



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
National Council of Canada  
ISSN 2560-824X  
Volume 6 no. 3 - February 9, 2022

### In this issue:

- Appointment – Indigenous Reconciliation Fund
- President General's Circular Letter
- Webinar - National Housing Campaigning
- Webinar - National Fund Development
- Spiritual Reflection
- Blessed Rosalie Rendu
- Social Justice Report
- Question & Answer

Online version : [Volume 6 no. 3 - February 9, 2022](#)

[Subscribe here](#)

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada  
2463 Innes Road Ottawa ON K1B 3K3  
Tel: (613) 837-4363  
Toll-free: 1-866-997-7787 (1-866-997-SSVP)  
[www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca) - [editor@ssvp.ca](mailto:editor@ssvp.ca)  
Charitable Registration Number: 132410671 RR0001



## Appointment – Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

On Friday January 28, 2022, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) announced the establishment of a new registered charity to support advance healing and reconciliation initiatives. The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund will be managed with financial measures in place to ensure transparency and good governance. Board directors and members of the corporation will collectively bring a strong financial acumen and deep commitment to the healing and reconciliation journey. Joining the Board of directors of the Fund is Claude Bédard, President of the National Council of Canada of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The Fund will prioritize healing and reconciliation for communities and families, culture and language revitalization, education and community building and dialogue for promoting Indigenous spirituality and culture.

<https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/canadas-bishops-announce-indigenous-reconciliation-fund-to-support-projects-across-canada/>



## President General's Circular Letter

We are pleased to announce that this year's Circular Letter, written by the President General International, has been published.

The work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, still marked by the pandemic, has not been hindered; instead, it has become a real challenge, as it was for the founders of the Conferences, who endured similar situations in their times.

[President General's Circular Letter](#)



## Webinar

Driven by the belief that safe, secure and affordable housing is a human right, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul launched its national housing campaign on February 7, 2021, the feast day of Blessed Sister Rosalie Rendu. On February 12, 2022, we invite housing champions, social justice advocates, and all Vincentians who have witnessed the struggles of persons in need of having a decent roof over its heads. At this event, we'll hear about the work in Victoria (BC) with their residences, and in St. John's (NL) with their supportive living housing.

When: Feb 12, 2022 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlscemgqTgqHdyasVxciqnbn9YRVq6kcIBR>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



## Webinar – National Fund Development

The National Fund Development Committee is inviting Vincentians to witness the work performed by the Committee since its creation in June 2021 to identify and to develop communications and fund development strategies, with associated resources, to be used by the multiple levels within the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada. A webinar in English will be held on Saturday February 26 at 1:00pm (Eastern), and in French at 10:30am (Eastern).

### ENGLISH:

When: Saturday, February 26, 2022 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcOurrTlqHdCLDVOyDvdKl\\_le7cPX-CgD](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcOurrTlqHdCLDVOyDvdKl_le7cPX-CgD)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### FRANCAIS:

Quand: Samedi, 26 février 2022, 10:30 heure de l'Est (ÉU et Canada)

Inscrivez-vous à l'avance à cette réunion :

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsf-iuqzsoH9K3R5YBW\\_n38CkB650k63H](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsf-iuqzsoH9K3R5YBW_n38CkB650k63H)

Une fois inscrit, vous recevrez un courriel de confirmation contenant les informations nécessaires pour participer à la réunion.



## Covenant Love

It is difficult for us to rationally understand the idea of the love expressed in God's covenant. It is a type of love only God can give - unswaying, everlasting, constant, ever forgiving. It is as a father's relationship with his child - not always approving, even being disappointed at times, but always loving and accepting. It is an individual love for each of us, not an amorphous "mankind" but each individual.

In the Old Testament, Isaiah offers a vision of a people (the Jews) and a land (Israel) revelling in the knowledge that they are the beloved of God. God Himself offers comfort to His people. The glories of God, His power, and His wisdom are extolled and, yes, He loves His chosen people. Even when the chosen people are not faithful to the covenant, God is. God is always there, always forgiving, eternally accepting with open arms when the chosen people repent and turn back to Him. Isaiah is reminding the people that they should not despair. God is with them and they are His chosen people. His power has no physical limits, His infinite wisdom is his own (who would teach God?), His glory is for all to praise. He will give you strength.

On one level, it appears rashly speculative to think that, throughout God's creation, He would take a particular interest in a specific group within our somewhat insignificant species, let alone love us, but the Old Testament provides us with evidence of God's special covenant with us the Jewish People. Much of the Old Testament is the history of the Jewish people, but it is also the story of God's interaction in their history. The fortunes of the chosen people waxed and waned in parallel with the extent of the faithfulness of the people to the Covenant with God.

Christ's ultimate sacrifice initiates a New Covenant with God open to all who choose to believe in Him. This covenant love God offers to all goes even beyond the love of father and son as we know it. God gave his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for the redemption of our souls. Jesus Christ, who lived a life without sin, the perfect follower of God's commands, true God and true man was offered up as a perfect sacrifice for our failings. At any time, this sequence of events could have been interrupted, and indeed it was contemplated, but ultimately, this supreme sacrifice was voluntarily made in atonement for all our sins.

If it appears rashly speculative to think that God would take a particular loving interest in a specific group within our somewhat insignificant species, then to love us all individually with a love of this depth, is utterly unfathomable. Supernatural. It makes all love we humans could offer appear to be inferior. It is a love we could not hope to have the ability to give.

The God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament - they are the same. God is love - covenant love - which we cannot return but only receive as a gift from God.

*John Carey, Chair  
National Spirituality Committee*



## Blessed Rosalie Rendu Feast Day - February 7

"In an era troubled by social conflicts, Rosalie Rendu joyfully became a servant to the poorest, restoring dignity to each one by means of material help, education and the teaching of the Christian mystery, inducing Frédéric Ozanam to place himself at the service of the poor.

Her charity was inventive. Where did she draw the strength to carry out so many things? From her intense prayer life and the continuous praying of the Rosary, which she never abandoned. Her secret was simple: to see the face of Christ in every man and woman, as a true daughter of St Vincent de Paul and like another Sister of her epoch, St Catherine Labouré. Let us give thanks for the witness of charity that the Vincentian family gives unceasingly to the world!"

*Extract from Pope John Paul II's homely, on November 3, 2003, at the beatification of Rosalie Rendu.*

[Rosalie Rendu's biography](#)



## Social Justice Chair Report – February 2022

I am pleased to provide an update on the work of the following Social Justice sub-committees.

### Multi-Cultural Diversity Committee (MCDC)

The MCDC includes actions related to migrant workers, refugees and newcomers. February is black history month, which provides us with an opportunity to read more or watch programs about our Canadian black history. February 1<sup>st</sup> is the Chinese New Year...The Year of Tiger. Here too we have a rich history with Chinese as well as other Asian immigrants. While this history has not always been one of pride, it is part of our culture and one we can all learn from.

### Indigenous Sharing Circle (ISC)

We are currently working on a mandate with goals and objectives for both our National Council and our grassroots conferences. In some recent studies I have undertaken, I find the Indigenous emphasis on the collective common good, and the relationship we have with nature and all forms of life, share some common understandings with our own Catholic Social Teachings, as well as the content of *Laudato Si'* by Pope Francis.

### Housing/Homelessness

This sub-committee is currently spearheading our national housing campaign. We will have our next housing-related webinar on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm ET. Please consider registering for this informative event. Please also consider one or more of the actions we now have on the website under housing.

<https://ssvp.ca/special-projects/safe-secure-and-affordable-housing-is-a-human-right/>

### Prison Ministry

This sub-committee continues its effort to form a national network, which will include other related organizations, as well as Catholic diocesan efforts.

In addition to this work under our sub-committees, we are also looking at ways we can connect youth and social justice. Our youth have a real interest in making this world a better and safer place to live and, by connecting them with our own commitment to the environment, we are hopeful of increasing the number of youth we currently have. If you are interested in developing a youth social justice component in your conference and parish, we can help.

We invite members with an interest in environmental and climate issues to consider being part of future plans and actions. If we hear from enough members, we could form a subcommittee to develop material relevant to SSVP.

*Jim Paddon, Chair*

*National Social Justice Committee*





## Question and Answer

**Q: I went to the Police Station to obtain a renewal of my Vulnerability Sector Check (VSC), and the agent stated that this is not required for what I do as a Vincentian, even if I do Home Visit. What should I do?**

**A:** Over the past several months, we have been hearing those certain police forces are not doing VSC anymore, and only do a police check. However, many insurance providers are still requiring that a VSC be performed. Please first consult your insurance provider if a police check is sufficient to retain coverage. Reminder that the insurance needs to cover:

- alleged abuse within the Society
- alleged abuse by persons being served by the Society
- alleged abuse by members of the Society against those being served

Please refer to the Abuse prevention guidelines

[http://legacy.ssvp.ca/sites/default/files/8.7\\_abuse\\_prevention\\_guidelines\\_2017.pdf](http://legacy.ssvp.ca/sites/default/files/8.7_abuse_prevention_guidelines_2017.pdf)

As defined by the Criminal Record Act, "vulnerable sector" means persons who are in a position of dependence on others, or are otherwise at a greater risk than the general population, of being harmed by persons in authority or trust to them. The categorization of the different levels of police verifications are:

- Level 1--Criminal Record Check (CRC) -- This check is intended for applicants who are involved as a volunteer, employee or in any situation where a basic CRC is requested (e.g., retail or immigration). This check is NOT intended for applicants who are seeking volunteer and/or employment with vulnerable persons (see Level 3 below).
- Level 2--Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check (CRJM) -- Similar to Level 1 and includes charges before the courts – not yet convicted.
- Level 3--Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) -- This check is restricted to applicants seeking employment and/or volunteering in a position of authority or trust relative to vulnerable persons in Canada only.

The current situation of police force putting in question the need for VSC is that since March 13, 2012, Pardons / Records suspensions are no longer granted in Canada for sex offences involving children and vulnerable adults, and no new names or new Canadians have been added since that date; more importantly, because this data base is not vetted, many of the names within it relate to deceased parties or those over 70 years of age.