

THE MAGAZINE OF

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada

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AG A 2006



AG A 2006

Vincenpaul-Canada

"UPON THIS ROCK..."

Return Address:
National Council of Canada
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**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA**

MISSION

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is:

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

VALUES

The Mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians we

- see Christ in anyone who suffers
- come together as a family
- have personal contact with the poor
- help in all possible ways

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Close attention to the following recommendations would greatly help your National Council.

Name of a Conference or Council

There are nearly 1000 Conferences and Councils in Canada, and every one of them is identified as "Society of Saint Vincent de Paul". However, each one is a distinct group. It is therefore important to identify all your documents, as well as your cheques, so that they show the complete name of your Conference or Council. Whenever the National Council receives a cheque labelled as "Society of Saint Vincent de Paul", it is very difficult to credit this cheque to a specific Conference or Council.

Canada Taxation Identification Number

Conferences and Councils that are registered with Revenue Canada must always use their ID number to identify their documents and cheques. The Taxation Identification Number must be written in full, because the last four digits are the ones that identify the Council or Conference. The National Council has the first number, the one ending with 0001. Therefore, all cheques and documents sent to Revenue Canada without being clearly identified are attributed to the National Council account.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Nicole Schryburt and Judith Poitevien
Administrative assistants
National Council

***IMPORTANT MESSAGE
TO ALL VINCENTIANS OF CANADA***

As of January 1, 2005, all receipts issued by charitable organizations registered with the Canada Revenue Agency must mention "Canada Revenue Agency" as well as the pertaining government Web site www.craarc.gc.ca/charities. If your receipts do not show this information, you may add this information through other means than regular printing (e.g. sticker, stamp, manuscript). The Canada Revenue Agency will accept receipts that do not show this information until the end of 2005. However, the CRA expects all registered charities to add this new information starting January 1, 2006.

Germain Souigny



As I write this article I am listening to the results of the federal election in Canada on Jan. 23. While as a charitable organization we cannot partake in "political" action, as individuals we do have a civic right and duty to cast our ballot in municipal, provincial and federal elections. We also have the right to question the candidates in our ridings, before, during and after elections advocating on behalf of those we serve. Policies dealing with issues like affordable housing and more global issues like Canada's involvement in Haiti are always of concern to Vincentians. In addition we can make our voices heard nationally by joining groups like "Make Poverty History" which has been very effective in advocating for the poor as well as to participate in Development and Peace through our parishes and supporting their annual Lenten campaign to provide potable water in third world countries.

National Council Election

This June at the AGA in St. John's I will be celebrating my fifth year as National President, which means it is time to begin the process of electing the next presi-

dent, the fourteenth national president. As we did during the last election, the candidates for the position of President will be introduced to the general assembly in St. John's and they will be given the opportunity to address the delegates and present their plan for the Society should they be elected.

Past President Ellen Schryburt will be Chair of the election committee and will be preparing the call for nominations to be sent to Members by Right over the next couple of months. Please offer your prayers for those who allow their names to stand, as well as to offer encouragement to fellow Vincentians who you think might make a worthy candidate.

National Rule

The National Rule Committee will be meeting in February to review the first draft of the new National Rule. At this time we wish to thank all members of the Rule Committee and especially Jacquelyne Lord President of the SSVP Conference in LaPocatiere, Quebec who generously agreed to take all the individual drafts and write a single document. The Committee felt it was important

to have the entire rule written by one person to provide better continuity and readability. Once the original draft is reviewed by the Committee it will be forwarded to the Members by Right for their review and comments. The process for submitting amendments will follow the process utilized by the International Council General during their Rule development in 2003. Amendment forms will be included with the draft Rule which will include a section to identify the passage of sentences to be amended, then a section to provide the proposed wording finally a section giving the logic/explanation for the recommendation. Proposed amendments will be reviewed by the Committee and a second draft produced. This second draft will be presented to the General Assembly on Friday June 23 and voted on Saturday at the Statutory Meeting in St. John's.

President's Pin



There are many Vincentians who have provided tremendous service to the Society over the years, many of whom go unnoticed by most people in society,

President's Word - Michael Burke

while some others are very visible in their contribution acting as Regional/Pro-vincial or Central Council Presidents etc. within the Society. I think about people like Tony LaPierre (who passed away this past year) who was such a driving force in the Society in Atlantic Canada and who is responsible for the growth in the Society in the 60's and 70's. In an effort to recognize some of these individuals I have inaugurated a special Pin which will be presented to some of these people as a small token of our appreciation and in recognition of their service to the Society and especially (and more importantly) their service to the people we serve. Please submit the names of people you know whom you believe have made significant contributions to the Society as builders, administrators or as every day Vincentian workers (the heart of the Society) serving the poor.

Screening

As reported in previous magazines the National Executive Committee has established Screening and Duty of Care Guidelines which will be presented to the 2006 Annual General Assembly in St. John's. I include the following article that recently appeared in the Ottawa Citizen for your information and as an

example of the typical reactions in a community when the topic of Screening is introduced. As you will see it is not unlike some of the reaction we have encountered. It does however provide an added perspective of the situation in society today for you to consider.

***Bob Rupert,
The Ottawa Citizen
Published: Sunday,
January 15, 2006***

An audit of a new program that aims to screen out potentially predatory volunteers in churches has found there needs to be more focus on "high-risk" relationships between volunteers and children or seniors. The Ottawa audit is one of the first tests of a screening program being done in church dioceses across Eastern Ontario. In 2002, the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops ordered their parishes to closely check the backgrounds of volunteers who want to work with children, the elderly or handle church money. This includes a criminal record check.

The archdiocese of Ottawa recently finished auditing screening practices at the Baseline Road parish of St. Augustine. Monsignor Len Lunney said the St. Augustine audit suggests the

church now knows a lot more about its volunteers and where they should or should not be active, he said. St. Augustine's parish priest Vincent Pereira said the audit indicates a need for more focus on "high-risk" volunteers who work with children or the elderly. Rev. Pereira says screening has already saved his church from a predator who came from another province and almost immediately moved into high-risk volunteerism. "We caught it before it got serious" after some church volunteers became suspicious, he said. "I called him into the office and asked a lot of questions. I realized he had a hidden agenda and my heart started to pump. I was shocked. He was a sort of con artist. This man will not be allowed to serve at any level -- not even to light a candle." Rev. Pereira declined to say what prompted the suspicions of church volunteers, and said police were not called. Screening came in for special attention seven years ago after a series of national scandals led the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation to team up with Volunteer Canada in the Ontario Screening Initiative. Sports, home-care and religious groups informed a consortium. In a draft-screening brochure released in late 1999, churches were advised to mince no words: "As people of faith we

reach out to those in need(...).

Some people may feel that terrible things could not happen here. Yet, terrible things do happen, and they happen in congregations just like ours. We cannot close our eyes to the facts. Pedophiles seek out environments where they can gain easy access to children. Abusive predators find their way to the frail and needy." The guidelines were released six months later with much softer language: "A small number of people take advantage of organizations that have lax or non-existent screening procedures. They gain access to vulnerable persons, win their confidence and trust and bring immeasurable harm to them and their families." The guidelines called for "thorough, appropriate, consistent and ongoing screening measures."

The Eastern Ontario archdiocese of Ottawa (392,635 parishioners) and the dioceses of Cornwall-Alexandria (55,570) and Kingston (116,845) have since acted on their orders.

Msgr. Lunney admits it was a tough sell in Ottawa. "There was a lot of apprehension at first," he said. "We had always assumed that we knew everything about everybody, but, of course, we didn't. Times have changed."

Rev. Pereira said the church "has been slow" to recognize the need for screening because Catholics "trust people." But he said too much trust led to unfortunate incidents, and "screening is absolutely necessary." He said many volunteers were "shocked" when screening was introduced. "They wondered where we were going with this." But, he said, he is screened as well. "I have to get a criminal record check and an ID card to minister to parishioners in the Civic and Queensway campuses of the Ottawa Hospital." Msgr. Lunney said most volunteers, including older ones who were particularly hurt, eventually came around. He says part of the problem was semantics. "People hate the word 'screening,' " he says. So Ottawa, and some other archdioceses, rejected the initially proposed "Screening in Faith" term and called it "Responsible Ministry." Helen Lambertus, a retired teacher and St. Augustine's parishioner for 40 years, said she was "surprised and even a bit shocked" when screening was introduced. "Volunteers were saying, 'If you trusted me yesterday, why don't you trust me today?'" But we didn't understand the concept. We began to realize that, in this day and age, it has become a fact of life."

In the Kingston diocese, the con-

cept was introduced in reassuring language: "Some very good and kind volunteers ... may feel personally hurt or offended at being asked to submit to a process which they do not believe should apply to them. It is important to remember that, not the person, but the position being fulfilled dictates the process of screening."

Monique Marchand, who runs that diocese's Office of Risk Management, said most volunteers' doubts are dispelled as they go through the process. Still, she said, one parish ran into opposition from a devout family that said, "If you don't trust us after all this time, it's insulting." In the Cornwall-Alexandria diocese, screening is particularly touchy. A provincial commission of inquiry is investigating allegations that Cornwall was the longtime centre of sexual abuse of teenagers by community leaders, volunteers and the clergy. August 2005 guidelines on how the diocese should manage allegations of sexual abuse involving the clergy called for a standing committee to investigate "every complaint" and advise Bishop Paul-Andre Durocher "on whether there are reasonable and probable grounds to determine that an offence has been committed ... in a process that is prompt, reasonable and fair." Still, many churchgoers

President's Word - Michael Burke

still seem unwilling or unable to accept the possibility that some bad apples may be lurking among trusted church volunteers. At St. John's Church in Perth on a recent Sunday, lawyer Doug James, a member of the parish's new screening committee, tried to reassure the congregation. "This does not mean the church no longer trusts its members and volunteers. The church is demonstrating its willingness to be transparent about its activities."

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Members by Right and AGA

As the 35th Annual General Assembly is in the planning stages I would like to encourage all Members by Right to book their calendars for the dates of June 21 – 24 in St. John's Newfoundland. As MBR's you have the responsibility to approve the National Council Budget as well as to vote on the motions put forward during the meeting. For those members who did not attend the last meeting I would encourage you to take time to think about your role in the Society and to plan to attend the 2006 meeting in St. John's Newfoundland. When you were elected to your position as a Council President

and Member by Right you accepted the responsibility to participate in the duties of a MBR, which includes participation at the AGA. If you cannot attend the AGA, we encourage you to appoint someone to attend in your place so your Council is represented. Your presence and participation are very important.

Peace
Michael Burke
President National Council of
Canada



IMPORTANT

Please take note that the National Council has a new address:

**The Society of Saint
Vincent de Paul
National Council
of Canada**

**1247 Kilborn Place
Ottawa ON K1H 6K9**

Tel: 613 738-1118

Fax: 613 738 4789

**E-mail: ncc-
cnc.ssvp@bellnet.ca**

All your correspondence with your National Council should be sent at this address.

Should it be to reach a member of your National Council, to send an article for the Vincenpaul magazine, to order an object from the Society, to pay for your Vincenpaul subscription, to send your contribution for twinning and any other topic that is under the National Council jurisdiction.

THANK YOU.!

LIVING THE MOMENT

A few weeks before Christmas my faithful Cutlass, bought in 1992, started having transmission problems. Not wanting to immediately get into buying a new car, I opted to have a rebuilt transmission installed. All was well. I did believe that it would be wise to look at the market before making a purchase.

As I begin writing this little message I have lived an interesting moment. At noon an old acquaintance, a Sister of Charity who had worked with me many years ago came for lunch. I drove her to a local restaurant and then suggested we return to the rectory so that I could show her the parish establishment.

She had come to the rectory by bus and I suggested that I drive her home. No sooner had we embarked and I began driving, that a loud noise filled the air and I discovered that the rear suspension on the right side had collapsed, the spring dragging on the road. What was somewhat amazing was that the collapse took place in the church parking lot and that I had already made arrangements to go with a friend the next day to look at vehicles. The old Cutlass seemed to have sensed that the adventure was over and decided to call it quits.

There are times in life when we sense that changes should be made, yet we are reluctant to do

so. Often we are right to be prudent, but we should be ready to act when the moment comes. Dealing with change is often not easy, however, we know deep in our interior that life is change. The years slip by and we are no longer the person we were ten years ago.

One way to prepare for change is to adopt a fundamental and all-encompassing sense of gratitude. If we can honestly say that all is a gift then change becomes manageable. Knowing that God is with us enables us to see good health and success as gifts, as well as face the challenges that come our way. We know that with God we will overcome whatever impedes our progress.

We have entered into the 2nd half of the decade and it may be that your Conference needs renewal. Are your procedures all in accordance with the Rule? Are you convinced that recruitment of new members is an ongoing process?

Coming back to my car situation, I have always been a GM person, but this time it seemed proper to survey the market and I now own a 2003 Subaru. Old habits need not be set in concrete. May the Lord bless your work and your dedication to renewal.

*Mgr Peter Schonenbach,
Spiritual Advisor
National Council*



Mgr Peter Schonenbach,
National Council Spiritual Advisor

QUOTES FROM FREDERIC OZANAM

“Learn to defend your convictions without hating your adversaries and love those who think differently from yourselves.”

“Being a Christian I glory in belonging to no other school than that of truth, which is the Church ... I live by my faith.”

- Blessed Frederic Ozanam



Council in Action

On Saturday, November 12, 2005, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Peterborough Particular Council, held the first of what is planned to be an annual Spiritual Revitalization Workshop. This year's workshop theme was titled, "Charity and Justice: Walking the Social Mission".

This day of spiritual enrichment and fellowship was offered to all 270 Vincentian members in recognition of their contribution to the Society in our service to the poor. One hundred and three Vincentian members were able to attend and represented nine of the ten Council's Conferences.

Deacon Gerald McMurray opened the workshop at 9:15am with a moving Spiritual Reflection. After the Reflection the following workshops were presented by Father Paul Massel, Father Stan Chu Ilo and Bob Hartlen;

1. Catholic Social Doctrine,
2. Charity or Direct Service,
3. Social Justice,
4. The Poor in Our Midst.

The workshop leaders focused on helping us to understand and explore how our work as Vincentians applies to Catholic Social Doctrine. After each presentation, time was devoted to working groups exploring, questioning, developing and presenting scenarios and answers to the Catholic Social concepts as they apply to our Society.

It was truly a wonderful day of

spirituality, learning and togetherness with our brother and sister Vincentians. What helped to make it such a special day was that Vincentians from the different Conferences were mixed at the tables. The day left us with assurances of our worth as Vincentians and a determination to be aware of all the injustices in our community and worldwide, and to be ready to act in any way we can to help causes that deal with injustice.

The Council received donations of food, drink and supplies from many of the city's grocers. The lunch was catered by the C.W.L. of the St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral. One Council Conference led all members with a singing version of grace to begin both the lunch and dinner meal.

The workshop day ended at 4:45pm and we all proceeded across the street to the Cathedral where Most Reverend Bishop Nicholas De Angelis was the celebrant of the 5:00pm Mass. The choir sang the St. Vincent De Paul hymn as members marched into the cathedral holding their Conference banners.

After Mass we again returned to the Bishop Doyle Hall for dinner and socializing.

More in depth information, including downloadable versions of the presentations and workshop pictures, can be found on the Events page of our Council's website, www.svdpptbo.ca.

Respectfully submitted by
Bob Hartlen and Mary O'Rourke.



Charity & Justice: Walking the Social Mission



Workshop Facilitators

DO CANADIAN CHRISTIANS NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT HOUSING?

At present, 4 million Canadians are living in housing they cannot afford, paying over 30% of their income for shelter. Over 735,000 households are paying more than 50% of their income to have a roof over their head. These people are at great risk of becoming homeless. In many cases they are living in housing that is badly overcrowded or run down. Waiting lists for subsidized housing are long and growing everywhere in the country. Record numbers of people are without homes or on the edge of homelessness. In many cities the fastest growing group of homeless people is single-parent families with children.

More shelters have been built as a result of federal, provincial and community efforts. But the people in those shelters are still homeless. (Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada website.)

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society know from first-

hand experience that the housing crisis among low-income Canadians has many negative effects, on their health, as well as on a child's successful performance at school, for example. When the federal government ended participation in the funding of social housing after 1992, much damage was done. Hope re-emerged in 2001 with the Affordable Housing Framework Agreement, yet progress in the actual construction of new homes has been weak.

Quebec is the only province that has met its target and maintained a provincial housing program (National Housing and Homelessness Network, September 2005, National report card grades federal housing effort as failure.) The June 2005 budget amendments pressured the minority government to authorize an additional \$1.6 billion in new housing spending and \$100 million for energy efficiency in low income homes, but there is concern that turning the bricks into actual bricks and mortar will again be delayed by bilateral housing negotiations. (Campaign 2000, 2005 Report Card on Child Poverty in Canada.)

With such poor results, Victorians might want to ask the following questions to their newly elected representatives:

1. Will your party commit to ensuring that 25,000 new affordable housing units be built every year for the next five years?

2. How will your party work to break the federal and provincial\territorial logjam around existing affordable housing commitments?

3. Where provinces and territories won't or can't build housing, will your federal government proceed unilaterally to meet Canada's urgent housing needs?

4. How will your government work to end the housing crisis among specific groups such as Aboriginal people, female lone parent families, and newcomers to Canada?

Michael Burke, President
National Council

NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL ON THE DISASTER IN ASIA

In order to give the Society the best possible information on what has been undertaken following the « Tsunami » at the end of December, the International General Council (ICG) has decided to publish, periodically, this little newsletter. It will attempt to gather together the most important news items which reach the ICG: on the spot reports, requests for assistance, work undertaken by the SSVP and by the Council. Any news you have will be of interest to your Vincentian Brothers and Sisters! You can send your news items by email on ssvp.tsunami@ozanet.org

One year after the Tsunami tragedy in Asia, it is time to get a further update on the Society's actions. The General Assembly held in Salamanca last month was the occasion to do so; this issue of *Asi@news* will remind you what has been done so far, at international level as well as in the affected countries, and will also give details of further relief projects.

INDONESIA

The main work of the Society in Indonesia is in Nias Island, struck by yet another earthquake 3
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months after the tsunami.

The first phase of their emergency assistance project saw the National Council spending 12,800 euros including providing food and water to the victims (8,110 euros), as well as medicines (1,050 euros) and clothes (1,130 euros).

Temporary shelter for all the victims was also a concern for the Society and tents were bought (380 euros). Finally, the budget also includes transport costs of about 2,130 euros.

Having finished that first phase, the National Council now wishes to concentrate, on the one hand on providing medical assistance to victims, and on the other, on educational provision.

The Medical component of the project would involve giving medical care to 20 patients, over 6 months at a cost of 15,550 Euros.



*National President and the
International Structure visiting
a temporary school*

Because of the excellent work that is being performed in Indonesia, the ICG has decided to pay for the whole project and to send 124,000 euros to the National Council. We will keep you informed of their progress.

INDIA



*M. Thio and J. Pandian,
National President with new
boats
for victim fishermen*

As announced in previous issues of *Asi@news*, Phase 1 consists of 3 main areas :

Emergency Relief was of course the first action to be taken, in the first days after the disaster: 16,860 Euros were spent on food, utensils, clothes, water, medicines etc.

Enabling victims to go back to work was a fundamental activity: the Indian Society spent 120,830 euros on repairs to boats, supply of catamarans, nets etc. and 27,210 euros on supply of livestock, sewing machines, computers, etc.

Finally, renovation of destructed

houses is the most 'visible' action: the SSVP in India repaired and restored about 800 houses (144,630 Euros).

At the end of June, 197,120 euros are still available to finish Phase 1 by August, 2005.

The total budget for phase 1 will then be 506,650 Euros.

This project is giving very good results overall, and the International Council is receiving a full account of all the work from National Council of India



House renovated in India

The International Council is waiting for India to provide some details about their additional projects before taking any decision.

SRI LANKA

Some of the projects in Sri Lanka were reserved for students in Trincomalle, Batticaloa, Kalmunai and Jaffna Archdiocesan Council (3,840 euros) but the main part of the project was the construction of houses:



*"before and after"
SSVP impressive work....*

In the Second phase of the project, the Sri Lankan SSVP will continue its efforts in reconstruction: 50 more houses are planned to be built, for a total budget of 96,150 euros.

Self-Help projects involved the supply of carts, carpentry and masonry tools, huts etc. and this will amount to 13,800 euros

After a few more details are received, the International Council will remit a first tranche of 55,000 euros to Sri Lanka.

THAILAND

Phase 1 of the tsunami relief project in Thailand is similar to the Indian one. Its total budget is worth 65,900 euros.

First, it consisted in an emergency relief action, providing food, water, utensils and family welfare items. 25,533 euros were spent on this, thus helping many victim families.

Just as in all affected countries, repairs to houses were a major

concern for the Society, and in Thailand, this represented 11,870 euros.



A new house for a Thai family



*A fisherman family with
a new boat*

23,210 euros were also spent on the supply of boats and fishing gear, allowing affected fishing families to go back to a "normal" life as soon as possible.

With the disappearance of parents and the massive destruction, a large number of children need help for education: this has been done for a budget of 5,287 euros.

After an efficient operation in this first phase, the National Council of Thailand is ready to start the second phase of its project: it mainly consists in continuing to

International - Asia News

provide boats and tools to fishermen and workers, in repairing or constructing houses and helping children with their education.



A group of Muslim affected people helped by SSVP

The International Council General has granted 91,400 euros for this phase. The balance of 30,000 euros refers to the 10 houses that have to be constructed; the ICG is waiting for more details about this project, and will, on receipt of this informa-

tion, review and consider further remittance.

Let's keep on helping them!

Even though a great amount of money is needed, each contribution, no matter how modest, has the same symbolic value; it is a sign of fraternity and solidarity; a small amount sent by a country with little means involves a great effort, whose true worth will be appreciated.

You can send your funds to: National Council of Canada Please specify "For the Asian Disaster fund"

Thank You !



QUOTE FROM SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

"Extend mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping. For what hope is there for us if God should withdraw His mercy from us?"

- Saint Vincent de Paul

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**Vincenpaul-Canada
2006 Edition
Subscription - 15^{\$}**

Election - National Council

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA ELECTIONS

Our National President, Michael Burke, will end his term in June 2007, at the General Annual Assembly, in Kelowna, B.C. It is already time to plan for his replacement. Given that candidates to the national presidency will be invited to speak in St-John's, Newfoundland, at the June 2006 General Annual Assembly, the nomination period will end on June 10, 2006.

For the sole purpose of electing a National President, the only members by right are Presidents of aggregated Conferences, Presidents of instituted Councils, and Vice-Presidents of the National Council of Canada.

Each aggregated Conference and instituted Council President will receive from the Election Chairperson an envelope containing the call letter; nomination form; and letter of acceptance.

The nomination form must be signed by two members by right, and sent to the Election Chairperson. The candidate who accepts this nomination must send to the Election Chairperson his, or her, letter of acceptance, curriculum vitae, and a text stating the reasons why he, or she, stands for office, as well as his, or her, objectives if elected.

The letter must be endorsed and signed by five members by right of the Society of Saint Vincent de

Paul. The Election Chairperson must receive all documents at the latest on June 10, 2006.

If you have not yet received the documents in March, please contact the National Council office at 1247 Place Kilborn, Ottawa, ON K1H 6K9. Phone: (613) 738-1118, fax: (613) 738-4789, e-mail: ncc-cnc.ssvp@bellnet.ca.

Remember that the above-mentioned documents will be sent exclusively to aggregated Conference and instituted Council Presidents.

Fraternally,

Ellen Schryburt, Chairperson
National Council Election
Committee

Evangelization Mission

It will soon be 175 years that the Society's members welcome and serve the marginalized and forgotten people of the world. We are missionaries who recognize Christ suffering in every person that we console and help. In return, these people consider us as Jesus' social workers. That is who we are through our name, our volunteer commitment, and the vincentien spirituality that we bring to them. Our work as a whole announces the basic message of the Nativity: Jesus came among us for the smallest in the world.

We are missionaries in our community, through feeding and clothing the body, and converting the soul of those we serve. We do not preach, we do not proclaim the Gospel as such, we have no title nor power; it is through our solicitous actions that we transform hearts and show Christ. Whoever comes near a Vincentian finds his whole being moved. We are, often, the first relief and the last resort, and we remain close to the one suffering when everyone is gone, because we are with them. This is our mission, and we accomplish it with love,

respect, justice and joy, through Jesus Christ.

This is truly the Society's heritage, which continues today, meeting here and elsewhere in the world people of every condition, culture, and religion. Vincentians are messengers, a Good News, for the poor of the world. While we often hear about Christianity as an outdated thing, Vincentians work against this image, and through example and service, they help people they serve finding a meaning to their life.

AGA 2006 - Program

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Wednesday June 21 | 9:00AM - 9:00 PM | Registration |
| | 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Supper |
| Thursday June 22 | 7:00AM | Mass and Rosary |
| | 7:45AM - 8:45AM | Breakfast |
| | 9:00 AM - 12:00 | Workshops |
| | 9:00 - 10:00 | National Board. Meeting |
| | 10:00 - 10:30 | Coffee |
| | 11:00 - 12:00 | National Committee Meetings Twinning, Strategic Plan, Youth Spirituality, Emergency Relief |
| | 12:00 - 1:00 | Spiritual Advisors Luncheon |
| | 12:00 - 1:00 | Lunch |
| | 1:00 - 2:30 | Regional/Provincial Meetings |
| | 1:00 - 3:00 | Meeting with National President by Appointment |
| | 1:00 - 4:00 | Workshops |
| | 6:00 - 7:00 | Supper |
| | 7:00 - 10:00 | Wine and Cheese |
| Friday June 23 | 7:00AM | Mass and Rosary |
| | 7:45AM - 8:45AM | Breakfast |
| | 9:00 - 9:30 | Official Opening |
| | 9:30 - 10:15 | Keynote Address |
| | 10:15 - 10:30 | Coffee |
| | 10:30 - 11:15 | Theme Development |
| | 11:15 - 12:00 | Screening Presentation |
| | 12:00 - 1:00 | Lunch |
| | 1:00 - 2:00 | National Rule Presentation |
| | 02:30 | Bus leaves to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto |
| | 6:30 - 10:30 | Newfoundland night |
| Saturday June 24 | 7:00AM | Mass and Rosary |
| | 7:45AM - 8:45AM | Breakfast |
| | 9:00 - 10:30 | National Statutory Meeting |
| | 10:30 - 10:45 | Coffee |
| | 10:45 - 12:00 | Ratification of National Rule |
| | 12:00 - 1:00 | Lunch |
| | 1:00 - 2:00 | Regional/Provincial Reports |
| | 2:00 - 2:30 | Presentation of National Council Presidential Candidates |
| | 2:30 - 2:45 | Presentation by AGA 2007 Committee - Kelona BC |
| | 2:45 - 3:15 | Closing Remarke by National President |
| | 04:15 | Bus leaves for Basilica |
| | 05:00 | Mass at Basilica |
| | 06:30 | Reception |
| | 07:00 | Closing Banquet and Dance |

AGA 2006 - Invitation

2006 Annual General Assembly

From June 21 to 25, 2006 in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador

Upon this Rock... (Mt 16:18)

As we prepare to welcome you to St. John's June 21-25 things are heating up and we are busy-busy-busy..... Our goal is to offer at least 300 people the opportunity to experience the flavour of Newfoundland and Labrador in conjunction with a tremendous opportunity to grow in spirituality and knowledge.

More information are now available on the SSVP National website

COME JOIN US "UPON THIS ROCK..." IN JUNE 2006.

AGA 2006 - List of proposed Workshops

Thurs June 22, 2006 AM

Presenter

Topic

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Fr. Joe Quinn (English) | Baptism as the Root of our Christianity and Vincentian work |
| Fr. George Leach SJ (English) | To be announced |
| Linda Maher (English) | Recruiting Youth to the Society |
| Fr. McKenna (French) | Serving the Elderly |
| Elysme Leslie(Haiti French) | The Society in Haiti |

Thurs June 22, 2006 PM

Presenter

Topic

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Sr. Dorothy Corrigan (English) | SSVP and Fundraising |
| Rick Singleton (English) | Bringing Comfort and Meaning to the Sick |
| Fr. Joe Quinn (English) | Baptism as the Root of our Christianity and Vincentian work (Repeat) |
| Fr. George Leach SJ (English) | To be announced (Repeat) |
| Fr. McKenna (English) | Serving the Elderly (Repeat – English) |