



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
ISSN 2560-824X
Volume 6 no. 11 - June 8, 2022

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Online version : [Volume 6 no. 11 - June 8, 2022](#)

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May 30, 2022

Dear Brother and Sisters,

As Vincentians and Catholics, we are delighted to share the joy of the pastoral visit by Pope Francis from July 24th to July 29, 2022. We pray for the health of Pope Francis as he prepares to come to Canada, that he may receive strength and stamina to be with us as we work toward healing, hope and reconciliation.

Our primary mission as Vincentians is to serve and minister to all persons in need, and to promote their dignity as children of God. Many of us have been walking with our indigenous brothers and sisters for some time, and we appreciate their journey as we respond to their concrete requests for love and support.

This papal visit is an opportunity for many survivors to experience, in the presence of our Holy Father, the healing graces of reconciliation. We pray for their longing to be satisfied.

As you may appreciate, the logistics associated with supporting the travel, housing, and feeding of the hundreds of people selected to attend are enormous. We are anticipating that buses will be made available from points throughout the country to move participants to Edmonton and Quebec City where they will be housed in university residences. In light of this we are calling on Vincentians throughout our Canadian network to make themselves available to assist participants in their dioceses to prepare for travel to and from these points of departure.

As Vincentians we are known for our network of hospitality for pilgrims. Let us work within our conferences and councils to determine how best to assist and accompany our brothers and sisters on this papal pilgrimage. Items such as clothing, food, medicine and interim travel and housing may be required. Billeting and transportation may be required. Welcoming and befriending may be required. As no work of charity is foreign

to our Society, you are encouraged to listen to the concrete needs and respond in the Vincentian way.

Financial contributions are welcomed by our brother Bishops to offset the costs of hosting our brothers and sisters at the papal visit sites.

Donations by conferences, councils, or individual Vincentians may be made at:

- a) <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/canadian-conference-of-catholic-bishops/campaign/2022-papal-visit-to-canada/>
- b) Or through the respective Dioceses or Archdioceses, and designated as “Papal Visit”.

The latest updates about the Papal Visit to Canada can be found at: www.papalvisit.ca (English) and www.visitepapale.ca (French).

Please reach out to me, your regional presidents or our executive director for assistance in developing your conference and council plans.

Saint Marguerite d’Youville pray for us that we will give freely of ourselves to others but especially to the poor and marginalized. Amen.

May God bless you.

*Claude Bédard, President
National Council of Canada*



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*



BEING IN COMMUNION WITH THE POOR AND CHRIST

“Blessed are you poor, yours is the kingdom of God” (Luke 6:20); “I was hungry and you gave me food to eat” (Matthew 25:35)

Pope Francis writes in “The Joy of the Gospel” about Jesus as the Gospel in person who identifies especially with the little ones, reminding us Christians that we are called to care for the vulnerable of the earth, and pointing to the importance of drawing near to new forms of poverty, in which we are called to recognize the suffering Christ. The Holy Father further calls us to forge a personal and committed relationship with God which at the same time commits us to serving others, and learn to find Jesus in the faces of others, in their voices, in their pleas.

Reflection Questions

1. How do we help the poor to live with dignity? How do you promote recognition of those people and help them find opportunities in life?
2. The Holy Father also reminds that the Gospel tells us to constantly run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. Describe your first home visit and how you felt about it. What have your interactions taught you? Have those interactions made you recognize that God wishes to share with you the mysterious wisdom through those persons in need?
3. Do you consider your face-to-face experiences with our neighbours-in-need as one of forming new relationships, brought by Christ himself?
4. As a member of the Christian community, how do you make the poor “feel at home”? What is your neighbour-in-need’s deepest hunger? What are some barriers rendering you incapable of understanding and reacting to their hunger?

Vincentian Bro. Jose Torres, St. John of the Cross, Mississauga, ON, Peel North



NO POWER, DEEP SNOW, SSVP PROVIDES SUPPORT

Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference in Campbell River on Vancouver Island supports 3 vital outreach programs in the remote northern communities of Tahsis, Gold River and, most recently, Zeballos. In partnership with Loaves and Fishes, Campbell River Food Bank and the BCSPCA, food and personal care items for residents in need and their pets are delivered throughout the year where food security is a major issue.

What happens then in a community when they are on their fourth day without power and then they get over 30 cm of snow overnight? This was the situation January 2nd when Tahsis lost power for nearly a week. Deep snow and severe road conditions (fallen trees) closed the road to everyone but maintenance crews and limited essential services. BC Hydro brought their crews in by helicopter.

In the village a warming centre was set up with generators. It was not until closer to the end of the week that Emergency Management BC was able to secure funding to transport groceries into Tahsis from Save On Foods in Campbell River. Prior to this food supplies from SSVP's December shipment helped feed those staying at the warming centre.

Bill Davidson, SSVP's contact person in Tahsis had been at the warming centre, as his home was without power and heat (no wood for his woodstove). Like many in Tahsis during that long week, residents also experienced a shortage of wood for their woodstoves, frozen pipes, flooded homes, a shortage of food and other supplies. After returning home, Bill sent the Conference an email sharing his experience of sheltering at the warming centre. It reads as follows:

"Thanks for St. Vincent's delivery today (January). It went very well, weather was good, and we also picked up some new residents and volunteers to help. It is heart-warming to see all manner of people helping, especially during the recent power outage and the delivery today. The soups, crackers, evaporated milk, pancake mix, granola bars, pasta and a few other items from last month's delivery were well appreciated at the warming shelter. I spent 7 days living and sleeping there myself. It was an experience. I met lots of old people and made new friends.

Tahsis is grateful to St. Vincent de Paul. There was never a better time to feed and nourish people." *Bill*

In December 2021 118 food hampers were distributed in Tahsis, serving 98 individuals and 15 pets. Similarly in January 2022, 54 individuals and 6 pets were served.

To learn more about these outreach programs or to donate, please contact Conference President Sheila Keats at paulbert@telus.net or call 250 286-3534.

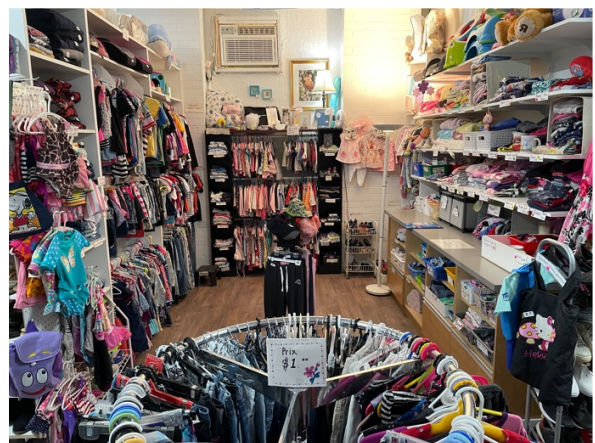
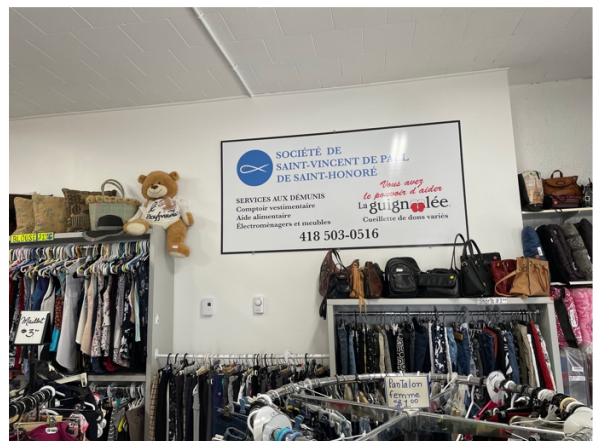


SAINT-HONORÉ CONFERENCE OPENING OF A NEW CLOTHING STORE

Only a few months ago, a new committee took over in Saint-Honoré. There are nearly ten people on the committee and about fifteen people are involved in the development of their new clothing store. The people are very dynamic and they have projects that will require the collaboration of Valin's Particular Council and probably that of the Saguenay Lac-St-Jean Central Council.

Several members of the Saint-Honoré city council were present, including Mr. Bruno Tremblay, Mayor of Saint-Honoré. About fifty people also participated in the event. In addition, Mr. Jean Lefebvre, President of the Valin Particular Council, as well as Mr. Gilles Truchon and Mr. Jean-Eudes Tremblay of the Saguenay Lac-St-Jean Central Council were present at this event.

We congratulate the whole team for their wonderful work and we wish them a very full Vincentian life, always keeping in mind to serve the needy with the greatest respect and humility.





SHIPPING CONTAINERS CARRY HELP TO NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

By Scott Hayes, published in [St Albert Today](#), May 28, 2022

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's North of 60 Project helps northern communities with a little southern hospitality from central Alberta.

Another shipping container has headed off by land and by sea for a journey of weeks and months, and hundreds of kilometres to the hamlet in the Northwest Territories called Ulukhaktok.

That sea can began its journey in the parking lot of the Holy Family Catholic Church on the corner of Sir Winston Churchill and Poirier avenues. Its destination is in the far north.

When that parcel arrives, it will bring a collection of items assembled with love by the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with the help of many people in St. Albert: hockey sticks for the arena, fabric for the sewing groups, sewing machines for the women who want to sew, and even pots and dirt for the greenhouse.

“We have a really neat greenhouse there,” said Linda Tutt, the chairperson of the society’s [North of 60 Project](#), which helps these northern communities with a little southern hospitality from central Alberta.

“Ulukhaktok is fly-in only. A few months in the summer this barge comes with all their supplies for the whole year. Whatever doesn’t come on that barge is flown in, so the prices are exorbitant. Some things are subsidized, but still the shipping is just ridiculous.”

She added that when she was there in 2018, a jar of peanut butter was \$11, a can of brown beans was \$8, and a bag of flour was \$25.

North of 60 doesn’t collect non-perishable food items any more. Since COVID, they buy it outright — often at discounted rates thanks to humanitarian grocers such as Freson Bros. — and then collect monetary donations to cover the expense. The food is mostly for both the food bank in Ulukhaktok and the school’s meal program.

The project has just marked its 10th anniversary with its latest delivery setting off on its long journey. There are eight such sea cans from the Edmonton area heading to 10 locations in the north. First, they are trucked to Hay River before being put on a barge on the Mackenzie River to be dropped off as they reach the communities, though some continue farther on by land, while others still head out onto the Beaufort Sea for further journeying.

The six-metre sea can is filled with goods as varied as mattresses, medical supplies, crutches, hula hoops, and clothing items. There they will be distributed to the teen centre, the community centre, the health centre, and more. North of 60 operates on 100 per cent

donations and 100 per cent volunteers, and it derives its gift list through the consultation of members of the communities it serves.

5 Days success? The answer is 'YESS'

The intrepid business students at the University of Alberta made this year's 5 Days for the Homeless a winner. The annual mid-March campaign tallied up \$11,802.01, all of which will go towards assisting Youth Empowerment Support Services (YESS) in providing low-barrier support to local youth facing homelessness.

5 Days is a student-run volunteer organization that puts its participants outside for five days. It's not an easy task, especially with school and other obligations, but it does make a difference. Organizers have raised \$2 million for YESS since the event began in 2005. Since that time, the event has been adopted by 23 other universities across the country. Visit 5daysedmonton.org to learn more and to make your contribution.

Safe driving for SAIF's Car Rally

St. Albert Stop Abuse in Families is ready to bring the fun. SAIF's second annual [Car Rally](#) has an automotive scavenger hunt planned for families and other teams. The event runs from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 11 and registration is \$30/vehicle. There will be fun, there will be prizes, and there will be goodwill earned, as all proceeds go to help the organization that offers family violence counseling. SAIF is also looking for local businesses to become sponsors. Please call 780-460-2195 or visit www.saifsociety.ca/saif-car-rally for more information.

On your marks for the Red Shield Ride to come

If you're stoked to spread hope in Sturgeon and Parkland Counties then the Salvation Army has the ride for you: the Red Shield Ride, that is.

The church's first annual bike-a-thon is being designed as a fun, all-ages, and all-abilities community event. The event is scheduled for a 9 a.m. start from the St. Albert Salvation Army at 165 Liberton Dr. on Saturday, June 11.

Individual tickets are \$25 each and a family (two adults and up to three kids) is \$60. Everybody gets a T-shirt, plus there will be a free barbecue and after-party with awards and prizes. All money raised will stay in the communities of St. Albert, Spruce Grove, and Stony Plain which are served by this church.

People can visit the [EventBrite link](#) for more information.

Sunflower seeds available

Pauline Atwood's sunflower project is blooming. People can now pick up packages of sunflower seeds to plant around their homes and neighbourhoods to help welcome Ukrainian refugees who have escaped the Russian invasion and moved to St. Albert.

You can pick up seeds at [A Bridge to Life Long Learning \(stalbertfurthered.com\)](http://stalbertfurthered.com) St. Albert [Further Education](#)'s Lifelong Learning Centre at Unit 107, 80 McKenney Ave. The office is open Mondays to Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pride Flag rentals

[St. Albert OutLoud](#) has your back when it comes to your front lawn decorating. The local LGBTQ2S+ group is [renting rainbow flags](#) for \$50/week, \$80/month, or \$150 for purchase. Each flag is 91 centimetres by 152 centimetres and comes with a 213-centimetre-high pole to be installed by an OutLoud volunteer.

About the Author: Scott Hayes

Scott Hayes joined the St. Albert Gazette in 2008. Scott writes about the arts, entertainment, movies, culture, community groups, and charities. He also writes general news, features, columns, and profiles on people. [Read more](#)



SOCIAL JUSTICE

NATIONAL HOUSING CAMPAIGN

As our national housing campaign continues to grow, I would like to invite all councils/conferences to consider their involvement; I acknowledge you may already be active in addressing housing and homelessness in your communities. Perhaps you collaborate with local housing providers to refer persons in need that you have engaged who are in need of housing.

Perhaps you are active in collaborative programs that address the homeless, or at risk of being homeless, population in your community. Perhaps you provide furniture assistance to persons in need. Perhaps you help someone renting as they resolve an issue related to their rental unit. Do you engage with local housing providers or municipal offices?

Please take the time to assess any such efforts that relate to housing and homelessness, keeping in mind collaboration is also a vital component of our national action plan. We often forget all the “little” things we may do.

Please let us know of any of your efforts related to our national housing campaign. We would like to capture this valuable information as the campaign expands.

We can also help anyone considering building any type of housing with resource material and contact information to government programs.

Sincerely,

*Jim Paddon, Chair
National Social Justice Committee
National Housing Campaign Committee*



QUESTION & ANSWER

Q: How do I know if my conference or council is at risk of a cyberattack?

A: As the World becomes more digital, cyber-attacks are on the rise; any organization can be victim of a cyber-attack, regardless of the sector of operation or industry. Charities must be very cognisant of this. Unfortunately, as we have seen with many organizations, it is not if but when a security breach will occur. The key point is, when such a situation occurs, how to handle the situation.

Cybersecurity is no longer the sole responsibility of the information management (IT) department; everyone has a role to play in cyber security, as ultimately everyone is responsible to ensure proper data management. For SSVP, this includes information concerning persons in need, volunteers, members, employees and donors; other Society's operational information such as financial, minutes, reports, statistics, etc. may also require special security provisions.

We regularly hear stories of systems being hacked by perpetrator(s) posing as employees, leading to an access to the organization's different systems, including accessing environments such as bank account or payroll processors, where unfortunately, personal information may be divulged.

The 7th principle of the Canadian Government Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) is *Safeguards*; fundamentally, personal and operational information must be protected by appropriate security relative to the sensitivity of the information; it must cover:

- Knowledge (e.g. information learned);
- Hard Copy (e.g. paper);
- Digital (e.g. Excel spreadsheet, online storage).

Reacting to a security breach:

- When being made aware of the situation, the first action is to further reduce the risk. Change passwords and limit access to the system that has been identified to have been breached;
- Assess which other systems may have been compromised indirectly (such as a building security system);
- Assess the type of information that could have been compromised, and inform the affected individuals. This may require these individuals to perform credit monitoring to protect from identity theft;
- Depending on the severity of the breach, you may need to reach your financial institution, the local police force, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, and/or the Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

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/>