

What are the types of twinning?

There are two types of twinning – Internal or External.

Internal Twinning

Internal twinning is twinning with a conference or council within Canada. This can be with conferences or council across the country or right in your own region or area. An aggregated conference or instituted council can be either a donor or recipient.

External Twinning

External twinning is twinning with countries outside Canada. Canadian conferences and councils may be twinned only with designated countries of the Americas, these currently include: Dominican Republic, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, El Salvador and Nicaragua. All funds sent to these countries must follow the established twinning protocols for sending financial aid out of the country. Funds are processed through the National Council of Canada Administrative Assistant, responsible to ensure security and accountability.

There are National Policies and Guidelines available to assist twinning conferences and councils with their twinning program. Vincentians would be violating their duty of accountability owed to donors to the Society if they were to ‘twin’ with a person, group or organization outside the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The Rule* states that all monies collected in the name of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul must be used for the work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. *Rule and Internal Statutes of Canada: Section 2: 2.2.10, Section 3: 3.13 and Rule of the International Confederation, Section 4A: 4.1.

International Council General Guidelines Related to Foreign Twinning

“There is a need to create a new culture of international solidarity and cooperation where all – particularly the wealthy nations and private sector – accept the responsibility for an economic model which serves everyone. There should be no more postponement of the time when the poor Lazarus can sit beside the rich man to share the same banquet and be forced no more to feed on scraps that fall from the table (cf. LK 16:19-31). Extreme poverty is a source of violence, bitterness and scandal, and to eradicate it is to do the work of justice and therefore the work of peace. (Incarnationis Mysterium, para 12; Pope John Paul II, November 29, 1998).

*Excerpts from SSVV National Council
Twinning Guidelines*

What can I do to support Twinning as an individual Vincentian?

Prayer is a key aspect of all twinning activity, and members are asked to pray regularly for each other. Without God’s help, nothing can be achieved.

You can urge your conference or council, other conferences and councils to also participate in twinning activities.

For more information, please contact:
www.ssvp.ca

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council of Canada

TWINNING IN CANADA



What is Twinning?

Twinning is...

...a 'special work' of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. It is one of fraternal union and sharing

...a sharing of our prayers, our personal contacts, and our resources with conferences and councils nationally and internationally, that have less resources to conduct their work

...members wanting to pursue their Vincentian vocation to reach out to the poor, wherever they are.

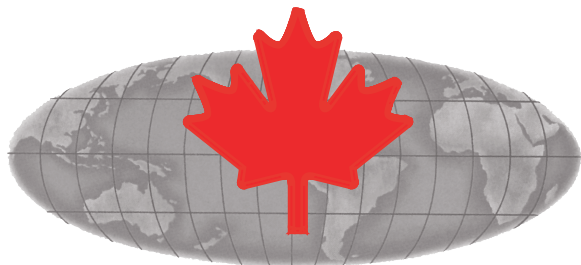
Why would we want to twin?

We should want to twin because...

...we can make a difference for our twinned brothers and sisters

....we can and fulfill our spiritual yearning to share with the poor.

....Twinning emphasizes the universality of the Society and enables us to be witnesses to charity in action.



How do we go about deciding to twin?

Participation in the twinning program is a prayerful decision arrived at by the members of an aggregated conference or instituted council.

What are the steps we need to follow to establish a twinning program in the local conference or council?

- Obtain a twinning application form available from either your regional twinning chairperson, or from the Canadian Council Administrative Assistant, or from the National Council of Canada Website www.ssvp.ca

- Complete the form and forward it to the National Council Secretary.

What happens after the initial application is sent?

- Details about your twinned conference or council will be sent to you, along with guidelines and the required official financial transmittal forms.

- Twinning has been described as a lingering labour of love; it may take 3 to 6 months or even longer, to establish a twinning and rapport. However, patience and persistence in maintaining contact will always support the process.

- Twinning is meant to help people to help themselves. After a period of time, we try to help our twinning partner to move toward better service to their poor through establishing a self-help program that will assist the twin better serve the poor in their area.

What are the essential elements for successful twinning program?

Prayer

Through twinning, a community of prayer is formed with our Vincentian brothers and sisters, in order to sustain each other and the poor we serve.

Examples of realizing this union include:

- prayers for the intentions of all members of the Vincentian family
- offering Mass by both twins on a mutually designated day.

Correspondence

A regular exchange of correspondence between twins will strengthen the bonds of understanding and friendship. Mutual communication can be about respective experiences, local area activities, interests, membership and personal matters. These correspondences can include photographs to share as well. It is essential that replies are received to correspondence on a regular basis, or at least once a year.

Financial and Material Assistance

Financial assistance at regular intervals is the usual method of helping a twinned conference or council. There are specific National Council of Canada Guidelines for financial transfer of funds. Material assistance such as clothing, tools and equipment can be sent, keeping in mind appropriate government regulations for secure and lawful movement of such items.