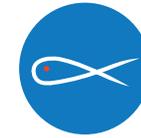


TRAINING TODAY

Vincenpaul

CANADA

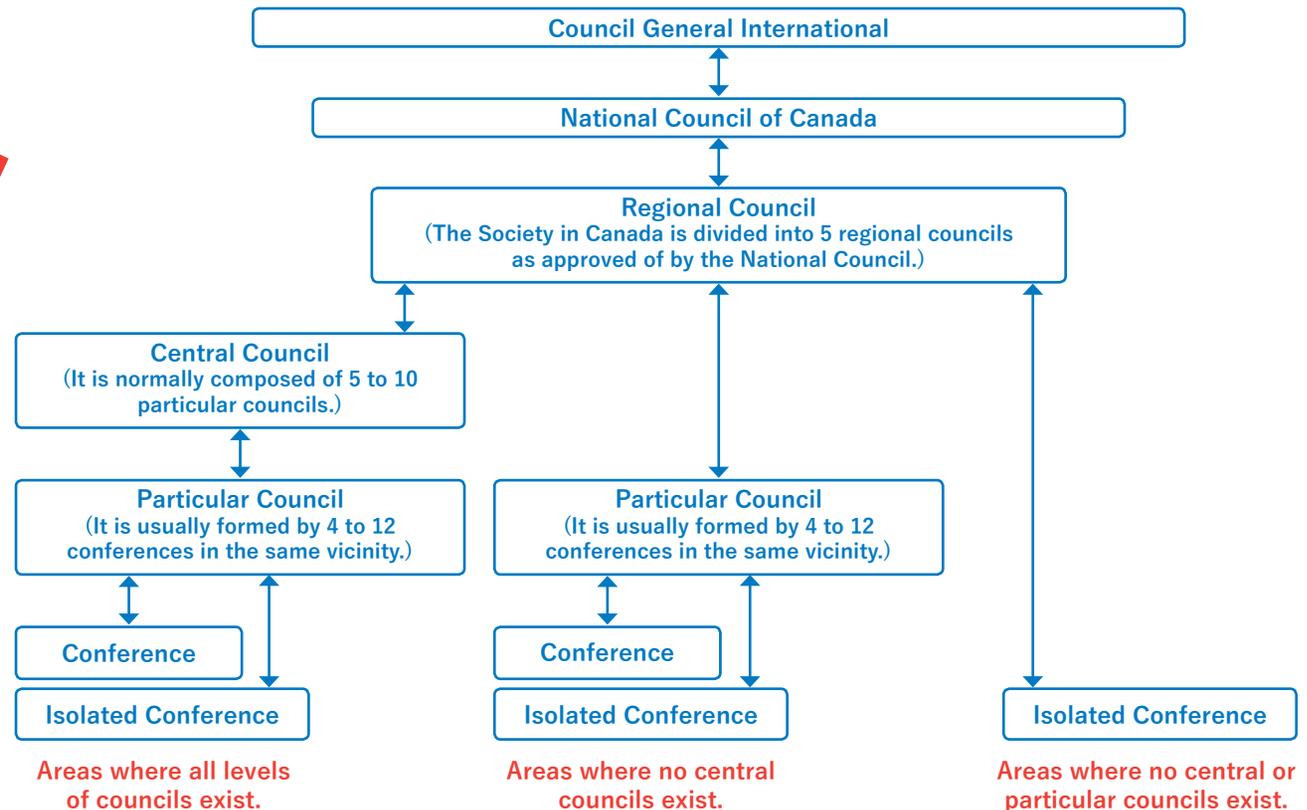


The newsletter of the
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
Volume 1 no. 6 - December 2017

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CLICKABLE!



Sharing our Vincentian Love, Knowledge and Experience!

WELCOME - TO THE FIRST EDITION OF TRAINING TODAY

As you know, the Vincenpaul newsletter has gone paperless. No more need to subscribe, no more waiting for mail delivery. Distribution can now grow exponentially, as it will be as easy as an email click away. Along with switching the delivery mode, the number and types of Vincenpaul newsletters have been revised too.

There are now 10 editions a year, available in both official languages and in a printable version (i.e. no photos, only text). Five editions will be dedicated to the regions; their regional operations and articles, such as special projects, special works, social justice, youth, meetings – one issue for each region throughout the year; then 3 Social Justice editions, and 2 Training editions. The Training editions will be published in December and April.

This is a new venture for the National Training Committee, so we are in discovery and exploration mode. What do we publish, what should we focus on? What would the regions, councils, conferences and members expect or want from a Training newsletter? You need to educate us. We have our own email address education@ssvp.ca.

So we begin this edition by introducing the existing Training Committee, a small but determined group. We also welcome the collaboration of Claude Bédard, National Spirituality Chair, who will be adding training/learning spirituality based articles to our editions.

We believe that every Vincentian needs mind and heart (soul) training to help us learn and grow in our mission “to serve Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy”, so we look forward to sharing our Training edition with Claude and his spiritual advisors, who are in reality the spiritual trainers of our Society. Welcome to the Training Committee!

We offer an article titled “SSVP Training in Canada” – an outline of the existing responsibilities for training delivery across our levels of operations. We also offer a DID YOU KNOW? article listing a selection of postings, policy announcements and upcoming ‘chores’ like the Annual Reports. We are publishing an early Call for Workshops along with suggestions for improving the 2018 lineup and scheduling.

We ask for suggestions for future training initiatives, and also for any region, council, conference or committee to share your best practices and training sessions and material with us so that we all learn how to do things “better”.

We ask for your help to develop those Training editions into learning experiences for all Vincentians. Those publications belong to you, not us. The committee exists to support the members, not the other way round.

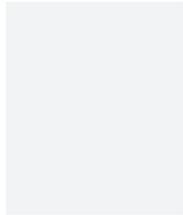
Mary, Judy, Madeleine, Kathy

**LOOK FOR
REGULAR TRAINING
INFORMATION,
GUIDELINES &
OTHER ARTICLES IN
FUTURE EDITIONS
OF THE VINCENPAUL
MAGAZINE AND
ON THE NATIONAL
WEBSITE.
WWW.SSVP.CA.**

QUESTIONS...

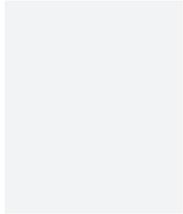
Contact us by email
education@ssvp.ca

INTRODUCING THE TEAM



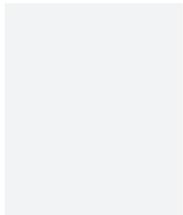
MARY GRAD - GUELPH ON - NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

A member of Our Lady Immaculate Conference in Guelph for over 16 years and a past President of the conference, Mary Grad is presently Chair of the National Training Committee and the Ontario representative. She has served as Vice-President, Communications for the Ontario Regional Council for the past five years. In 2010, Ms. Grad was one of the original 10 members in Ontario who travelled to various conferences to train members, using the newly written three basic training modules.



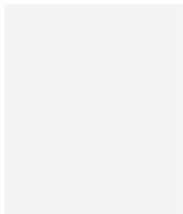
JUDY PEDDLE - ST. JOHN'S NL - ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL REP

Judy Peddle is a member of the Corpus Christi Conference in St. John's. During the past 18 years, she has served a term as Treasurer and two terms as President on the executive of that conference. She regularly attends the Newfoundland Particular Council meetings. Presently, Ms. Peddle is a Vice-President on the National Council of Canada and the Atlantic representative on the National Training Committee.



MADELEINE LAFRANCE - MONTREAL QC - QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL REP

An SSVP member since 1993, Madeleine LaFrance has worked as Secretary and as President of the Ste-Louise de Marillac Conference in Montreal. She has also served as President of the Bellerive Particular Council and, presently, as the liaison between two particular councils and the Central Council of Montreal and a consultant for the sale, rental and repair of buildings owned by the SSVP in Montreal. Ms. LaFrance also keeps computer records of requests for Christmas baskets for 80 local conferences. She is the Quebec representative on the National Training Committee.



KATHY WESWICK - VICTORIA BC - BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL REP

Kathy Weswick is a member of the Sacred Heart Conference in Victoria. She has also served as President of the Particular Council and as Secretary and Twinning Chairperson on the National Council. Presently, she is Education Chair of the Regional Council and Twinning Coordinator for the Americas on the International General Council. Ms. Weswick also has an interest in the archives of the Society.

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for easy printing

WESTERN
REGIONAL
COUNCIL
REP

TBA

ONTARIO
REGIONAL
COUNCIL
REP

TBA

SPIRITUALITY

Adapted from the 2nd letter of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians¹ - Chapter 9:1-15
The spiritual fruits of the annual contributions and the sharing of your surpluses²

There is really no need for me to write you about the annual contribution and forwarding of surplus funds. I already know your willingness to support the next higher councils and less fortunate conferences, and boast about you with respect to it. Your zeal to assist the higher councils and less fortunate conferences is legendary. I nonetheless send this message so that claims for you in this regard may not be shown empty. I do so that you may be ready, as I have been saying you are. I have thought it necessary to exhort you and arrange in advance for the bountiful gifts you have already promised. It should be ready as a gracious gift, not as an exaction.

Let me say this much: He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver. God can multiply his favors among you so that you may always have enough of everything and even a surplus for good works, as it is written: “He scattered abroad and gave to the poor, his justice endures forever.”

He who supplies seed for the sower and bread for the eater will provide in abundance; he will multiply the seed you sow and increase your generous yield. In every way your liberality is enriched; through us it results in thanks offered to God. The administering of this public benefit not only supplies the needs of the higher councils, promoting the work and expansion of the Society in Canada and abroad, and by supporting the less fortunate conferences but also overflows in much gratitude to God. Because of your praiseworthy service and bounteousness they are glorifying God for your conformity to the Rule, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with all. They pray for you longingly because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Jesus and the Temple Tax¹ — NAB³ Mt 17: 24 - 27

²⁴When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax approached Peter and said, «Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?» ²⁵«Yes,» he said. When he came into the house, before he had time to speak, Jesus asked him, «What is your opinion, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take tolls or census tax? From their subjects or from foreigners?» ²⁶When he said, «From foreigners,» Jesus said to him, «Then the subjects are exempt. ²⁷But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, drop in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up. Open its mouth and you will find a coin worth twice the temple tax. Give that to them for me and for you.»

St. Ambrose comments that this is a great lesson “*that teaches Christians submission to temporal authority, so that no one should disobey the edicts of a king of the earth. If the Son of God paid the tribute, are you perhaps great enough to refuse payment? Even He, who possessed nothing, paid the tribute. You, who seek the riches of the earth: why do you not recognize the duties which go along with these goods? Why do you consider yourself above the world?*”

“*Love and respect the ways of behaving by which you may live in amity with other people. Have no doubt either that your loyal submission to duty can be the means for others to discover Christian integrity, which is the fruit of divine love, and to find God.*” — St. Josemaría Escrivá

You might ask yourselves today in your prayers at the council or conference meetings or in the privacy of your room whether you are known good citizens and Vincentians who punctually fulfill their duties, by contributing to the good of the Society, the country and the world, whether you are good neighbours and colleagues with your fellow workers⁴...

If we are citizens who fulfill our duties in an exemplary way we can thus show the way to Christ to many.⁴

Romans¹ — NAB³ Chapter 13: 5 - 8

⁵Therefore, it is necessary to be subject not only because of the wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶This is why you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, toll to whom toll is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. ⁸Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

SPIRITUALITY... continued

St. Justin Martyr writes in the 2nd century *“As we learned from him (from Christ) we pay the tribute and contributions fully and promptly . . . Thus, though we adore only God, we gladly obey you in all the rest, acknowledging that you are the kings and governors of men, and praying that along with the Imperial power you also possess a skill in governing that is full of wisdom.”*

Tobit¹ — NAB³ Chapter 4: 8 - 11

⁸Son, give alms in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, distribute even some of that. But do not hesitate to give alms; ⁹you will be storing up a goodly treasure for yourself against the day of adversity. ¹⁰Almsgiving frees one from death, and keeps one from going into the dark abode. ¹¹Alms are a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who give them.

“Never hesitate to give, and when you do give, never grumble; then you will know the one who will repay you.” — St. Barnabas

Notes:

1. Go to your Bible pray, read and meditate.
2. *The Rule* — Section 2.2.10; 2.3.13; 2.4.15; 3.13 & FIN 007
3. New American Bible http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM
4. *In Conversation with God* — Volume 4, Monday 19th Week Ordinary Time

*Claude Bédard, Chairperson
National Spirituality Committee*

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SSVP TRAINING IN CANADA – WHAT, WHEN, WHY, WHO

WHAT exactly do we mean when we say – you need training. What mental picture do you get when you hear the word training? How negatively do you respond when someone says you need to take a training session?

Training is an action word. It can be used as a noun, a verb, an adjective. Training is a process of learning to do one or a series of procedures that may be necessary to learn and implement because a series of plans, objectives and/or operations have been implemented or adopted.

Training can be once-and-done, show-and-tell, given individually or in groups, accomplished by just reading, or going to a lecture, or taking many practice sessions. Training can take hours, days, weeks, or even years to accomplish our goals. Today, more and more training is self-study, remote from a classroom, on-line accessible, intuitive, self-initiated and self-directed. Training is a lifelong process, and is as interesting, or boring, as we make it.

Training could be paired/partnered with education. There is no specific training to get an education, but education goes hand in hand with training. Training occurs **WHEN** we want to, or need to, learn to do something; a new task at work, a new job, or relearn updated methods and procedures; in our daily lives when we get something new, replace something, move locations, or have a lifestyle change. We train ourselves when the need is there - to change a behavior, to adapt to new surroundings, new circumstances, become more proficient at a job, an avocation or a hobby. **WHAT** training exercises have you put yourself through lately?

As fledgling members we were drawn to the works of the Society by the examples of others, their dedication and zeal in carrying out the roles and actions requested by the words to – “live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor

with love, respect, justice and joy; have personal contact with the poor; and help in all possible ways.” We learned about the lives of St. Vincent de Paul, Bl. Frederic Ozanam, and the struggles they and our Canadian founding members went through, to establish this Canadian organization of lay Catholics that we joined to help alleviate all the ways in which people suffer today. This is **WHY** we do what we do.

But we are humans and practical things matter to us; recruitment and initial training, finances and resources, records keeping, annual reports filings, all the pieces, rules, regulations and executive actions it takes to run any unit of our Society. We think we must have rules to follow. The **WHAT** matters so much to us.

However rules and procedures should not take precedence over spiritual practices - reading the opening and closing prayers at every meeting; the review and rediscovery of the intent behind the Vision, Mission and Values statements found in the first pages of the Rule book; exploring what we really mean when we say we will live the Gospel message by “serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy”. The pulls between faith and available resources. These are the real training challenges we as Vincentians have always dealt with, and still grapple with today. Learning to listen with our heart as well as our mind to the words we are hearing.

Now we come to the **WHO** parts as they apply to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul – who supplies the training and the materials?, who does the training?, who directs and controls the processes?

So we discover that **we need to train ourselves to be Vincentians**; by reading and following the guidelines given in the Rule and Statutes book of Canada; by being involved in the operations and the delivery of help and services to those in need, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally; by regularly attending and participating in our conference meetings; by taking part in particular council special meetings and training sessions; by attending regional and national general meetings and workshops whenever possible. A big piece of the **WHO** depends on each and every one of us.

Nationally, we recommend the use of a basic set of common approaches to training on the Vincentian Rule and operations, and depend on and encourage each level of the Society to develop appropriate training for their members from this material. Presently there are the 3 Canadian training modules, the 8 or so International modules, and a growing source of additional training and workshop sessions being gathered.

**TRAINING IS
A LIFELONG
PROCESS, AND IS
AS INTERESTING,
OR BORING,
AS WE MAKE IT.**

SSVP TRAINING IN CANADA – WHAT, WHEN, WHY, WHO... continued

The National Council has also mandated to date, two specific policies, procedures, training materials and guidelines on major, nationally applicable topics. They are: Screening and Duty of Care Guidelines and applicable forms; and Abuse (incl Harassment and Discrimination) Prevention Guidelines and forms; and that appropriate Insurance coverage for these policies is carried. These are not new policies; screening practices have been in use since 2009, and Abuse Prevention guidelines since 2012. Each conference and particular council president must ensure these guidelines and the training involved has been, or will be, part of their training and implementation procedures.

Finally, how does Section 2 of the Rule and Statutes book describe the training functions and responsibilities of each level of operations in our Society? How do we apply these directives and rules at our level?

Roles and responsibilities for **operating a conference are found in Rule # 2.2** of the Rule book. There are approximately 14 pages of rules here. Take a journey through these pages and think about what you are, or are not, doing now. How does the Conference strike a balance between the spiritual and temporal needs of the members and the needs of those we serve? Our conference Spiritual Advisors are our best source of individual spiritual guidance and growth.

The only specific reference to conference training practices is one sentence in Rule 2.2.2. This sentence states – “Within a conference, continuous formation (training) should be provided”. Conferences need to decide what this training statement means to them and how they will carry this out. Do you have an application and screening process for your conference? Have you had Abuse Prevention training at your conference or supplied by your particular council?

The most common type of conference training we do is the practical and procedural – the How-To-Do written, oral, online guides and on-the-job training we give to those doing the various roles, positions, visiting, delivering duties in our conferences and/or any location where we interact with folks in need. These procedures will differ between conferences according to the specific duties and needs of their geographical areas.

Roles and responsibilities for **operating a particular council are found in Rule # 2.3**; again, a plethora of pages to read and assimilate. The training directive is listed as one of the bullets under 2.3.2 – particular councils are responsible to “organize training (formation)

sessions on Vincentian ministry and spirituality for potential and current members (implied that this includes members of all conferences under their jurisdiction), volunteers and staff”. Many of the ADM procedures stipulate that the responsibility of presenting and delivering policies and procedures rests with “all Presidents of conferences and councils to the next level”. This is a large responsibility. How are directives carried out now between your particular councils, conferences and special works operations? Do the individual particular councils have the expertise to conduct regular, specific or mandated training sessions? If not, how do

WE NEED TO TRAIN OURSELVES TO BE VINCENTIANS – WE NEED TO LEARN TO LISTEN WITH OUR HEART AS WELL AS OUR MIND TO THE WORDS WE ARE HEARING.

they acquire and build this capacity? Presidents and executives with questions on their responsibilities for training can contact their regional council, or the National Training rep, or the National Training Committee members for advice.

The training responsibilities for the next 3 levels are stated in broader terms. Central, regional and national levels are there to support and facilitate training, and any National policy, at the conference and particular council levels if necessary.

Roles and responsibilities for **operating a central council are found in Rule # 2.4** Section 2.4.2 states that central councils must also – “promote opportunities for the spiritual growth of all the members” – and – “promote the ongoing education and development of all the members”.

Roles and responsibilities for **operating a regional council are found in Rule # 2.5** Section 2.5.2 states that one of the main responsibilities of regional councils is “encouraging the education and the development of the members”.

SSVP TRAINING IN CANADA – WHAT, WHEN, WHY, WHO... continued

Roles and responsibilities for **operating the National Council are found in Rule # 2.6** Section 2.6.2 states that - during the AGA or in a Special Meeting, the National Council may – “amend the Canadian Statutes” (commonly referred to as The Rule Book or the Blue Book) – and – “may adopt policies and procedures to guide the members with regards to the internal structure and governance of the Society and its various programs and activities” - and further states “The AGA is traditionally used to educate members, and to enhance Vincentian spirituality and fraternal exchanges through the organization of workshops and social events.”

The National Council also maintains the Operations Manual, which is a separate but complementary document to the Rule and Statutes Book of Canada. This manual is available online on the National website.

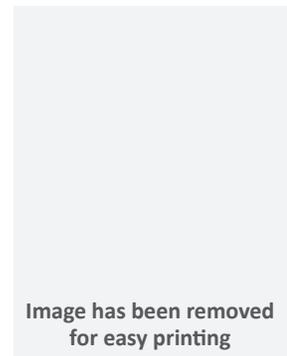
Now you have at your fingertips a synopsis of the **WHAT, WHY, WHEN** and **WHO** relating to the subject of Training. If you have any questions or comments on this article please email our committee at education@ssvp.ca.

TRAINING SUGGESTIONS FOR CONFERENCES

For ongoing, regular training at your meetings take specific selections from #s 2.2.1 to 2.2.15, and specific selections from Section 3 - Specific Provisions of the Canadian Statutes #s 3.1 to 3.22; and have members give a short talk on their picks – i.e. what does Section 3 say about Public Awareness and Communications? For some spiritual exercises, read and discuss Section 1.1 Fundamental Principles including Section 1.2 titled “The Poor”. Or read and discuss Section 5 – Appendices - #5.11 Finding Those in Need, including the quotations from the International Rule.

*Mary Grad, Chairperson
National Training Committee*

**HOW DO WE TEACH
OURSELVES TO
UNEQUIVOCALLY “SERVE
CHRIST IN THE POOR
WITH LOVE, RESPECT,
JUSTICE AND JOY” – THE
PULLS BETWEEN
FAITH AND AVAILABLE
RESOURCES – THESE ARE
THE REAL LEARNING
CHALLENGES VINCENTIANS
HAVE ALWAYS FACED.**



ONLINE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR TRAINING COURSE

On August 21st in Saskatoon I met with Fr. Stefano Penna. *Director of the Benedict XVI Institute for New Evangelization* at Neuman Theological College Edmonton. We had a very positive encounter and discussed numerous items, related to the development of the spiritual advisor training program, such as:

- budget for development;
- available in both official languages;
- course structure to be based on existing course for “Social Justice” and to include segments on:
 - ♦ qualities of a spiritual advisor;
 - ♦ Catholicism;
 - ♦ scripture;
 - ♦ Jesus Christ;
 - ♦ the sacraments;
 - ♦ prayer;
 - ♦ writing spiritual reflections;
 - ♦ motivational discussion techniques;
- development in consultation with NCC Spirituality Committee;
- timeline for completion and delivery;
- course fees.

It is my hope that all current lay spiritual advisors who are equivalently educated or trained and who do not possess equivalent qualifications will voluntarily avail themselves of this training during the remaining term of their appointment. My intention is that this training course will be mandatory for all incoming lay spiritual advisors who are not equivalently educated or trained and who do not possess equivalent qualifications. In effect this should set the minimum standard for lay spiritual advisors. All priests and other consecrated souls may choose to voluntarily avail themselves of this training if they so desire.

QUALITIES OF A SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

- knows the way well;
- acts as a:
 - ♦ teacher;
 - ♦ doctor;
 - ♦ friend;
 - ♦ good shepherd.

IN THINGS RELATED TO GOD

- prays for us;
- points out obstacles;
- encourages us to strive higher in our spiritual life;
- fights harder on specific points that hinder us;
- encourages us to keep going;
- helps us to discover new horizons;
- rouses our soul to hunger and thirst for God;
- acts as a guide in our interior life;
- helps us to overcome lukewarmness in our interior life.

Spiritual direction needs a supernatural environment if it is to be effective: it is God’s voice we are listening for. A supernatural outlook leads to sincerity and simplicity.

“A soul without a director is like a kindled coal, which, left by itself, cools instead of burning.”

St. John of the Cross

WHAT CAN EXISTING SPIRITUAL ADVISORS DO TO ASSIST?

First and foremost existing spiritual advisors I encourage you to pray for all Vincentians at all times and specifically for this intention and for Fr. Stefano and the members of his project team that “God may bring this project to fruition”:

- daily, 1 decade of the Rosary for the success of our spiritual advisor online training project;
- weekly, attend 1 weekday mass;
- monthly, attend a Benediction Service or hold a holy hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle.

ONLINE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR TRAINING COURSE... continued

Next contact your regional representative on the National Spirituality Committee. Share with him or her, your personal observations as a spiritual advisor, the highs and the lows, the good and the bad.

Share your needs and desires concerning the training you require for adequately leading, supporting and inspiring the members of your council or conference.

CONTACT LIST

Atlantic Regional Council Representative: Parnell Kelly, parnell.kelly@eastlink.ca

Québec Regional Council Representative: Deacon Roger Dubois, rrdubois@live.ca

Ontario Regional Council Representative: Denise Bondy, denisebondy@msn.com

Western Regional Council Representative: Joseph Tsui, jstsui@gmail.com

BC Yukon Regional Council Representative: Joe Rigby, jsrigby70@gmail.com

Youth Representative: Sophia Mutuc, Sophia.mutuc@gmail.com

WHAT CAN VINCENTIANS DO TO ASSIST?

I humbly request and challenge all Vincentians to pray for their spiritual advisors and specifically for this intention and for Fr. Stefano and the members of his project team that “God may bring this project to fruition”:

- daily, for the success of our spiritual advisor online training project;
- weekly, 1 decade of the Rosary;
- monthly, attend 1 weekday mass;

“Every Christian needs a half-hour of prayer each day, except when he is busy, than he needs an hour.”

St. Francis de Sales

Respectfully submitted;

Joseph Claude Bédard, Chair
National Spirituality Committee
c.bedard-vp@ssvp.ca

“If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.”

St. Vincent de Paul

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Fr. Stephano Penna (Summer casual attire)
and Claude Bédard at the offices of the St
Paul Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon SK.

OUR FUTURE – OUR PRESENT MEMBERS – AND OUR NEW MEMBERS

Take a look at where we are now nationally, regionally, locally, in all aspects of our Vincentian lives. We are entering 2018, but with the rapid advancements in technology and instant online communications it may feel that we have gone through 28 virtual years of change instead of just 8 years since the first introduction of a national training plan. We have grown, spread and adapted our services over our years of service. We have accomplished so much through the dedication and determination of our members – our greatest asset.

Many years have passed since the days of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam; and the actions of Dr. Painchaud in 1846 that brought the Society to Canada.

“NATURE DEMANDS THAT TREES BE DEEPLY ROOTED BEFORE THEY CAN BEAR FRUIT AND THIS IS A GRADUAL PROCESS.”

A Quote from St. Vincent de Paul on being “Rooted in God”

Remember **Frederic’s wish – to embrace the whole world in a network of Charity** – this is certainly attainable. Think about his prophetic use of the word “network”. That word and its intent could be used as a viable modern application to renewing and empowering today’s operations – networking !!!

The words of the Vision, Mission and Values statements are as true and as vibrant as ever. The gospel of St. Matthew Chapter 25 – verses 31 to 40 – are as relevant as the day they were spoken.

“The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is founded on the principle of serving the poor.

They (= all our members) offer their goods, talents and wealth in the service of their neighbours, the poor.”

(Words taken from Rule 1.3 Vincentian Spirituality – section 1.3.1.1 - look it up)

This is the message and the enthusiasm – the Vincentian spirit - that we want to instill in our newest members, and continually renew in the hearts and souls of all our members - WHY we became Vincentians.

“I WOULD LIKE TO EMBRACE THE WHOLE WORLD IN A NETWORK OF CHARITY.”

Bl. Frederic Ozanam

ENCOURAGING, EDUCATING AND DEVELOPING OUR PRESENT MEMBERS

AT THE CONFERENCE LEVEL

Conferences and particular councils are the cornerstones of our Society. Conferences are the main entry points for new members. Conferences run recruitment, orientation and screening sessions to gain potential new members.

Conferences are the prime sources for new leaders and presidents for all levels of our Society.

Our entire Society gains when we promote healthy, vigorous, active conferences and particular councils, strong and united in the beliefs stated in our Vision and Mission statements, and dedicated to offering personal and individual hands to those seeking our help.

WHAT DO CONFERENCES DO?

Conferences, with the help of particular councils, **provide training and retraining for new and existing members and operational units** as needed or requested; and at local levels as new policies, programs and operations are introduced, or changes to existing policies, programs and operations are required.

Conferences - hold regular meetings; conduct specific and individually focused training sessions as required; attend masses together.

Recruit and fundraise primarily at local levels.

Have fun at meetings; celebrate special feast days; enjoy seasonal get-togethers.

WHAT CAN PARTICULAR COUNCILS DO TO SUPPORT THEIR CONFERENCES?

Hold regular reviews of procedures and responsibilities to make sure proper procedures, regular reporting and accounts recordings are happening; that these actions are still relevant to your operations and not being passed over as 'just words'.

Practice strengthening your conferences and particular councils with actions, not 'just words'.

Look to help in rejuvenating conference operations and/or procedures; check that screening and training practices are being done. Interact regularly with your central and regional councils. Everyone needs encouragement and help once in a while.

OUR FUTURE – OUR PRESENT MEMBERS – AND OUR NEW MEMBERS... continued

ENCOURAGING, EDUCATING AND DEVELOPING OUR NEW MEMBERS

At the conference level

There is a big difference between training for existing members and the efforts and dedication required for the encouragement, recruitment, orientation and basic training of new members.

Always be in recruitment mode – mainly at the conference level. Why? Because you never know when or where a potential new member may show up. A new member is only "new" once. We want to spend our most concentrated efforts and encouragements on our newest members.

Remember - conferences are the MAIN entry point for new members.

The screening process comes first and does take a couple of weeks to complete, after initial interviews with the president or delegate to establish a good fit with the conference.

Conferences can get fledgling members started while the screening process grinds away. Assign each new member to a mentor. Invite them to the next meeting. Get them involved in any activities and celebrations coming up. Get to know your new recruit – their background, their talents. Harness their enthusiasm. Teach them what it means to be a Vincentian.

Start the introductory training to our Vincentian life - the inherent messages of the Canadian Introductory modules and the International modules, found on the National website under Training Resources, are relevant and true, even though the packages need updating. www.ssvp.ca/national-training-modules

Each conference needs to have a plan for educating and training their newest members. No plan means no growth, no matter how many members you add.

We are all challenged by the paucity of new members.

What are we doing wrong, and how can we change this?

What is your plan, and is it working for you?

Will you share your recruiting and rejuvenation successes with others?

POTENTIAL STEPS FOR A REVISED RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Training Committee wants to develop some new training programs, from new member orientation to existing member rejuvenation.

We will work with the regions, councils and conferences, on this project – utilizing some relevant values and lessons from older training material. Exploring best ways to share this material – self-learning, vignettes, YouTube, etc – colorful, eye-catching, well and succinctly worded, focused on encouraging joining the Society. For printed material – pamphlets, posters, colorful, good graphics, illustrations, short stories, etc – for display locally and in parish bulletins and pamphlet stands – all showing the universal Canadian fish logo and initials SSVP.

Our committee is looking for ways to update the original messages to resonate in the world of 2018 and onward. Spreading our messages out to people and welcoming them into the Society will be one of the challenges as we move forward.

TO THE REGIONS, COUNCILS, CONFERENCES AND ANYONE READING THIS ARTICLE

We think the **HOWS** should come from you – your ideas, plans, suggestions and success stories – from you, the presidents and members who have lived through the search for new members, and the efforts to keep and motivate existing members.

All members will profit from this regeneration of comprehensive and continuing spiritual and temporal training programs, regionally driven and delivered at the particular council and conference levels. You will hear and read more as the planning sessions progress.

THE TRAINING COMMITTEE WANTS TO KNOW

How can we leverage technology to help us deliver our Vincentian message today and to future generations?

How often do you recruit – regularly through the year – or only when you need new members. Does your present approach work for you? Did you advertise for specific roles, or just basically new members?

What types or methods of orientation and training, if any, do you use now? How often do you hold retraining sessions, and are they PC or conference run? Will you share any best practices, or success stories, with us?

Email your suggestions and sample materials to education@ssvp.ca. We ask that you include your full name and conference location, and your return email address, but this is not a requirement for sending us your suggestions.

*Mary Grad, Chairperson
National Training Committee*



CALL FOR WORKSHOPS - AGA 2018 - REVISED THURSDAY SCHEDULE

- [A SUMMARY FROM THE TRAINING COMMITTEE ON OUR 2017 WORKSHOPS EXPERIENCES](#)
- [THE SURVEY COMMENTS FROM THE ATTENDEES](#)
- [AND OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018 WORKSHOP SCHEDULING SESSIONS](#)

At the June 2017 AGA, we offered 18 workshops in total, 16 on Thursday and 2 on Saturday, all original, and no repeats. We also sent each presenter their own copy of the survey and comments given on their sessions, and we asked them to complete a survey for the committee on their experiences as a presenter. We were overwhelmed and pleased with the responses from the attendees and the presenters. Thanks to all who took the time to fill in the surveys.

We are publishing early “Call For Workshops” applications in this newsletter. We have already started a lineup of titles, ideas for workshops, and willing presenters. More details on anticipated workshop titles and topics will follow in the April 2018 Training Today issue.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY
SUGGESTIONS OR
QUESTIONS ON
WORKSHOP PRESENTING
OR WORKSHOP TOPICS
PLEASE EMAIL US AT
education@ssvp.ca**

SURVEYS SAID * TOP SUGGESTIONS *

1

More workshop choices by having some workshops repeated twice, to allow more opportunity to pick favorite topics. Our goals for 2018 – aim for a possibility of scheduling a potential total of 24 workshop sessions, spread over 6 rooms with 4 individual workshops in each time slot. We will aim for repeats of at least half of the accepted workshop applications. The registration packages at the AGA will have the final roster of workshops and descriptions of each workshop including presenter names.

2

Change the workshop timings and schedule to allow more time for travel between sessions. We also asked that breaks and refreshments be held close to and in the same building as the workshop locations. See attached proposed schedule.

3

Larger rooms, more seating, mics for the presenters. These comments have been sent to the 2018 AGA organizers.

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS - AGA 2018 - REVISED THURSDAY SCHEDULE... continued

PROPOSED 2018 THURSDAY WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 21, 2018

TIMES	ACTIVITY
Morning to 9:00 am	Breakfasts; registration, etc; get to workshop locations
9:00 am to 10:15 am	First round of workshops
10:15 am to 10:45 am	Break
10:45 am to 12 noon	Second round of workshops
12 noon to 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm to 2:30 pm	Third round of workshops (extra 15 minutes to get from lunch location to workshops)
2:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 pm to 4:15 pm	Fourth round of workshops
4:15 pm – on to evening activities	Supper, mass, etc Opening ceremonies

AGA 2018
“TOGETHER AS FAMILY”
ST. JOHN’S, NL
JUNE 20-24

NOTES

This chart is for the Thursday Workshops timing schedule only. There are other meetings taking place in the morning; and various committee meetings are scheduled in the afternoon.

The registration packages, available at the AGA, will have full details on other Thursday activities, as well as a detailed calendar listing all other days and events.

St. John’s Newfoundland and Labrador

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for easy printing

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS - AGA 2018

The theme presented at this AGA is:

“TOGETHER AS FAMILY”

The theme has been chosen so that we as Vincentians may take time to reflect on how we interact with those we serve. Workshops may be developed around the theme.

NATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE SPONSORED WORKSHOPS – TOPICS VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR:

1. Roles of the President and Executive - conferences/councils
2. Succession planning - conferences/councils
3. Policies and Procedures
4. Recruitment and Orientation
5. Train the Trainers

OTHER POTENTIAL WORKSHOP TOPICS:

1. Structural Causes of Poverty
2. Collaboration with Other Organizations
3. Spirituality of the Work of a Vincentian
4. Foundations of Our Society
5. Special works – the public face of our Society
6. SSVP in North of 60
7. Advocacy and How to Advocate Effectively
8. Systemic Change projects
9. Youth in Action
10. Fundraising

Workshops are typically 75 minutes long.

Your workshop proposals and requirements must be submitted by March 2, 2018 to:

Mary Grad, National Training Committee
mrosegrad@rogers.com
71 Waxwing Crescent
Guelph ON N1C 1E3

PLEASE FILL IN THIS
FORM IF YOU WISH TO
PRESENT A WORKSHOP

Title of Workshop: _____

Language Presented: English ____ French ____

Description of the Workshop: _____

Presenter Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Short Bio - Presenter: _____

How does the title/topic tie into the AGA theme?

Required Room size/type: _____

Required AV Materials: _____

Handout Materials are the responsibility of the presenter.

Please send by March 2, 2018 to:

Mary Grad, National Training Committee
71, Waxwing Crescent
Guelph ON N1C 1E3
mrosegrad@rogers.com

Approved by the National Training Committee

Date: _____

DID YOU KNOW?

*Look for regular
training information,
guidelines & other articles
in future editions of the
Vincenpaul Magazine
or
www.ssvp.ca*

Regional Reports are required at National Office in Ottawa by March 30th of each year. Compliance with this procedure enables an accurate annual report to be compiled for the AGA Annual Report in June. It is hoped that these reports will be submitted electronically, starting at the conference level forwarding to the next and so on. You can imagine how much paper this would eliminate with over 800 Conferences in Canada. All the forms, including directions for electronically completing and submitting them are on ssvp.ca, under the “**MEMBERS**” tab.

Facebook has numerous groups such as SSVF Canada Activities-Activités, SSVF Canada Social-justice-sociale and SSVF Canada Twinning-jumelage. Check them out to see what’s happening. SSVFNL 2018 AGA also has a Facebook page. Check for new updates as they become available.

Training Documents: Abuse/Discrimination/Harassment Awareness and Prevention Policy are located on ssvp.ca under the “**MEMBERS**” tab, “**TRAINING RESOURCES/NATIONAL TRAINING**” section. This is also available from national office as a Power Point presentation and can be emailed to you. Great item to go through with your members at monthly meetings.

Reading from your **Rule Book** at your monthly meeting is a great way to educate your volunteers. Have your Spiritual Advisor read small sections at each meeting.

Save the date! AGA 2018 St. John’s, NL - June 20-24

*Judy Peddle, member of the National Formation Committee
Atlantic Regional Council*



MISSION

The Society of Saint 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 Saint 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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**Official publication of the
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Canada
ISSN 2560-824X
Made with the collaboration of:
Ghislaine DuNord, Ellen Schryburt, John Grocholski,
Denise Miron, Mary Baskin, Mary Grad and Judy Peddle
Editor: Nicole Schryburt
Graphic Design: Nicole Schryburt**



national@ssvp.ca



www.ssvp.ca



**SSVP Canada
SSVP Canada Activities-Activités
SSVP Canada Social-Justice-Sociale
SSVP Canada Twinning-Jumelage**