

Linda Dollard Curriculum Vitae



I have been a Vincentian for 17 years serving people in need and being a servant leader. I have been happily married for 37 years with 2 adult boys, age 30 and 26. I have been retired since July 1, 2021 and love retirement as I am able to do what I want to do on my timeline.

I joined SSVP when I was approached by someone at my home conference, Holy Family Conference in London, Ontario, who identified certain skills he saw in me which the conference needed at that time. I am so happy that I joined as my spiritual journey has grown immensely since becoming a Vincentian with a deepening of my relationship with God. I know I will be a Vincentian serving people in need for as long as I am physically able to do so as I am so passionate about this important work.

People who know me have shared that I am compassionate and caring with a Big Heart. I am passionate, committed and dedicated with a good work ethic. I am dependable with good leadership qualities getting things done. I have a sense of humour and when faced with a difficult situation, I ask myself "What would Jesus do?"

Below is a brief summary of my various roles and accomplishments during my time with SSVP.

Holy Family Conference Member (2006 – Present)

- Secretary from 2006 – 2010 and 2021 to present.
- Member on London Particular Council for special events 2007 – 2011 implementing an annual BBQ serving people in need and the "Cover me with Love" program distributing coats, blankets and winter accessories to our neighbours in need.
- Home visits from 2017 – present.

London Particular Council President/Member (2011 – 2015)

- Provided support to 13 Conferences within London community including 1 youth conference.
- Led Organizing Committee for 2 fundraising dinners.
- Implemented Vinnie's Wallet Program from 2015 – 2019 providing mini loans to people in need.
- Meetings with Bishop Fabbro of London to raise awareness of SSVP work in London community.

Ontario Regional Council President/Member (2016 – 2021)

- Reached out and listened to Central Council and Particular Council Presidents and Isolated Conference Presidents to hear about their successes, challenges and opportunities.
- Prepared monthly communication newsletters distributed to Ontario Vincentians as communication is key and encouraged Vincentians to communicate with ONRC.
- Meetings with Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO).
- Led Governance Committee to re-structure ONRC governance model.
- Rejuvenation Committee Member 2017 – present – creating resources and doing presentations to Councils who are looking for help to rejuvenate and recruit members.

National Council Member (2016 – Present)

- Ontario Regional Council representative from 2016 – 2021.
- Fund Development Committee Chair from 2021 – present – identifying and developing fund development resources for use by Vincentians across Canada.
- Member on Strategic Plan Committee to help develop National Council Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024 reviewing input from Vincentians to identify key areas of focus to include in the new Strategic Plan along with action items.
- Interim Vice-President from February 2023 – present.

Action Plan Proposed for National Council SSV 2023 – 2027

Should I be elected as the new National Council President, I will be your servant leader. I will focus on what our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, said “we want to embrace the whole world in a Network of Charity”.

I will focus on the following mandate:

- Listening to you, Vincentians across Canada, on your successes, challenges and opportunities.
- Supporting the 5 regions across Canada understanding that each region is unique in the way you recruit members and serve people in need.
- Identifying leaders with specific skills to help lead the National Council and embrace the vision of supporting Vincentians across Canada.
- Communication is a challenge for many organizations – work with a Communication Committee on how best for Vincentians to share information with National Council and how best to share information from National Council to all Vincentians.
- Spirituality - supporting Vincentians in furthering their spiritual journey.
- With a Committee, reviewing National Council’s governance model and by-laws to identify and implement changes as needed.
- Rejuvenation and Recruitment – I hear from Conferences and Councils that they have few members and there is no one to step into leadership roles – working with a Rejuvenation Committee to develop and share resources to identify ways to recruit members, to rejuvenate Conferences and Councils to be able to attract new members, and succession planning to have leaders ready to move into leadership roles. Creating a cross-conference rejuvenation team is one example to help conferences within a Particular Council to brainstorm on what can be successful.
- Youth engagement – working with the Youth Committee, identifying outreach programs to engage youth as they are the future of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. For example, the youth in London are very engaged in a program called “On the Street” where they invite people who are homeless to come and select items needed – fill a backpack with hygiene products, blanket, clothing, food products, etc.
- Focusing on Social Justice – as Blessed Frederic Ozanam stated, we need to focus on both charity and justice – working with the Social Justice Committee, continue to identify and support ways that can help move people beyond poverty including advocacy, housing, living wage and more. As our founder stated, “Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked. It is justice’s role to prevent the attack”.
- Working with the Formation Committee, reviewing the Operations Manual and training modules to revise as needed bringing them up to date for current use and allowing for training modules to be edited by Councils to be specific for their community.
- Training – working with the Formation Committee on implementing a “train the trainer” model across Canada.
- Implementing training materials for new members joining the National Council Board.
- Working with the Twinning Committee, continue to develop more twinning relationships. Currently, there are 11 outstanding applications waiting for a twinning relationship.

I realize these may appear to be big dreams; however, with a great team surrounding me, I am confident that many dreams can be realized. As Blessed Frederic Ozanam stated “In my life I want to become better and do a little good”. This too is my hope!

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