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## ANNUAL NATIONAL FORMATION

We look forward to welcoming you to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's Annual National Formation (ANF) in Ottawa on June 17-18, 2022, at Carleton University, Richcraft Hall.

**Registration for the FNA must be done by May 31, 2022 at the latest.**

Here is the schedule of events:

### Friday June 17

7:00 pm: Opening of the Annual National Formation (ANF)

7:30 pm to 9:00pm: Live Chat / Exposition Hall

9:00 pm: Social

### Saturday June 18

9:00 am - 10:30 am: Keynote speakers

10:45 am - 4:30 pm: Workshops

5:00 pm: Mass

6:30 pm: Dinner

Our theme for the 2022 ANF is **HUNGER**. We believe that this is a powerful and timely theme because it goes to the heart of the work of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, nationally and internationally. It represents the hunger we all have for our spiritual life as Vincentians, our hunger to connect with others socially through our daily interactions with each other and the people we serve, and of course the hunger for food that is a basic need for all.

We are offering multiple **workshops** in English and French, and a **Live Chat Room**, for an opportunity to exchange ideas and enter into conversations with our fellow Vincentians on their initiatives, social justice, formation and twinning.

We have confirmed **two plenary speakers** for the 2022 ANF; we are pleased to announce that **MP Francis Drouin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food**, and **Marie-José Mastromonaco, Second Harvest, Chief of Operations (Québec & Nunavut)** have accepted our invitation to address the assembly.

*National Formation Committee*

Please note that at the March 26 National Council board meeting, it was decided that the June gathering would be dedicated to formation and to have the statutory meeting, a.k.a. the Annual General Assembly (AGA), at a later date.



## ANNUAL DUES APPEAL

We are slowly returning to “normal” after two years of following different local/regional/provincial Public Health requirements. As 2021 financial and statistics reports are being received, we have a better understanding of the impact the pandemic had on conference life, where certain conferences have managed to continue and even thrive, while others went dormant. This latter situation implies that some conferences are not in a position to cover their annual dues.

Since multiple conferences are not in a position to cover their dues, this ultimately has an impact on the National Council of Canada revenues since a significant portion of these dues cover the day-to-day operations. Based on current information received, there is a contributions gap in the order of \$35,000.

We are therefore reaching out to conferences and councils that are capable of providing some financial coverage for sister conferences who would not be in a position to pay their annual dues. Funds can be sent to National via the donation portal <https://www.imakeanonlinedonation.org/ssvp-national/CONTRIBUTIONS/> or by sending a cheque to the National office at 2463 Innes Road, Ottawa, ON, K1B 3K3.

*Dave O'Connor, Treasurer  
National Council*



## THE GOOD SAMARITAN - THE HELPING HAND

John 13:34-35, NRSVCE

Jesus tells his disciples “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

A Samaritan happened onto a wounded victim, who was robbed, beaten and left half dead on the side of the road. Shortly after, a priest and a Levite saw him lying there. Both of them opted to cross over to the other side of the road so as to avoid ritual defilement instead of providing a much needed helping hand. The Samaritan chose the better part by opting to provide a helping hand and tending to his wounds. Not satisfied that this was sufficient he put him on his donkey and took him to the nearest inn for further care. He also agreed to pay for the cost of that care and for his recovery.

- How does the parable of the good Samaritan apply to us in our daily lives, especially as Vincentians?
- How can I be a good Samaritan, a good helping hand?

Similarly, we hear of and see those wounded, hungry and injured persons on the streets of all our communities. No villages, towns and cities are exempt.

- How do I respond to all this misery and need so evident on our city streets and in our neighbourhoods?
- Am I repulsed by the sight?
- Do I immediately come to a rash judgement thereby casting them aside?
- Do I fear being asked to provide assistance?
- Do I cross the street to avoid being accosted?

It is very hard to respond in an openly loving and timely manner. If it was easy everybody would be doing it. Every day we witness hundreds and thousands of people in villages, towns and cities nonchalantly walking by without so much as a thought. I confess that I also am guilty of doing the same on occasion. We choose not to see and witness the plight of our neighbours. We have become so accustomed to the sight that we do not even notice it anymore, much to our loss. We have made up so many excuses for our lack of response in order to appease and numb our conscience so as to live with ourselves. We have been effectively blinded by our negligence.

“There are none so blind as those who refuse to see.” John Heywood (c. 1497 – c. 1580)

A few years ago, I was strolling down Robson Street in Vancouver with a couple friends when a street beggar called out for my loose change. I stopped but had no cash on me. I asked my friend if she could give me a few dollars. She gave me about \$5.00 which I promptly gave to him. Her companion was terribly agitated and irritated with her for having given me the money. I am afraid this is by far the all-too-common response.

Let us rather learn to be like John and Peter who responded thus when a stranger, a street beggar, requested a helping hand.

Acts 3:6, NRSVCE

Peter tells him "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, ..."

We know not what has happened or the reasons for thousands of homeless and street people that end up begging for a living on our streets. They are all human beings deserving of the same respect and dignity due to all of us regardless of our station in life. Even if we cannot assist as requested, we can always treat them with respect and dignity. When approached by a street beggar my first response is to ask for their name. I thereafter respond politely using their name just as I do for any other friend I converse with.

"If you cannot find Christ in the beggar, you will not find him in the chalice." - St John Chrysostom

Let us all be more watchful of our neighbours. Let us commit to being more attentive and less dismissive of street beggars, the hungry, haggard and the injured who pass our way crying out for our attention and recognition.

May God bless you.

**Let us pray:**

Ste Marguerite pray for us that we will give freely of our time to others but especially to the poor and marginalized.

**Amen.**

Glory be...

*Claude Bédard, President  
National Council of Canada*



## FOOD SECURITY IN THE NORTH

2021 was a year of wonderful additions and expansion for our North Island food security projects. In July, the operation of the Gold River Food Network began, with space provided at the former food bank location to receive our donations, sort, prepare and distribute hampers, and to provide access of emergency food for clients on a drop-in basis.

Free transportation was secured through Loaves and Fishes Food Bank in Nanaimo. Their purchase last summer of 2 five ton refrigerated trucks has enabled larger shipments of food, personal and household items to be delivered to these villages.

In partnership with the Campbell River Branch of the BCSPCA we were able to obtain a continual and generous amount of pet food and pet supplies. The Campbell River Food Bank supported our outreach programs with their donations of personal and household items, which were added to our shipments each month.

With the help of Bishop Gary Gordon, the groundwork to expand food distribution to the remote village of Zeballos and surrounding First Nations communities of Ehattesacht and Oclucje got underway. First shipment of food and other supplies occurred on February 17th, 2022.

Here are the averaged statistics in 2021:

### Tahsis

- 45 households received food each month.
- 90 people received monthly food hampers.
- 12 pets (dogs, cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs) were fed.
- A combined total of 691 volunteer hours were required by OLOG members and Tahsis volunteers.
- 16,527 pounds of donated food was received and distributed in 2021.

### Gold River

- 600 hampers were distributed in Gold River and the First Nations Reserve in Tsaxana.
- An average of 134 people received food assistance each month.
- An average of 28 pets were fed each month in 2021.
- 27,369 pounds of donated food and other supplies were received.
- 841 volunteer hours of work were required by OLOG members and Gold River volunteers (The Revelers Senior Club).

In Vincentian Spirit and Service, we remain,

*Paul Bertrand Sheila Keats*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference*



## TWINNING - DOMINICA

St. Joseph's Conference, Guelph, Ontario, is twinned with St. Dominic's Conference, Atkinson, Dominica.

In 2020, following a project submission from their twinning partner, the Canadian conference financed a small agrarian project for Can\$660, providing food aid during the pandemic.

This project is to plant vegetables (cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes, beets, carrots, etc.) for distribution to needy families.

This agrarian project still continues to feed people in need.

*Clermont Fortin, Chair  
National Twinning Committee*







## QUESTION & ANSWER

**Q:** I am the treasurer for my Particular Council and I want to compare prices between insurance providers; what should I be looking for?

**R:** There are three areas to focus to determine the needs and appropriate coverage; and, you need to consider if you are looking to cover the conferences under the Particular Council. The three key areas are:

- i) Commercial General Liability;
- ii) Directors & Officers Liability; and,
- iii) Cyber Risk.

Commercial General Liability is to protect against a range of potential claims such as bodily and/or personal injury, advertising liability, as well as property damage to third parties arising from activities and operations; examples of claims are slip & falls by either a volunteer or employee, injuries sustained from the activities, advertising lawsuit from a copyright or trademark infringement. Since the Society works with vulnerable people such as children, elderly, disabled, abuse liability coverage needs to be included to cover physical, sexual and other types of abuse.

Directors & Officers Liability, also known as Management Liability, covers the leadership against claims of negligent oversight and decisions that could negatively affect financial performance; this is to protect lawsuits against personal assets.

Cyber Risk is a new area to consider; a coverage here provides crisis management following a data breach. To better understand data management risk, please refer to the LEAD-3 module (Information and Privacy Management) available under the formation resources <https://ssvp.ca/members/formationresources/>