

AG A 2007



Vincenpaul-Canada

"Come and Work in the Vineyard"

Return Address:
National Council of Canada
1247 Kilborn Place
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K1H 6K9





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**SOCIETY OF
 SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
 AGA 2007- KELOWNA, BC
 JUNE 20 TO 24**

“COME AND WORK IN THE VINEYARD”

BC and Yukon Regional Council look forward to welcoming you to Kelowna this June.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

A FEW HELPFUL REMINDERS:

Accommodation is booked directly through UBC OKANAGAN
 TOLL FREE 1-877-589-6073,
 ONLINE AT www.okanagan.ubconference.com
 or you can send us the registration form on page 19

More complete info as well as registration forms and accommodation booking forms can be found on our regional website:

www.ssvp.bc.ca/2007aga.html

or on the National Council website at **www.ssvp.ca**

- Please note the revision of meal prices on registration form (central pages of this issue)
- T-shirts are available to pre purchase with at least 2 weeks prior notice, see registration form for details (central pages of this issue)

SEE YOU IN JUNE!

YOU ARE MOVING ! PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEW ADDRESS

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 Name of your Council or Conference: _____

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President's Word - Michael Burke

Dear Brother and Sister Vincentians,
May the Peace and Joy of the Risen Lord be with you all.

It is very difficult to believe that a six year term is coming to an end and that this will be my last edition of the President's word.

In fact I have about 80 days left in office as I write this article having served about 2,110 days since my installation.

I have no intentions to recap any achievements of the past six years as this work is always better left to the historians, and any accomplishments were achieved by the hard working executive and not by one person. I would, however, like to thank a litany of people who have facilitated this journey and made it all so memorable.

First and foremost I want to thank my wife Margo who has always been there to listen to me ranting, edited and corrected all my articles, was a constant "voice of sober second thought" and spent many weekends by herself as I attended meetings around the country and the world. She has contributed far more than anyone can imagine to this shared ministry with little or no recognition – Many Thanks.

Next the Past Presidents – Ellen Schryburt and Bob Martineau – Ellen

continued to work on the Vincenpaul for a few years, handled much of the translation requirements from the International Council General and was active on the National Rule Committee, while Bob was always available for "elder statesman" consultation and acted as an advisor on the National Rule Committee.

Next the National Executive Committee – where most of the "heavy lifting" gets done. As many of you are aware, there are many conditions that, while not written, are there when trying to put together an Executive Committee for the National Council of Canada, – considerations like geography (trying to get representation from the five varied regions), gender balance (Canada is far ahead of any country in the developed world in this respect), and language considerations (we do have two "Official" languages in Canada).

Once those considerations are met the group must also contain the right people to "do the work", which is at times a much greater challenge. Having spent six years "in training" as a Vice-president in Past President Ellen's Executive, I had time to think about if I did run and were elected, whom I would ask to be part of the Executive; thus if I was elected, the selection of an Executive Committee would not be a random act. Needless to say I was very delighted that everyone that I asked to be part of the Executive Committee accepted, and



*Michael Burke,
National Council President*

secondly I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the efforts and work of the three Vice-presidents: Clermont Fortin, Penny Craig and Kathy Weswick. These three individuals who barely knew each other at the start of the mandate quickly came together and gelled into a dynamic hard working efficient machine. The other members of the Executive include previously mentioned Past-President Ellen, Treasurer Germain Soulingny (and previous Treasurers Jean-Marc Tousignant and Yves Dion), Spiritual Advisor Msgr Peter Schoenbach (and Previous Spiritual advisors Fr. Jean Picher and Msgr Andre Drouin), Youth Representative John O'Flynn (and previous Youth Reps Martin Thompson and Benoit Malo) and advisor (legal) Pierre Morissette.

All of these people made the job of president much more like an orchestra leader than a day labourer. I cannot possibly put into words my expression of thanks on behalf of all those that we serve for the work that these people contributed over the past six years.

President's Word - Michael Burke

Lastly but not least, I want to thank all the members of the Society for their support and prayers during my illness; many people like my dear friend Sister Lucille Nantel kept me in their prayers every day. I am pleased to report to you that your prayers are working - many thanks.

The National Council moved its National Office to Ottawa during this mandate and for the first time hired an Executive Director. Jean-Noel Cormier was the first to fill this post and has been a delight to work with. On behalf of the National Council and all the Vincentians I want to thank Jean-Noel for all his efforts.

And finally, it is my pleasure to report that our National Rule has been approved by David Williams the person charged with reviewing and approving National Council Rules for the International Council General and it is being forwarded to the International Executive Committee for final ratification on June 08, 2007. This means that the "Voting Members" (no longer referred to as "Members by Right") for the 2007 AGA will be as defined in the 2007 edition of the Rule namely all Presidents of Instituted Councils (period). A letter has been sent to all the previous Members by Right as well as all the Presidents of Instituted Councils advising them of this change. This change does have an effect on those who will be voting at the next AGA, i.e. President's of

"Isolated Conferences" are no longer Voting Members and Presidents of Particular Councils that are part of Central Councils are Voting Members. This change is seen as an improvement in representation according to population. The net result is only an increase of about 4 or 5 additional Voting Members but the distribution is more balanced according to membership.

The writing of the Rule was certainly a Herculean task completed by many people with input by members from coast to coast. One of the key members of the committee at the start was Barry Granary from Kelowna BC. Unfortunately during the early work on the Rule Barry succumbed to a battle with cancer. In remembrance of Barry and in recognition of his work as a Vincentian brother and Rule Committee member, the Board of Directors is pleased and proud to dedicate the new Rule to the memory of our dear brother Barry. It is indeed fitting that the Rule will be first available for presentation to the membership at the 2007 AGA in Kelowna.

The AGA in Kelowna will also see the installation of President Elect Penny Craig. Penny, as most of you know, has been a Vice-president with the National Council for the past six years and will be a very good 15th National President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada. I now invite all members of the Society to

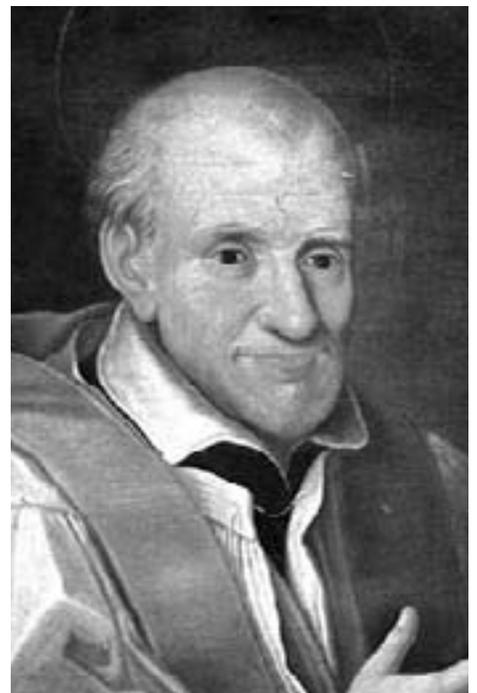
place your support and prayers behind Penny as she undertakes the great work of the Society for those we serve.

He has Risen - Halleluiah



Michael Burke
Soon to be Past President
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada

**"We must do what is most agreeable to God. Therefore we do what our Lord Jesus Christ did when preaching the Gospel. We must go to the poor."
-Vincent de Paul**





*Mgr Peter Schonenbach
National Spiritual Advisor*

THREE PRINCIPLES OF VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY:

While it is true that all Christian spirituality has its mandate coming from the Chrismation at Baptism when the minister tells the baptized individual to follow Jesus, Priest, Prophet and King. It follows that we must strive to be people of prayer, people knowledgeable and authentic, as well as being living and courageous witnesses.

However various spiritualities distinguish themselves through particular characteristics. It seems to me

that three principles give its particularity to Vincentian spirituality:

It is a community based spirituality. Its object is the service to the person in need.

What is most important is raising the dignity and self-esteem of the person in need.

What is meant by the phrase, community based spirituality?

The source of Vincentian Spirituality is found in the prayer and study that takes place at the Conference meeting. That is the context where this particular spirituality finds nourishment and life. This means that this part of the regular meeting must not be neglected, nor done in a haphazard way. Let us take this moment as one of special importance. We may have much work to do but it is of great profit to take the time to put our intentions before God and to invite him to be part of our team.

If the source of our spirituality is the Conference meeting, the object

of our spirituality is the person in need. The attention we bring to such a person should be filled with divine love since our action becomes the touch of God upon the said person who is a child of the Heavenly Father. Understanding our actions as part of the divine plan turns our work into prayer.

The third principle flows from the second; it is raising the dignity and self-esteem of the person we are assisting. Our spirituality comes into its own when we take the time and effort to bring about this growth in the assisted person. We are not only bringing material assistance, but we are giving the clear and univocal message that the brother or sister before us has inestimable value in the eyes of God.

In short we are spiritual because we are members of a Conference and this spirituality takes life as we visit the person in need and it flourishes when through our action, the love of God touches the person we assist.

Mgr Peter Schonenbach

SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

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Vincenpaul-Canada 2007 Edition - Subscription - 15^{\$}

Confeder@tioNews
News from the Society
all over the world.
N° 5 – 20 February 2007

Meeting of the Africa Commission and all the African Presidents of the SSVP

NAIROBI
22-28 February 2007

In December 2005, faced with the suffering on the African continent, the Executive Committee approved the creation of an Africa Commission, given the task of preparing an action plan in collaboration with other branches of the Vincentian family and international agencies. The options for coordinated, viable action will be evaluated, in order to address the most vital needs of the 53 countries in Africa.

The preparation phase for this plan is to last for two years, 2006 - 2007. After selecting the members of the Commission, 2006 was spent collecting a vast amount of information, from each of the 37 African countries in which the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is present: socio-economic data, details of poverty in each country, whether or not international agencies are present (NGOs, United Nations, etc.), among other things.

Using this information, 2007 will be devoted specifically to drawing up the action plan, which should be operational by 2008. First of all, the needs observed will be linked to the possible actions, bearing in mind the available resources (people,

presence on the ground, experience, etc.) of the local SSVP, the contribution that could be made by the Council General, and any other factors concerned. In May 2007, the Commission must report its conclusions to the Council General, and make recommendations for strategies it will apply.

AFRICAN COMMISSION PRAYER

May Jesus' spirit of service,
fill our heart as we work together
to make recommendations for
a better life for those suffering
many forms of poverty
and isolation.

Help us to listen to what your
spirit is saying to us. Give us
wisdom, give us strength and
give us courage to hear the
cry of the poor and of those
who fight against despair
every day

The Commission will therefore meet for the first time from February 22 to 28 in Nairobi, Kenya, with all the African Presidents of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, in the presence of the African Structure (VPTI, coordinators) and the whole of the office staff of the Council General of the International Confederation of the Society. Mr. Yves Verré, Coordinator of the Convention (France-Belgium/CGI) for French-speaking Africa, who for more than a year has been doing admirable work on the structure of the Society in several countries, will be present as an observer to given the Commission the benefit of his

experience, as well as to define the boundaries for coexistence of the two entities.

We will of course, keep you up to date with the work from this historic meeting in Nairobi.

NEW ZEALAND: a young Society!

Although we place enormous value on the experience of our senior» members, youth is also one of the Society's strengths. The SSVP in New Zealand has announced it has 2645 young Vinnies» in the country, organised by 14 youth coordinators: this is around 70% of the total membership of 3945 Vincentians in the country! Kelly Richards, the National Youth Officer, is expecting an increase of more than 10% within a year.

This amazing team of young people tries in particular to interest other young people in Frédéric Ozanam, and encourages them to leave their comfortable homes to visit people in need. They provide help to children, to the handicapped, to old people, those in prison; they organise parties, various collections, holiday camps for children and young people and many other activities.



Vinnies at a children's
Christmas party

“ Prayer and friendship are central to our work and if you can support us this way - that would be awesome!” they write on their website <http://www.youngvinnies.org.nz>

NEW SOURCES OF FUNDING: AN INITIAL PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE EU



Marina Kadner,
responsible
for fund-raising

As you know, the Council General of the Confederation is trying to find new sources of funding and has recently recruited a staff member for this. Producing the application dossier to submit to funding bodies has been a long and careful job, but the very first project was sent to the European Union in January.

It relates to an excellent agricultural development project for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Burundi, intended to improve reliability of food supplies for local people. It allows us to help with sustainable agricultural development and family-run farms, diversifying crops while respecting the environment, ensuring contingencies are in place to cope with vagaries of the climate or sickness, developing storage infrastructures to provide reserves, using a micro credit system to develop animal husbandry and help with self-sufficiency, etc. We should also point out that one of the members of the Superior Council is a specialist agricultural engineer.



A. Sindayigaya,
Pdt of SSVP
Burundi

Of course there are many obstacles to overcome and we have no guarantee that our application for funds will be successful, but we have taken the first vital step in this very new activity of the Council General.

VinPaz - ZAMBIA: Ozanam farm becomes independent

As planned from the start, the collaboration between VinPaz and the Zambia Superior Council for development of the Ozanam farm at Chibombo ended on 31 December 2006.

The 5 year commitment of the VinPaz volunteers and the support of the Society throughout the world has enabled the infrastructure of the farm to be established and the Superior Council of Zambia can now manage it alone, as a self-sufficient enterprise. A ceremony will be held in March 2007, in the presence of José-Ramón Díaz-Torremocha, President General and Erich Schmitz, Secretary General and former VinPaz Coordinator.



T. Kangwa (right), national president and L. Tuomey, VinPaz coordinator on the farm with two VinPaz volunteers

Middle East: let us support the Jerusalem Conference!

Three months ago, after the October IEC meeting, we appealed on behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Middle East: here are some examples of activities that the St Sepulchre Conference in Jerusalem wants to pursue.



Education and Vocational Training

One of the Conference's main schemes allows 50 young people still at school but not planning to go to university, to enrol in training courses and studies that will help them to find a decent job in Jerusalem. The cost of this is US \$ 1,200 per year / per person, or \$ 60,000 a year.

The Conference also supports families which cannot afford the kindergarten fees for young children. The budget for this is \$ 22,500 a year for 25 children. For both these schemes, the beneficiaries are selected by the Conference's volunteer social worker.

Child sponsorship

The Society also has a child sponsorship programme: the money given allows children to receive education, medical care, sometimes a family, contact with God and a

future.

There are two types of support provided: contribution to the general fund for child sponsorship, and support for a specific child, where the child is introduced to the donor for a long-term relationship.

Health and medicine

Many Christian families in Jerusalem do not subscribe to the Israeli state Medical Insurance scheme. The St Sepulchre Conference supports several families for the cost of health care (consultations, treatment, and medicines) or to help them pay their insurance contributions. The annual budget for 25 families is \$ 27,600.

The Society in Jerusalem also gives occasional or regular material help to more than 100 families of the Holy City, particularly elderly people. The annual cost of this work is around \$22,000.

The Jerusalem Conference needs your support to continue its work and help Christian families stay in the Holy Land! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

The Society of St Vincent de Paul in Cuba

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the Vinpaz Commission continue to work in the poorest countries of the Caribbean. While the work in Haiti proceeds fruitfully, the International Territorial Vice-President for Centre-North America, Eduardo Gomez and the Vinpaz Spiritual Director (now also SSVP Spiritual Director), Father

Teodoro Barquín, visited Cuba in summer 2006.

The potential for apostolate by the Society in Cuba is huge, in terms both of material help to the very poorest and also in spiritual needs. Although the Society in Cuba was very vigorous and dynamic during the first half of the twentieth century, it is now down to only 5 Conferences, but these operate extremely well, under the care of their National Council and their Spiritual Director, Father Jesus Lusarreta, C.M.. There are still serious problems, with much of their work being forbidden or closely monitored by the State.

At their meetings with their Cuban brothers and sisters, E. Gomez and Fr. Barquín found that many of them, previously atheists, had come back to the Society at the invitation of a fellow Vincentian, motivated by love of and solidarity with the poor. Many of them have subsequently been baptised, or had their marriages blessed by the Church.

Three Conferences run day centres or offer meals and medical care to around 160 elderly people; most Vincentians help to repair or reno-



E. Gomez and Fr. Barquin visiting Cuban Vincentians

vate very dilapidated housing; they also provide significant help to the families of disabled people; there is also a project for repairing old refrigerators, an essential service for helping to protect the health and nutrition of vulnerable people, since it is impossible to obtain new ones.

All these projects are very important, and must be supported in order to continue; all donations will of course be extremely welcome!

*Source et photo :
revue Ozanam, SSVP Espagne*

NEWS OF OZANET.ORG!

Every week, check out the news in brief on www.ozanet.org!

News about Council General.
A Vincentian international event.
Good news for the Society. You'll find it all every Monday on your international web page!

Visit it regularly!

For the last few months, we have been sending Confeder@tioNews to all Superior Councils and Vincentian editorial teams, asking them to distribute it widely, and include it in their magazines, etc. We would love to receive your comments on it to cgi.information@ozanet.org

Thank you!

**WORLD YOUTH DAYS in AUSTRALIA
July 15 to 20th, 2008**

WYD 08 is intended for people aged between 16 and 35 years old to gather and pray together. Youth younger than 16 years can participate but must be accompanied by a parent or a guardian. Volunteers and group leaders must be at least 18.

HYPERLINK

"<http://www.wyd2008.org/>" "<http://www.wyd2008.org/>" www.wyd2008.org will provide information for any interested Vincentian in both French and English.

On July 16, 2008 the Australian National Council of St. Vincent de Paul is hosting this day within the official WYD programme. The "Vinnies" have hired Bec Bromhead as the WYD Coordinator for the National Council. Bec can be reached by phone at 02 6202 1200 or by e-mail at [HYPERLINK "mailto:becb@svdnpnatcl.org.au" becb@svdnpnatcl.org.au](mailto:becb@svdnpnatcl.org.au)

A 3 day programme preceding the World Youth Days -- A 'FAM VIN (Vincentian Family)' gathering will occur in Bathurst July 9-13 - a few hours outside of Sydney at a local college.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.vinnies.org.au/wyd/international>" "<http://www.vinnies.org.au/wyd/international>" www.vinnies.org.au

[wyd/international](http://www.wyd2008.org/)

This site will give you more particulars about this event and this site will tell you more about the Vincentian Family at **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.famvin.org>" www.famvin.org

The National Canadian Council is encouraging young Vincentians to attend events in Australia and Councils at all levels will be asked to share and propose participation of local youth to WYD.

GUATEMALA AND CANADA

Young adults from Ontario are officially twinned with Conferencias Medalla Milagrosa y Santa Catalina Laboure, La Antigua, Guatemala. This Conference has a primary school for underprivileged kids called the St. Vincent de Paul House. It is run by both youth conferences and located in Jocotenango (a poor sector of La Antigua). At the end of 2004, 5 of the 20 aggregated conferences in Guatemala were youth conferences. Members of the Youth conferences feed (morning and noon meals) and teach to about 40 kids living in the area. Sundays are busy as all are taken to church and fed. Parents have to pay to register and send their kids to school in Guatemala; furthermore, poor kids do not go to

schools if they have to work (selling trinkets or t-shirts in the streets or at markets, or bring water, or other chores), parents often work long hours and need all the help (from their children) they can get to meet basic needs, etc. The St Vincent de Paul School is meant to give education (promoting regular attendance at school) and food to those children, and care for them all day.

Since October 2004, an ongoing project involves the construction of a 3rd floor to the school to serve as a meeting place for activities. Costs were estimated at 72,000 quetzals (2,000 quetzals = approx. \$14,000 Cdn dollars)

Communication between Canada and Guatemala has been best served by e-mail. Mail delivery is not efficient in Guatemala but the address of record is:

Calle Real de Jocotenango, zona 1, Residenciales El Pedregal, No. 3, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, C.A.

Most youth in Guatemala do not have knowledge of the English language. So, Spanish speaking individuals has been of great help with communications between the countries.

Over the next 12 to 18 months a

Youth

visit by a group of Canadian Vincentians to La Antigua is in our prayers and planning stages. This would be coordinated with the twinning brothers and sisters in Jocotenango. What is of interest for all is that the school year is not the same as in Canada; holidays are in December and January.

Raising funds for the trip and to meet project needs will be the ongoing goal of preparation. Not all the money for the project has to be raised before the trip as it can be completed over a few years as long as Vincentians agree on a time line for the completion of the project.

Studying the Spanish language and getting to know Guatemala (the

country, its people, history including the civil war which ended in 1996, socio-economic conditions) are to be considered, along with inoculations, passports, airline tickets, accommodations and to bring some small gifts for the kids and twinning youth. The most important aspects of the twinning is to treat our Guatemalan Vincentian youth with respect (many are of Maya descent) and develop genuine relations with them, and also to pray with them.

Check out [HYPERLINK "http://www.ozanet.org"](http://www.ozanet.org) www.ozanet.org where you will find a 7 minute video called **GUATEMALA PACUTAMÀ II**

PROJECT which gives a sense of our Vincentian brother and sisters in Guatemala. The following Guatemalan contacts are:

- Jose Vinicio Garcia Catavi [HYPERLINK "mailto:jovenvicenca@yahoo.com"](mailto:jovenvicenca@yahoo.com) jovenvicenca@yahoo.com Guatemala Young Adult
- Cristobal Garcia [HYPERLINK "mailto:cristobal791028@yahoo.es"](mailto:cristobal791028@yahoo.es) cristobal791028@yahoo.es Guatemala Young Adult
- Ana Miriam de Leon [HYPERLINK "mailto:ssvpguatemala@hotmail.com"](mailto:ssvpguatemala@hotmail.com)

John O'Flynn
National Council of Canada

THE WYD 2008 LOGO

The logo distils the essence of the theme for WYD08:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8).

It highlights the promise made by Jesus to set fire upon the Earth by the power of the Holy Spirit which inspires the Pilgrims who come to Australia, to believe and witness to Him.

Central to the logo is the Cross raised in victory, representing Christ and the life of witness which the Holy Spirit enables. It is the passion of the heart of Christ,

poured out into the world from the Cross, which consumes the young people of Sydney, of Australia and of the world. The whiteness of the Cross indicates that Jesus is the light of the world.

The flames of the logo represent the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in tongues of fire. They evoke the Sacrament of Confirmation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The colours of red, orange and yellow flowing throughout symbolise the Trinity and Unity of God. They also bring to mind the colours of the Australian outback.

The blue of the logo represents the oceans that surround Australia, the waters of Baptism, the sea of humanity and Mary, full of grace.

The Opera House is the symbol of Sydney, the host city for World Youth Day 2008.

For more information on the Sydney 2008 WYD, visit the official web site: www.wyd2008.org



SCHOOLS, YOUTH AND THE SOCIETY ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

The Vancouver Island Catholic Schools and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul joined together to develop a curriculum that prepares students in the Catholic Schools for participation in the works of the St. Vincent De Paul. Teachers are provided with the tools they need to inspire today's students to begin grappling with the issues of poverty and to assist children in realizing the powerful role they can play in addressing the root causes of poverty. The Catholic Schools provide support to those in need on Vancouver Island by holding sock,

mitten and toque drives, turkey raffles, food and toiletry drives, as well as many other student initiatives. During the Christmas season, St. Andrew's High School students volunteer in the Society's Social Concern food bank.

Plans are being discussed for a Catholic Schools 5 km walkathon to raise funds as part of the St. Vincent de Paul Awareness Week. This special week begins on World Food Day, October 16th and continues through Mission Sunday, October 21st. The Society on Vancouver Island sets aside this week where the members, staff and volunteers will collectively raise awareness of St. Vincent de Paul as

well as thank donors who support the Society within the community. Efforts are being made to present the Society's works in public and independent schools by various Vincentians and the possible formation of a South Island youth Conference is further renewing the efforts of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, who when he was a 20 year old university student in 1833, founded the first Conference.

John O'Flynn
National Council of Canada

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S MARY'S HOME – 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Anniversaries are a wonderful time. They allow for taking time – time to reflect on challenges and accomplishments; time to thank those responsible for the efforts and successes; time to celebrate; time to look forward to new goals, opportunities and challenges.

Mary's Home 10th anniversary celebration on March 22, 2007 was no exception. Current and past residents, staff, representatives of the Archdiocese, other special guests, Toronto Central Council Board members and staff came together to thank God and each other for all that has contributed to the success of Mary's Home. We were very pleased

to have Rev. Msgr. Sam Bianco present to bless and re-dedicate the Home, as he did at the opening and the 5th anniversary.

Sr. Theresa Campeau, Director of Mary's Home since it's opening, was obviously experiencing a number of emotions on this day. She was clearly bursting with pride in her staff and in the service they have been able to provide to women in need over the past 10 years. There was also some sadness in that Sister has been asked by her order to take on a new challenge. Sister expressed gratitude and best wishes to the current and former residents, the staff, and those who have so faithfully supported the home. She also congratulated and welcomed the new Director, Bolanle Oluwole-Rotimi.

The highlight of the event was the

testimonials given by former residents. Both spoke passionately and frankly about the challenges they have faced and how the staff at Mary's Home helped them to regain hope and to have the courage and skills to turn their lives around. It was a moving experience for all present.

Mary's Home offers a safe, supportive community for women experiencing homelessness and personal crisis. Since the time our doors first opened in 1996, Mary's Home has served 8,188 women in need of emergency housing. Mary's Home offers a welcoming environment where staff encourages personal growth through companionship and commitment.

Toronto Central Council

Councils in Action

Recently, whenever we help people here in La Pocatière, Quebec, at the end of our conversation, we ask them to join our work by praying for someone. We have a very specific person in mind when we do so: Céline, one of our volunteers. She is waiting for a heart transplant. A hereditary disease caused her problems, and she is presently very, very weak. She is only 51 years old.

We ask people to think about her every morning, and to say a prayer for her, asking the Lord to help her. We suggest to them to only tell the Lord that they are praying for Céline, from the SSVP in La Pocatière, and that He will understand everything. The other day, a 23-year-old youth whom we had asked to pray, said, "OK, I'll drop a prayer for her everyday." We liked what he said, "drop a prayer". That is his way of talking, and he was very serious. We have seen him since, and he says that he still prays for her.

Another man, 50 or so, told us that he would send "positive thoughts", and I specified that what I was asking for were prayers. Céline is a convinced believer, and prayer is what she likes. He said, "Right, it makes sense, I might start praying again with that. I haven't prayed for years." He then added, "My father is in heavens, perhaps I could ask him to help." We told him that it was a very good idea.

For one year now, we have been asking people we help to join our work by praying for someone. We started

that last year when another volunteer had to have eye surgery.

What we notice is incredible. People completely change the way they behave with us. They look at us in a positive way. It is probably because we ask them to do something they feel they can do. And we always tell them that all they do is to give something to someone in need, and therefore, to play a role in the SSVP's work. Sometimes I meet them at the supermarket or in similar places. They talk to me, asking me how Céline is doing. They are not shy about talking to me. We tell them that they contributed to boosting Céline's spirits, since she knows that so many people are praying for her.

That is good for Céline as well, because since February 2006, she cannot work actively for the SSVP, and she misses that. I told her on the phone the other day that she is accomplishing extraordinary work, since several people are starting to pray again because of her.

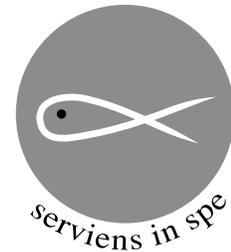
Céline is going back to the Laval hospital in Quebec tomorrow, to get results from all the tests that she has undergone in the past two months to see if her body is strong enough to go through a transplant. The doctors told her that only a transplant would help her, nothing else.

Therefore, I ask every one of you to "drop a prayer" for Céline. She will be very grateful – and we will as well. I will mention it to her tonight,

telling her that we are "calling upon everyone" through the SSVP network.

Thank you very much,

Jacquelyne Lord



**YOU WANT
TO CONTACT US?**

**SOCIETY OF SAINT OF
VINCENT DE PAUL
National Council of Canada
1247 Kilborn Place
Ottawa ON K1H 6K9
Tel: 613 738-1118
Fax: 613 738 4789
E-mail: national@ssvp.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!

AGA 2007 - Program

2007 NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY KELOWNA, BC PROGRAMME AND ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

8:00 am – 10:00 pm	Airport Shuttles	As required
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Optional Wine Tour	Depart from Similkameen Residence
1:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Afternoon Wine Tour	Depart from Similkameen Residence
1:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Registration & Hospitality-	Monashee Lounge
5:30 pm	Dinner	Sun Room in Student Services Bldg

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

7:00 am – 7:15 am	Rosary	Arts 103
7:15 am – 7:45 am	Mass	Arts 103
7:30 am – 8:45 am	Breakfast	Sun Room
8:00 am – 10:00 pm	Airport Shuttle	As required
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Arts Atrium
8:30 am – 8:45 am	Opening Prayer & Remarks	Sun Room
	Fr. Pat Monette & Msgr. Schonenbach	Sun Room
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	National Board Meeting	Arts 183
9:00 am – 10:15 am	Workshops – Session I	Arts Building
10:00 am – 5:00 pm	Hospitality Room	Arts Atrium
	National Sales Table	Arts Atrium
10:15 am – 10:45 am	Nutrition Break	Arts Foyer
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	Workshops – Session II	Arts Building
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch	Sun Room
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Panel & Round Tables – Session III	Arts Building
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Nutrition Break	Arts Foyer
3:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Panel & Round Tables - Session IV	Arts Classrooms
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Dinner	Sun Room
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Welcome Reception	Sun Room
7:00 pm	Official Welcoming	

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

7:00 am – 7:15 am	Rosary	Arts 103
7:15 am – 7:45 am	Mass	Arts 103
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	Sun Room
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration	Arts Atrium
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Pick up Headsets	Deli Foyer
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Official Opening & Keynote	Grand Theatre SSC 026
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Hospitality Room	Arts Atrium
10:00 am – 2:00 pm	National Sales Table	Atrium in Arts Bldg
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Nutrition Break	Arts Atrium
11:00 am – 12:15 pm	Workshops – Session V	Arts Building

AGA 2007 - Program

FRIDAY, JUNE 22 (SUITE)

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch Spiritual Advisors Luncheon	Sun Room TBA
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	National Committee Meetings Strategic Planning & Provincial/Regional Meetings	Arts 183 Arts Classrooms
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Nutrition Break	Arts Foyer
4:45 pm	Buses Leave for Fr. Pandosy Mission (with a brief tour along the way)	Outside Monashee Residence
6:15 pm	Arrival at Father Pandosy Mission	
6:30 pm	Rosary of Service	Father Pandosy Mission
7:00 pm	BBQ and 'Stomp'	St. Charles Garnier Parish
9:30 pm & 10:30 pm	Buses return	UBCO Campus

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

7:00 am – 7:15 am	Rosary	Monashee Residence / Outdoors
7:15 am – 7:45 am	Mass	Monashee Residence / Outdoors
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	Sun Room
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	National Sales Table Hospitality Room	Arts Atrium Arts Atrium
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Pick up Headsets	Deli Foyer
9:00 am – 10:15 am	Provincial/Regional Reports	Grand Theatre SSC 026
10:15 am – 10:30 am	Quebec City 2008 Presentation	Grand Theatre SSC 026
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Nutrition Break	Deli Foyer
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	National Committee Reports	Grand Theatre SSC 026
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch	Sun Room
1:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Statutory Meeting Closing Remarks by National President Introduction of New President and Executive	Grand Theatre SSC 026
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Grab and Go Snack	
4:45 pm	Buses leave for Immaculate Conception Parish	
5:30 pm	Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish Commissioning to follow Mass	
6:45 pm	Buses return to UBCO	
7:15 pm	Banquet at UBCO Entertainment and Dance to follow	Sun Room

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

7:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	Sun Room
7:30 am	Rosary	Okanagan Room
Shuttles to Airport	As needed	Monashee Lounge



Conferences and Accommodation

at The University of British Columbia Okanagan

3180 University Way

Kelowna, BC V1V 1V8

Ph: 250-807-8055

Fax: 250-807-9157

Toll Free: 1-877-589-6073

Email: conferences.ubco@ubc.ca

Website:

www.okanagan.ubconferences.com

GROUP RESERVATION FORM

Please complete the following Reservation Form and return it by mail or fax with your deposit. – Or better yet phone our Toll Free Number Reservations are not definite until confirmed by our office.

by the Conference Centre. A confirmation letter will be emailed or mailed to the address below upon receipt of reservation request.

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____

Prov./State: _____ PC/ZIP: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name of Group/Organization: Society of St. Vincent de Paul Annual General Assembly June 20-24, 2007

We have DELUXE STUDIOS AND APARTMENTS with Cable TV, Internet, Phone, Coffee Maker and much more!

Room Type	# Rooms	Arrival Date	Departure Date	Room Rate	Deluxe ✓
Room with Semi-Private Bath Brand New single room with shared washroom between each room. Single bed, desk, closet.				\$30 May-June \$2.40 w/taxes	
Single Room – 1 single bed and desk, shared washroom facilities down the hall				\$25 May - June \$2.25 w/taxes	N/A
Quad Apartment – 4-bedroom apartment, each bedroom has a 1 single bed and desk, sharing a kitchen and private bathroom, with shower.				\$100 May - June \$117.00 w/tax	N/A
Studio – 1 room studio with 2 single beds or 1 queen bed, a kitchen and a private bath with shower.				\$60 May - June \$7.20 w/taxes	\$75 May - June \$87.75 w/taxes
1 Bedroom Apartment – 1 queen or 2 single beds in the bedroom, a hide-a-bed in the living room, with a kitchen and full bath.				\$80 May - June \$9.60 w/taxes	\$95 May - June \$111.15 w/taxes \$122.85 w/taxes

* Check in time is after 3:00 PM

Check out time is before 11:00 AM * Minimum 2 night stay on weekends

Rates are subject to 8% Hotel Sales Tax, 2% Municipal Tax and 7% GST.

We will attempt to accommodate your request for the Deluxe Studio or Apartment, however, availability is limited.

Please indicate names of who you want to share with if booking studio or quad: _____

Your Accommodation Includes

All rooms are set with linen, towels, soap and drinking glass. For reservations of 3 or more days, towels will be exchanged every 2nd day and rooms will receive room service and sheet change on the 4th day. If guests require additional towels, they can be exchanged at the Front Desk during office hours.

Kitchens (except for the deluxe rooms) are not equipped with plates and cooking utensils. They may be rented for a small fee. Roll away beds are available for an additional \$10.00 per night and can be used in the Quad or 1-bedroom Apartments only. We recommend that roll away beds and kitchen kits be reserved in advance to ensure availability.

Deposit, Payment and Cancellation Policy

In order to confirm your reservation a credit card guarantee or a deposit of the first night room and tax is required. For cancellations within 48 hours of arrival, a one night room & tax charge will be processed. Full payment is due upon arrival. Cheques make payable to UBCO Conference Services.

Please Circle Payment Method: Master Card Visa Cheque

Card #: _____ Expiry: _____ Deposit Paid: \$ _____

We look forward to welcoming you to UBCO!