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Online version : [Volume 6 no. 17 - October 12, 2022](#)

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IN THANKSGIVING FOR YOUR LONG-TERM VOCATION AS A VINCENTIAN

Dear Jim Paddon,

Thank you for your many years of service and formal association with the National Council of Canada as a Member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Social Justice Committee.

Thank you for your long and distinguished Vincentian Vocation of fifty years and ongoing. I am confident that this is not the end of your vocation but the beginning of a new and exciting journey of service to the poor and the Society. I can imagine that you have served in many different capacities, elected and appointed, at every level of the Society over the decades.

Like the majority of Vincentians, I imagine that you primarily embarked on your vocation by serving the poor, person to person, during a home visit. Over the years and decades, you have seen and witnessed many struggles, changes, some good others not so beneficial, and saw much progress in the life and growth of the Society in Canada.

Now as an Elder you are now fully prepared to tie the future and the past together for neophytes and prospective Vincentians. Your knowledge of where we came from and experiences of how we arrived in the present can act as the catalyst to build the future.

Thank you for your generous spirit of giving to the benefit of your sister and brother Vincentians and to the poor whom we serve. May God bless this new journey on which you are embarking. May He grant you good health, long life and prosperity all your days.

Yours in a unity of prayer and service.

*Claude Bédard, President National Council of Canada
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul*



SSVP THRIFT STORES - A NEW BRAND HAS BEEN DEVELOPED



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's thrift stores in Canada have begun a transition to a new look. Over the past several months, with the help of representatives from several thrift stores and councils, a new brand has been developed, **Chez Vincent Thrift Stores**; this was made possible with the support of the National Council of Canada and a creative brand development agency.

Several thrift stores have begun the work of introducing this new look. The Ottawa SSVP thrift stores are the first to adopt the new name; here you can see the Ottawa Stores Executive Director, Marilyn Powell, with a freshly painted truck.

For more information, please contact us national@ssvp.ca.





WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

The **Sixth World Day of the Poor** will be observed on **13 November 2022**. This year's theme "***For your sakes Christ became poor***" is a summons to responsibility and commitment as men and women who are part of our one human family, as we can read in Pope Francis' text:

<https://www.vatican.va>

Material for the World Day of the Poor available here: [WDP 2022 CAMPAIGN MATERIAL](#)





2021 FINANCIAL AND STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORTS

Great news!

Members can now access the new online annual reports and the Members Portal!

All 2022 annual reports should be entered online through the Members Portal by an administrator.

To access the reports, each conference and council must assign a member to be an administrator. Administrators will then complete the online form to request an account to access the Members Portal.

Request an account here: <https://forms.office.com/r/0pT9m3qR63>

The Members Portal is an online National Membership Database with restricted access that requires a login for access, it is located at: <https://members.ssvp.ca>

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - SSVP NATIONAL OFFICE

[Administrative Assistant, SSVP – National Council Canada, Part-Time](#)



ANNUAL DUES APPEAL - MORE THAN HALFWAY ACHIEVED

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. Currently, we are more than halfway there; thank you. Funds can be sent to [National via the donation portal](#).

Or by sending a cheque to the National office at: **2463 Innes Road, Ottawa ON K1B 3K3**

*Dave O'Connor, Treasurer
National Council*



SSVP AND DEPAUL ARE TOGETHER, IN CLOSE COLLABORATION, IN AN EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN UKRAINE



The agreement foresees the transfer of monthly resources for one year

The war in Ukraine has disproportionately affected already vulnerable people, particularly women and children, the poor, the elderly, those living in institutions and the disabled.

Those who are better off and mobile can afford to leave the country. The situation of those who can't leave is deteriorating and will get much worse with the onset of winter, particularly as many are living in substandard and damaged housing.

The response the SSVP in Ukraine can make to these problems is limited. There are just a few active Conferences and there is no National Council. But a fellow member of the Vincentian Family – DEPAUL International – is well established in a number of places in Ukraine and active on the ground there.

The Annual Meeting of the SSVP Council General in June 2022, in Paris, decided in principle that a collaboration with DEPAUL was the quickest and most practical way for the SSVP to get humanitarian assistance to those in need in Ukraine and utilize dedicated funds at its disposal.

DEPAUL has agreed to establish a Day Centre in Kharkiv with an outreach service to the homes of those who need assistance. At its meeting on 10 September 2022, the Board of Council General agreed to enter into a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DEPAUL.

Under the terms of the MoU, DEPAUL will establish and staff a Day Centre in Kharkiv as a base for an outreach service for the provision of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in the locality in their own homes. The target is to reach 1,000 individuals. The SSVP has committed to provide € 10,000 per month for 12 months as its contribution towards costs, renewable for a further 12 months at the option of the SSVP.

The MOU has now been signed by our President General, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, and Matthew Carter, CEO of DEPAUL. The way is now clear for the project to move ahead quickly. The needs it confronts are enormous and we pray that with God's help this collaboration

between two members of the Vincentian Family will make a real difference to the lives of the poor and vulnerable people of Kharkiv.

“This confrontation between nations is deplorable. We join our prayers to all those who are suffering from the consequences of this senseless war, and we call on the authorities, on both sides, to find a just diplomatic settlement, urgently. In this 21st century, it is unacceptable that we still have to face this kind of conflict between peoples. Jesus is missing,” stressed the President General, who intends to make a visit to the border with Ukraine next December.

- [Click here](#) to see the content of the Memorandum.
- [DePaul – Activity Report – PDF](#)



CHARITY, INSPIRED

“May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, and may charity be the root and foundation of your life.”
(Ephesians 3:17)

Perhaps this one-liner teaches us to give being charitable a gracious try: to be compelled by others’ life situations, to use our gifts for others, and to even inspire charity in others.

Sometimes, early in our lives, we come across people who make their mark by example, or experience events that etch deep impressions – small beginnings yet with formative, lasting effects. My road to charity followed an easy, defining path thanks to my involvement with the Jesuits and my upbringing.

Bro. Jim’s and Fr. John’s genuine concern for others struck in me an indelible caring for persons in need. Born into affluent families, they spent most of their lifetime away from New York and had their final resting place in the Philippines. To me, the years they faithfully shared with the poor and guided young men like me back then are one sublime example of charity.

As a high school freshman, I spent my Saturdays with impoverished children teaching catechetical lessons. On our final weekend with them, the Jesuits distributed a few prayer books, school supplies and small toys to the children. The sight and sound of every poor boy and girl giggling with joy touched me quite deeply.

Furthermore, in my senior year, my class buddy and I spent weekends in a remote barrio with an elderly couple that subsisted solely on boiled green bananas for their all-day meals. The husband, a rheumatic and a travelling barber, plied his trade on foot and would often come home empty-handed. His wife, too feeble to move, stayed home all the time. Our job was to help them as much as we could. We cleaned up their nipa shanty and even tended a small vegetable garden, quietly sharing the couple’s hope of cooking up a different meal someday. Moved by their plight, I later asked our school alumni clinic for a few pain relievers and food items to deliver to the couple, and arranged an appointment for them with a visiting alumnus-doctor.

My family also served as a strong influence. Among many instances of generosity in our household, my six siblings and I, at our young age, witnessed charity when our parents – public school teachers all their career – gave temporary shelter to a typhoon-ravaged family of five. Though we lived in modest means, my mother and father fervently cared for this family, offering them hot meals and warm blankets for a few weeks.

Over many years, my parents’ values – epitomized by that experience – nourished and honed my growing awareness of the challenges faced by the needy. Even in our early years in Canada, my wife and I volunteered to prepare income returns for low-income seniors and immigrants, and continued to do so for 18 years, at few times braving snowstorms to see our commitments through. I also took upon myself to mentor new immigrants on their job search, spending countless hours with them to impart practical lessons I had once learned myself. While working at the world’s largest retailer, I along with a few took charge of a remarkably successful Head Office-wide food drive for the benefit of some of Toronto’s homeless.

In my many years with my parish, I've taken part and marvelled at the parishioners' unfailing outpouring of support through donated food, used clothes, gift cards, Shoeboxes, relief goods and others in many drives, including those Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) - initiated, for underprivileged families in and beyond our community. Donated clothes spilling in the church parking lot with the repository trailer already at full capacity, and stacks of canned goods in the church basement are a common sight. Well into my first months as Vincentian in 2019, I saw charity at work with close to 40 local businesses responding to my plea for gifts – both cash and in-kind – in support of our parish's walkathon fundraising aimed at subsidizing the back-to-school expenses of less fortunate families. Time and time again, I find my dedication to helping the poor renewed by the benevolence of my fellow parishioners and many others, including some believers of other faiths.

I'm thankful for the opportunities that have granted me to exercise charity, yet remain mindful that there are still boundless ways to inspire and influence others, just as the Jesuits and my parents unlocked for me. Pope Francis himself quotes Benedict XVI in the "The Joy of the Gospel": "The service of charity is a constituent element of the Church's mission and an indispensable expression of her being". The Pope in turn asserts the Church abounds in effective charity and a compassion which understands, assists and promotes. As members of the Church, let's keep walking the path of charity, engaging not only with material goods, but also with our many God-given gifts, and laying aside self-centeredness, indifference and complacency. With joy in our hearts, let charity always shine upon the lives of those who are most in need.

Jose I. Torres

St. John of the Cross Conference, Mississauga, Ontario

Jose is a CPA (both in Canada and the Philippines) and early in his career, was on loan at the UN Headquarters in New York City as Sr. External Auditor. He has been a mass lector for over 25 years, was a member of the Finance Council for 10 years, and has been with the SSVP for three years now – all at St. John of the Cross Parish in Mississauga, Ontario.



TWINNING - TORONTO NORTH PARTICULAR COUNCIL RENOVATIONS PROJECT, COLOMBIA



Dampness in the ceiling, causing deterioration.



Maintenance and change of the ceiling to PVC.



Dear Vincentians,

Allow me to share my twinning experience with our current twinning partner, the Palmira Particular Council, Colombia. The Toronto North Particular Council started twinning with this Council in 2018 and we are pleased with the renovations that have been done to the premises of the Elderly Welfare Center, Casa del Mendigo, Palmira Colombia. The Centre, supported by the Palmira P.C., is hosting 60 vulnerable seniors.

Twice a year in May and November we send funds to our twinning partner, and in return, we are blessed with reports and pictures of the work they do and have done to make the premises a workable and livable environment both for the volunteers and the occupants.

Ana (Ana Lucia Borja Cabrera), the Council President, never fails to provide us with pictures which speak volumes of the work they continue to do both for the care and compassion of the elderly and the volunteers.

We look forward to sharing our twinning experiences in years to come.

*Barbara Pollard,
Toronto North Particular Council*



BED FOR EVERY CHILD

The Bed for Every Child project was conceived to help alleviate some of the ill effects of poverty on children in the Brant/Brantford community. The goal is to provide a new bed to a child in an underprivileged home who would otherwise not have a bed to sleep in. These children are currently sleeping on the floor, carpet, couch, or are sharing a bed with parents and/or several siblings. The living conditions in these homes are personally witnessed by SSVP Brant home visitors, who (prior to the Covid pandemic) engaged in home visits to determine the extent of the need within these families. The hope is that we will soon be able to return to the in-home visits.

Each conference decides which family(ies) has(have) a child in need of a bed. Then, two members of a conference make a home visit, completing a Demographic Sheet for this family as well as a voucher for a new single bed when they feel it is appropriate. The completed Demographic Sheet is returned to the bed allocation coordinator. The completed bed voucher is left with the client who will redeem it at the store and arrange for delivery of the bed which consists of a single-sized box spring, mattress, and 6 screw-in legs. For purposes of accountability, and in order to ensure that we are good stewards, the bed allocation coordinator keeps track of the money we are given for beds to ensure that it is spent on beds for children. The bed allocation coordinator also maintains a data base of those who receive a bed. Additionally, our Social Justice Coordinator conducts surveys of the recipient families a few weeks after the bed is given, to assess the overall impact of the bed on the child as well as the family.

As part of our belief that literacy is one of the best ways to break the cycle of poverty, we also provide a bag of age-appropriate books with each bed. We have had very positive feedback regarding not only the books, but also the bed program as a whole.

Since the need was first recognized 9 years ago, various groups (mainly 1 local high school) have engaged in various fund-raising activities including pilgrimage walks, all-night sleep-overs, school dress-down days etc. that allowed the program to be established and sustained. RTO (The Retired Teachers of Ontario) were gracious enough to provide us with a sizable donation a few years ago. Most recently, we have been the recipients of very significant grants from Brant United Way that will help pay for most of the cost of the program for 2021 as well as the next 2 years. This is a great support while the schools are still restricted in their fundraising abilities due to the pandemic.

At this point in time the approximate cost per bed (mattress, box spring & legs) is \$125. To date (May 2022), 796 beds have been given to these children in need.

Qualitative surveys requested by United Way have confirmed that the action of providing a new bed for a child has far-reaching positive impacts (physically, emotionally, academically, behaviourally) for the child and also for the family unit. So the provision of beds to these children has made a profound difference in the lives of the children as well as their families, which is of course part of our mission as Vincentians.



For further information or detail, please feel free to contact us at

SSVP Brant: ssvpbrant@gmail.com

Home: (519) 752-0214 - cell: (226) 552-0465

Peter Giordano, SSVP Brant Youth VP



QUESTION & ANSWER

Q: Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) would like me to submit the T3010 for my conference online instead of paper; I need to become a representative. How do I do that?

A: Returns (e.g. T3010) can be filed electronically with NETFILE. NETFILE is an online filing service that allows registrants to file their returns directly with CRA. There is a two-step process to achieve this. The first is to obtain a Representative ID (repID) from CRA; the second is to submit your information to National, who will confirm with CRA that you are authorized. Please refer to form 9.7.2 in the National Operations Manual

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