it. He was living in a flop house but fortunately he had found an apartment that he could move into. I called our SSVP store and they did indeed have a twin bed that they could deliver on Monday which would be perfect as he would be moving in the next day. I told him that God has blessed our Conference and that we were able to give him a bed for free. Tears filled his eyes as he heard the news. He asked me if I could call his new landlord and set up a time for the bed to be delivered. I made that call and the bed would be delivered on Monday. When he got up to leave wiping his eyes with that dirty old hankie I walked over and asked him for a hug. He was surprised because he hadn't had a hug for a long time. We hugged and I could see that light, God's face, in that gentlemen. He placed his hand on my cheek and said "I will never forget your face" and I placed my hand on his cheek and said "and I will never forget yours."

After we closed I went to our St. Vincent de Paul store and took care of all the paper work. I spoke to one of the men there and he told me that he would make sure that sheets and a pillow came with that bed and that they would have it all set up for him when he got there. I thought that my heart would burst that day as we were able to help that person because of the generosity of all of our parishioners. I said a prayer of thanks that God had sent me to work in the office that Tuesday.

*"Faith teaches us to see
that the light of God's face
shines on us through the faces
of our brothers and sisters."*

Lumen Fidei

Canada's Councils in Action

WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

SSVP ALBERTA FLOOD RELIEF PROJECT

Vincentians and friends generously supported those hit hard by the disastrous flood in the spring of 2013. At the SSVP National AGA in Ottawa a group of young Calgary Vincentians spoke of their personal experience watching the flood waters rise and having no control of the effect on their lives. A relief fund was started.

Vincentian support came in the form of school supplies, truck loads of clothing and money to support the SSVP Conferences nearest to the flooded areas.

The letter below will give you a firsthand account of what was done and how it felt. This is the Vincentian way – Catholics in Action.

August 14, 2014

Dear Fellow St. Vincentians,

It has now been over a year since the horrible flood of 2013 plagued our area. It still feels so surreal that a disaster of such magnitude happened in our back yard. But God is so good and we were equipped with everything we needed to help our neighbouring community of High River.

As the storm hit the first immediate need was for blankets, pillows and towels to give to people who were sleeping on the floor in make shift evacuation centres. That was easy! The use of social media enabled us to do good through mass messages sent by email and face book asking for people to help. Our community just emptied their linen closets and members of our SSVP Conference and our children drove around and picked up bags and bags of items and took them to drop off locations. This all occurred while the rain was still coming down. The efforts of some volunteers were simply amazing. We also had Vincentians working in the make shift kitchens in evacuation centres during this time.

We were very fortunate that the Salvation Army, Red Cross and our government moved in very quickly. Once people were placed in temporary housing the needs of the people changed.

Our next big undertaking was clothes drives. Wow, did we get clothes. It was overwhelming to see the bags

and bags and bags of clothing arriving at Holy Trinity Academy in Okotoks. The sorting of the clothes was another huge task. Social Media to the rescue again and volunteers just showed up. We live in such an amazing town! Lots of clothes went to High River but lots also went out to our First Nations Reservations that were also hit by the flood.

The time then arrived that some people were allowed back to their homes. Lots of our members headed to High River and the emptying of houses began. It is a memory that I will never forget. Mould had infiltrated the homes and everything had to be hauled out. Memories were being thrown out onto huge piles in front yards. So many tears...

Lots of our members were dressed in white overalls and masks.

They helped whoever was in need. I am also not sure that I will ever forget that smell. We also had members going around supplying snacks and water to volunteers.

The next phase involved the hunt for rice cookers and kettles. There are a large number of people in our area from the Philipians. They were relying heavily on the parish priest to help meet their needs. Father Ed called me and needed rice cookers and kettles. This was not as easy as one would think. The WalMart and Home Hardware stores in the area and Calgary soon had very empty shelves. God Bless social media and the donations came in from individuals and our local thrift store and salvage centre.

As soon as we were allowed in the town of High River, a teacher from our parish who teaches in an Outreach School in High River had a wonderful idea. She basically turned the school into a free store. Each classroom had different sizes and genders of clothes. There were also rooms with food and basic supplies like toilet paper. Lots of our members spent time organizing and manning our "Free store".

Our wonderful bishop, Bishop Henry, from Calgary very quickly saw that the need in High River was too large for our small Conference to handle. He set up a group called, High River Outreach. >>>

Canada's Councils in Action

They were provided with a large sum of money from the diocese and functioned like St. Vincent De Paul. This group of people from High River would go out to homes and visit with people and try to help with their needs. This group is currently still functioning with support from the Bishop's office. We are also in contact with this group.

It was soon time to go back to school and our children had nothing. At the beginning of August a group of St. Vincent de Paul members from Edmonton did a blitz in their parishes. Around 400 backpacks were delivered to High River. Thanks for your support.

As school started it was evident that lots of students were coming to school hungry. Our conference contacted each school and decided that the best way was for our wonderful teachers to help those in need. Every school in High River was given \$1000.00 worth of Sobeys' gift cards (this was also to help support the local grocery store). The public schools cried when the cards were delivered. Some of the schools used the money to provide lunches for students and some of the cards were sent home to families.

Things appeared to slow down a bit and then the cold weather hit. Of course, all winter belongings would have been in flooded basements. The call came out for help

and our Conference worked with the school councils to provide winter boots to all students. Lots of students had been coming to school with several pairs of socks to help keep feet warm.

Christmas quickly approached. Where did anyone begin to help with this huge task? It became evident at this time that the community was in need of a great big splash of joy and hope and love! Six members of our Conference also belong to an organization called, The Magic of Christmas! The group planned an afternoon of joy, hope and love for the community of High River. Four flat decks filled with people, treats, small gifts, hot chocolate, stuffed animals, Christmas oranges and Christmas music flooded the town with Santa Claus on each flat deck of course! We just stopped all over town and told the people that they were loved and cared for and that we had not forgotten about them. We had prayer cards and gave out tons and tons of hugs! Greg, our co-president made an excellent Santa with me right beside him as Mrs. Claus. The other three flat decks also each had a Mrs. Claus that was a member of our Conference.

Five days before Christmas and an urgent email was received from the Salvation Army in High River. They



Canada's Councils in Action

rely on donations from the town to fill their hampers. The donations did not come in as expected. They had a huge number of hamper requests and very little to fill them. Our Conference was able to fill many of their needs due to the generous donations from across our country. Thank you for bringing smiles and joy to our families!

In the spring we once again had a boot problem. This time not winter boots but rubber boots. The town was still in such a mess and most students did not have proper footwear. Once again we worked with the parent council and helped supply boots for the younger students.

Throughout the year we also visited several families. Some of our clients lived in motor homes all winter long. Lots of people had also lost jobs and getting back on their feet was difficult. The co-president of our Conference also spent hours and hours helping people with fix-it jobs (he is a very talented carpenter!).

I will end with a wonderful story of how your generous donations helped an innocent six-year-old girl. We received a call from one of our schools in April. They had a little girl whose teeth were all rotten. My understanding is that she was in horrible pain and was unable to eat. Several organizations donated funds but there just wasn't enough money to get the dental surgery completed. We worked with the school and the dental office to ensure that this little girl was without pain and able to eat. The surgery and many dental procedures have occurred and everything went very well.

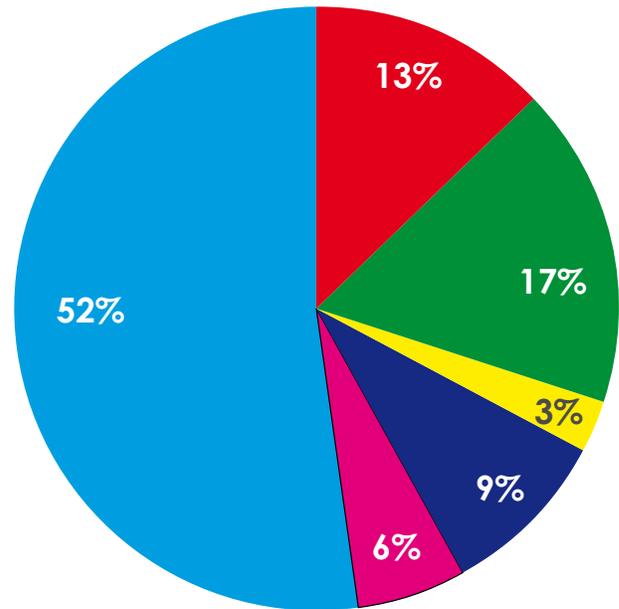
St. Vincent De Paul in Okotoks wants to thank you all from the bottoms of our hearts for your prayers and donations. As I took time to reflect and write this I guess we were busy but God provided the right number of people and amount of support when it was needed. We were so blessed to have so many other organizations in our community helping in too many ways to mention.

God Bless you all! We will reciprocate to your Conferences if the need ever arises.

Yours in Christ,

Tara Epp, Co-President
St. Vincent de Paul, Okotoks

FLOOD RELIEF FUNDS \$27,500.00



Canada's Councils in Action

WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

VINCENTIANS PART OF A LARGER EFFORT TO AID FOREIGN WORKERS

Irish workers - SSVPWRC website

By Joy Gregory

Joy Cohen is not an impatient woman. But she is persistent. So when her attempt to contact St. Vincent de Paul's central office in Calgary yielded a phone number that wasn't being answered, Cohen took a deep breath, thought about a group of Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) who desperately needed help—and called Bishop Fred Henry.

A Calgary-based career coach and resume writer, Cohen provides settlement services for an Irish firm that sources skilled labour for Alberta companies. Last fall, more than 20 of the Irish and U.K. workers she'd just helped get Canadian bank accounts, social insurance and health care, found themselves unemployed when the company that brought them to Canada went bankrupt. Some hadn't received their final cheques—and all were in imminent danger of being sent home.

A social worker by training, Cohen hit the phones. Jewish Family Services stepped in with offers of emergency food supplies and Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS), in partnership with Calgary Worker's Resource Centre, set up seminars to provide the workers with information about their rights under Canadian law. With job offers coming in from other companies—but government rules denying them the opportunity to take those jobs—longer-term solutions were strangled in red tape, says Cohen.

And that's where the Bishop's assistance came into play, says Tony Barry, acting president, Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP), Calgary. The Bishop made his own call to Joel Christie of SSVP and got Conferences in Calgary and Medicine Hat, where the workers were deployed, on board to help with the workers' basic needs. He also called Calgary MP Jason Kenney, Canada's Minister of Employment and Social Development. With Kenney's help, the workers, most of them Irish, were able to bypass a rule that required they leave the country and reapply for admission before they could work for another firm.

Bureaucratic nightmare

At issue was a requirement that links TFWs to a particular Labour Market Opinion (LMO), explains Terry Hurst. A Vincentian in Medicine Hat, Hurst has worked with TFWs in other industries in the area. Sometimes called a Confirmation Letter, companies file LMOs to show why they need a foreign worker to fill a job. A positive LMO demonstrates that no Canadians are available to work.

LMOs link specific TFWs to specific firms. Some TFWs who encounter employment issues will risk deportation if they work for companies not linked to the initial Confirmation Letter. Without incomes, this Irish group of workers, all skilled carpenters who knew their trade was in high demand in Alberta, were in imminent danger of eviction. But they did not want to break the law and compromise their chances at permanent residency by taking unapproved jobs. Nor did they want to leave Canada (at their own expense) when legitimate job offers were at hand. With no money and no job prospects in Ireland, "they were so fearful about having to go back," says Hurst.

That fear is based on a legitimate vulnerability, says Jessica Juen, who coordinates programs for TFWs through CCIS. After hearing about this group of workers, Juen organized legal seminars to provide guidance about the workers' rights and responsibilities under Canadian legislation.

Cases like this are problematic in that these workers were arguably invited to Canada to work, and then abandoned, notes Juen. She admits that this group of people was also somewhat lucky in comparison to other TFWs, since "they are skilled workers and spoke the language." (See inset box: CCIS.)

While plans to keep the workers in Alberta were finalized, Vincentians in Calgary and Medicine Hat stepped in with everything from transit tickets, to rent, utilities and food. Touched by what Vincentians were doing to help, one landlord in Calgary waived rent for a worker in her home and gave Vincentians a trunk load of groceries for their emergency food pantry.

Canada's Councils in Action

Flash forward

Less than a year later, several of the workers have moved their families to Calgary and Medicine Hat. All are working in those cities, or in Fort McMurray, says Barry. He's grateful the SSVP family was able to help—and is eager to credit Joy Cohen, Joel Christie and Bishop Fred Henry for their roles on the front line.

Cohen, who describes herself as a proud member of Calgary's Jewish community, admits she wasn't sure what would happen when she rang up Bishop Henry, whom she'd never met. "I thought it was appropriate to call the Bishop because a lot of this particular demographic I was dealing with were from Ireland and of a Catholic background."

As for why she helped the men after her contractual obligations were met, "from a moral standpoint and from an ethical standpoint I still carry the ethics of a social worker in my heart," notes Cohen. Besides that, Cohen says "we are here to make the world a better place and to help human beings, that's the bottom line."

It's a bottom line that makes sense to Vincentians like Tony Barry, who also hopes tools like SSVP Calgary's new website will make it easier for people to contact the lay Catholic organization.

Calgary Catholic Immigration Society

Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) offers several free services to immigrants, including those brought to Alberta by the Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) program, says Jessica Juen, a TFW program coordinator with the agency.

In addition to income tax clinics and sessions about permanent residency, CCIS aims to be responsive to specific situations, including ones where TFWs need special guidance about their rights and responsibilities under Canadian legislation.

As well, CCIS sometimes offers financial management and ESL (English as a Second Language) programs to newcomers.

ST. KATHERINE'S CONFERENCE IN RED DEER ALBERTA ON THE MOVE

Only a few years have passed since the aggregation of this Conference in central Alberta, however the passion and dedication of these Vincentians have made an impact on their community.

Red Deer Alberta has a high level of employment with jobs related to the oil and gas industry, but it has almost 20% of single parent families, one of the highest rates in the country. There are extreme needs even in places where we see high wealth that comes from good paying jobs.

Our Vincentians in Red Deer have acquired a cube van and are active with furniture and food delivery. Dan Roadhouse (on the left), recently elected as the new Conference President, leads a team that makes home visits weekly and provided to more than 250 adults and children that were living in poverty last year.



Canada's Councils in Action

CLAUDE ST-JEAN RECEIVES THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S MEDAL

On Saturday May 10, a Vincentian from L'Assomption, Claude St-Jean, was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal for seniors, in recognition of his volunteer engagement over the past several years.

Since he joined the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as a simple volunteer, in 2001, Claude St-Jean has "climbed the ladder", as he likes to say, to eventually be elected President of the L'Assomption Conference, in 2007. Five years later, in 2012, he became President of the Particular Council overseeing eight autonomous SSVP conferences in the L'Assomption administrative region. "Each month, the Particular Council meets with the conference Presidents and together, we plan and formulate various activities on behalf of the needy, involving our 350 volunteers," says Claude St-Jean, mentioning that conferences in the area work in a climate of mutual support and solidarity.

The SSVP aims to assist as many needy people as possible, providing them with clothes, food, furniture, lodging, bus tickets, or medication. "We are there as well to encourage them and listen to them, to give them some of our time. Of course, we focus on essential goods, but our mandate is very broad," emphasises Mr. St-Jean, who remains a man of action and field work, and who wishes to keep working closely with needy people in his community as long as his health will permit.



HONOURING OUR BLESSED MOTHER, IN WINDSOR ON

Dedicated Vincentians from Our Lady of Mount Carmel conference in Windsor, Ontario have a very special way of honouring our Blessed mother at the start of the month of Mary. In years past the city of Windsor held a parade in honour of our Lady down the main street of the city, Ouellette Avenue, on the first of May. Unfortunately, local Catholics and Catholic organizations no longer march through the city on May 1st. But the tradition of this event is remembered in a meaningful way by the members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel conference.

For the past three years this generous conference parades vans filled with food through city streets to five conferences providing for many in need of assistance. What a wonderful and important celebration of Mary! The conferences on the receiving end of this outpouring of generosity and love are most grateful for the goods to share with their less fortunate neighbours.

While we may not be able to convince city hall to reinstate the annual Mary's day Parade we encourage generous conferences across Canada to follow Our Lady of mount Carmel's example. Let's celebrate our mother Mary by serving her Son in the poor, sharing what we have with our neighbours and conferences in need.

**Pam Baksi, President
Windsor Essex Central Council**



In Memoriam

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

Gerry McDonnell, Holy Rosary Conference, Burlington ON, September 1, 2013

Denis Hamel, Victoriaville's Conference QC, September 7, 2013

Tony Unholzer, Holy Name of Jesus Conference, Essex ON, September 10, 2013

Jim Bissonette, St. Mary's Conference, Grafton ON, September, 19 2013

Bev Honsberger, Holy Rosary Conference, Burlington ON, September 23, 2013

Gene Minard, St. John Baptist Conference, Amherstburg ON, September 30, 2013

Roland Meloche, Ste-Angèle Conference, St-Léonard QC, September 2013

Margaret Kelly, St. John of The Cross Conference, Mississauga, Ontario

Alfred "Zeno" OBrien, Holy Redeemer Conference, Charlottetown PE, October 2013

Pierrette Cousineau, St-Thomas d'Aquin Conference, Ottawa ON, October 2, 2013

Jean-Paul Parent, Montreal Central Council, Quebec Provincial Council, National Council, November 8, 2013

Willa "Billie" Sinnott, Holy Redeemer Conference, Charlottetown PE, December 2013

Moira Duffy, St. Dunstan's Basilica Conference, Charlottetown PE, December 16, 2013

Georges Landry, Saguenay Lac St-Jean Central Council QC, December 19, 2013

André Picard, Maison Ozanam, Repentigny QC, December 21, 2013

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, Saint-Charles Garnier Conference, Québec QC, January 28, 2014

Ron Tarnowski, Edmonton South Particular Council AB, February 3, 2014

Paul-Émile Meunier, St-Charles-Borromée Conference, 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, Saint-Alphonse Conference, Victoriaville QC, April 14, 2014

Viola Toole, St. Ignatius Martyr Conference, Ottawa ON, April 17, 2014

Clément Poitras, St-Noël Chabanel Conference, 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

Harold Leonard, St. Thomas More Conference, Niagara Falls ON, August 23, 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

AGA 2014 - Edmonton AB



Yellow Ribbon dancers



Yellow Ribbon dancers



Cheremosh Ukrainian dance



Cheremosh Ukrainian dance



Our hosts, the Edmonton Vincents

AGA 2014 - Edmonton AB



Bob McKeon, keynote speaker



Memorial Service



Commissioning Ceremony



National Council's Board Members :
(front row) Maureen MacIsaac, Jim Paddon, Dennis McCormack, Nora Criss, Solange Fortin, Madelaine Soulière-Brown
(back row) Jean-Noël Cormier, Clermont Fortin, Pierre Morissette, Peter Ouellette, Jason Hunt, Michel Olivier, Claude Bédard, Msgr Peter Schonenbach