

## Pascal LaRouche; BIO of Membership Work Since Joining the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

### St. Clare Conference

- Conference President for 8 years. Secretary for past two years
- inherited a Conference that was in need of more members and re-invigoration
- established regular monthly meetings focused on Home Visits and fund-raising with full discussion and decision-making by consensus
- active engagement of donors through programs such as “Adopt a Family for Christmas” and Back-to-School backpack program
- Parish-wide fund-raising activity limited to one only Sunday Mass second- collection per year
- regular updates to Parish re: Home Visit work of the Conference.
- aggressive approach to member recruitment and to cultivating new leadership
- Conference meetings focused on the Home Visit process and how members can support and learn from each other
- helped establish a new Conference at St. Francis of Assisi Parish
- established mechanisms for open, frequent communication with Conferences closest to us.
- currently serving as Secretary of the St. Clare (Toronto) Conference.

### Toronto West Particular Council

- Toronto West Particular Council President for 6 years.
- member of the Board of the Central Corporation (4 years) – resigned as Board member, but continued (at the request of the TWPC Conference Presidents) as TWPC President for another 2 years
- expelled from all leadership roles by the Toronto Central Corporation.
- instituted democratic decision-making of TWPC by vote of 14 Conference Presidents.
- removed ineffective spiritual advisor who was harming the collegiality of the TWPC.
- refused to fund spiritual advisor trips to National AGM/ANF and denied request that we give him TWPC proxy voting rights.
- required that Conference Presidents share home visit data with TWPC.
- succession plan for TWPC leadership in place.
- monthly financial info sharing.
- established a new Conference at St. Mary Portugal Square in downtown Toronto
- set in place covid-19 action plan to help Conferences which were thinking of curtailing operations.
- returned to its’ parish a Conference food bank that was causing harm to NINs, donors & the name of the Society in TWPC area.
- closed a Conference that was riven by racial division and causing harm to Society members and the TWPC.
- gave food assistance to SSVP Stores employees who were laid off by the Toronto Central Corporation during covid-19 pandemic
- in consultation with clergy in some of its’ home parishes, the TWPC sent letters to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the local cardinal in Toronto and the Canadian Papal Nuncio “expressing our (the TWPC) displeasure with the handling of matters related to indigenous children and residential schools”.

Serving in Hope,

Pascal LaRouche, Toronto Ontario

# My Program if Elected to the Office of President of the National Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada

## Introduction

It is my goal to help the Society in Canada develop an effective and inspired voice on behalf of the poor, our donors and our fellow Vincentians.

## My Program

Working with the National Council that represents Vincentians from across Canada;

Let us, the SSVP in Canada, reaffirm the principles on which the Society was founded and ensure that they are the defining characteristics of our Society that sets it apart from other charitable organizations working with the poor.

The SSVP in Canada must require that Conferences, Particular Councils and Central Councils follow the requirement that all funds collected for the poor are given only to the poor and not left in trust accounts, reserves and the like.

Let us require that Conferences have as their first function the conduct of Home Visits by visiting pairs of Vincentians in compliance with 2.2.1.1 of The Rule (page 16). "The fundamental activity (of the Society) is the person-to-person encounter with persons in need through Home Visits carried out by pairs of Vincentians". Failure to abide by this fundamental requirement of the SSVP must call into question the continuance of the Conference in the Society. Home visits are the best way to encourage and support our neighbours-in-need

Let us embark on a program designed to encourage women to assume leadership roles at all levels of the Society

Let us engage in concerted recruitment activities and initiatives targeted at non-Catholics. Such groups include non-Catholic spouses of Catholics, post-secondary students, the indigenous and persons who have abandoned the Catholic Church.

Let us welcome the L.G.B.T.Q. and bring them into the SSVP in Canada, as well as the divorced and the remarried.

Let us pay heed to the call of Pope Francis and encourage "synodality" in our Society by embarking on a program of improving the accessibility, immediacy and frequency of communication among members and taking greater advantage of electronic virtual technologies.

01 May 2023, Toronto Ontario