

TWINNING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2008-2009

I thank all who have helped the poor, in Canada, and in the countries with whom they are twinned.

I have committed to goals for twinning in 2007.

Below is a report on progress with these goals, and other task items that are done to maintain and promote twinning.

- Promotion of projects as a way to further assist out twins.
- Articles in the Vincenzapaul magazine, which goes to all Councils in Canada.
 - *The titles of articles published in 2009 are: Colombia Twinning Partner, in Winter 2008 issue, "I move that our Conference Apply to Twin..." in Spring 2009 issue, and coming in the Summer 2009 issue, Tips on Writing to Your Twin.*
- Encouragement of conferences who express the wish to help their twin more, to consider the project process.
 - *A conference in the Western Region has asked to contribute to a project with their twin in Jamaica. The president of the National Council of Jamaica is assessing this possible project. They must approve the project before it is sent to our National Twinning Committee and National Council for approval.*
- Assistance where possible of the young adults in their twinning endeavors.
 - *The young adults in Ontario are supporting a "Pencil Project" with the Dominican Republic.*
 - *Western young adults are supporting a storage shed for diapers and formula in the Northwest Territories.*
 - *I am asking that the proposed project in Guatemala, of building of a third level of a school/community center for the young adult conference twin, be acted upon, either with a response to the project, or a passing on of this project.*
- Approaching twins who haven't transferred funds in the past 3 years, to ask about their needs and wishes in regards to twinning.
 - *Letter sent in February '09 to twins who haven't transferred funds in the past 3 years.*
 - *I have received emails and letters in response to this, some to resume their twinning with actions like a choosing another twinning contact person (who is not the current president), attempting again to contact their twin, and sending funds for their twin to our National.*

The National Board took some actions in regards to twinning in November. When they received my orientation/report on twinning, they asked that we develop a Canadian Twinning Resource Manual. This is in the process of development, and will be available by the next AGA.

The Board accepted the External Twinning Agreement, developed to be in compliance with CRA regulations. I am in the process of ensuring that these are signed by each of the National/Superior Councils of our designated twinned countries.

The Board also passed a motion to change the amount of the yearly contributions - policy TW002. If the National Council accepts this at the AGA, we will be able to send up to \$2000 yearly. Some conferences have been increasing their contributions spontaneously, and this enables other conferences to help their twins in this way. Our economic times mean that some of our twins are serving even greater numbers of the poor. We await the National Council decision.

Task Items

- I have updated the country information sheets that I send to new twins, from the 2003 information that I had.
- Two publications were developed, with the generous and capable assistance of Nicole Schryburt. A twinning newsletter and spiritual message was sent with the annual request for twinning reports. The other publication is a flyer with the twinning application on the back, which is circulating at this AGA.
- Twinning X 10 since June '08. We have 94 active external twins, and 46 twinned conferences and councils who have been asked this year whether they wish to continue with their twinning. We also have 38 conferences and councils who send funds through internal twinning. The number of twinned conferences and councils in Canada is 132.
- I responded to the twinning problems with Colombia, applications needed from Nicaragua, and an appeal for a twin for the National Council of Guatemala.
- I passed on a school program about the Society, developed by the Victoria Particular Council, to a person from a northern town, whom I met at an AGA.
- I attended a territorial meeting of North Equator Region in Costa Rica, and was able to have four of our twinned countries sign the External Twinning Agreement. Other designated twinned countries will have their Agreement mailed to them, and will return it at their convenience.

The following people help you with twinning:

Father Anthony Sebastian, OFM, Twinning Spiritual Advisor
Kathy Weswick, Canadian Twinning Chairperson
Nicole Schryburt, Administrative Assistant, Twinning Responsibilities
Shirley MacKinnon, Atlantic Regional Twinning Chairperson
Claude Roy, Quebec Regional Twinning Chairperson
Doreen Simmers, Ontario Regional Twinning Chairperson
Franki Luke, Western Regional Twinning Chairperson
Claude Bedard, BC and Yukon Regional Twinning Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Weswick, National Chairperson
Twinning Committee