



The newsletter of the
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
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BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL EDITION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL

I am pleased to welcome Minette Gomez to the National Council Board of Directors. Minette is the new President of the British Columbia and Yukon Regional Council.

Past positions held by Minette include president of St. Patrick's Conference in Vancouver, president of the Vancouver Particular Council, secretary of the Regional Council during the presidency of Nora Criss, and vice president of the Regional Council, under Scotty MacLaren.

At the October 2018 National Council board meeting, the board members and I had the opportunity to thank Scotty MacLaren for his great work on the B.C. and Yukon Regional Council. It is with regret that we announce that Scotty died suddenly on March 4, at his home, in Campbell River, B.C.

AGA 2019

Mark your calendar! The 48th Annual General Meeting will be held from Wednesday, June 19 to Sunday, June 23, 2019 in Windsor, Ontario.

The link to register online will soon be posted on our website: www.ssvp.ca/2019-aga.

More online information will be forthcoming, including the promotional code for Air Canada and updates on the program and workshops that will be offered.

We hope to see many of you there.

*Jean-Noël Cormier, President
National Council*

A NEW PRESIDENT IS INSTALLED IN BC & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL

On November 26, 2018, BC and Yukon Regional Council installed a new president.

Mrs Ynez Gomez, more commonly known as Minette Gomez, was installed at St. Patrick's Parish, in Vancouver.

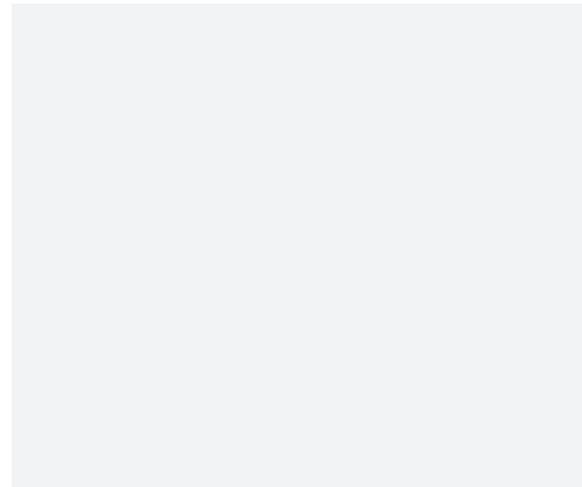
On hand to install the new president were outgoing President David Armitt "Scotty" MacLaren and Spiritual Advisor Joseph Rigby.

Scotty stepped aside due to poor health.

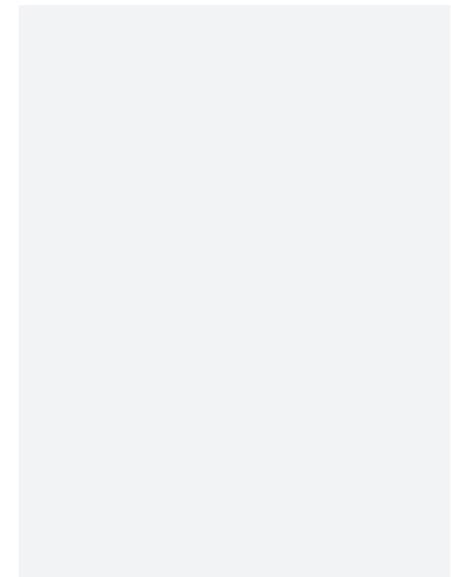
On hand to wish Minette best wishes in her new role were members of her conference and those attending the Vancouver Central Council's Christmas Dinner.

*Carmelita Ravina, member of the St. Patrick's Conference
Vancouver B.C.*

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Minette Gomez and Scotty MacLaren



Minette Gomez, Scotty MacLaren, and Spiritual Advisor Joseph Rigby at the installation of the new President.

FOOD WITH DIGNITY FOR GREATER VICTORIA SOCIAL CONCERN OFFICE

Help honours when, to the bread that nourishes, it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up the sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering what perhaps we are incapable of suffering; since he is the messenger of God to us, sent to prove our justice and our charity; and to save us by our works.

Frédéric Ozanam (1813-1853)

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Vancouver Island has prioritized food security and dignity for those we serve as a significant part of our mission. As part of our food security priority, the Society has been designated a **Good Food Organization** through **Community Food Centres Canada**.

This designation allows us to join a growing network of like-minded organizations across Canada that share a commitment to offering healthy and dignified food programs in their communities. And it provides access to free training, resources and opportunities to apply for grants to build on our food security work.

For Greater Victoria, our food emergency distribution program is managed centrally through the **Social Concern Office** (833 Yates Street, Victoria). Operating five days a week, the SCO serves daily as many as 150 singles, couples and families with children. Following a recent move to a refurbished location, a new “**Food with Dignity**” shopping model was successfully implemented.

The model is centred on a shopping experience that returns the dignity of choice to those in need. Clients of the SCO pick the items suited to their dietary and cultural preferences, including fresh vegetables, fruit, gluten-free and dairy products. In addition to food, free clothing and household items are available in our clothing area.

The new program uses compassionate shopping helpers, which provides opportunity for them to share nutrition advice, meal planning and referral information.

The benefits of this new shopping system include:

- A more efficient system with less waste, with donations going right on the shelves.
- Providing opportunities to educate people about nutrition and meal planning.
- Volunteers spending more time walking with the poor and supporting them in their choices.

A new SCO advisory group, including clients, volunteers and staff, is being set up to expand programming - to support those in need beyond food emergency to a more secure future. One of the first new programs implemented is a community partnership to provide art gallery space in our new location. This will give low income artists in the community a hand up and create a welcoming space for our clients.

To learn more about the Social Concern Office and the success of “**Food with Dignity**”, please contact Margaret Forbes at mforbes@sudpvictoria.com.

*Susan Nawrocki, Secretary
B.C. and Yukon Regional Council*

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SSVP ST. STEPHEN, NORTH VANCOUVER - SANDWICHES PROJECT

St. Stephen's Conference of SSVP has recently assumed responsibility on Mondays for preparing sandwiches and delivering them to the homeless in the Downtown Eastside.

This venture has generated an enthusiastic response from our parishioners. Our pastor is completely on board and encourages all our parishioners to participate in some way.

Volunteers have taken on many jobs, including picking up the bread, preparing the sandwiches, and delivering them to the homeless in our Outreach truck.

Others have supported this project with donations of food, winter clothing, and cash.

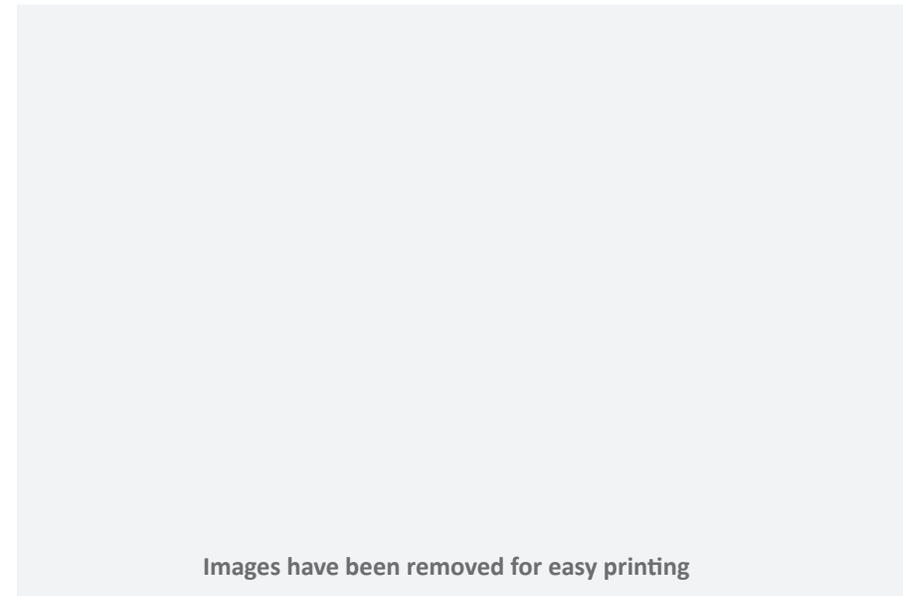
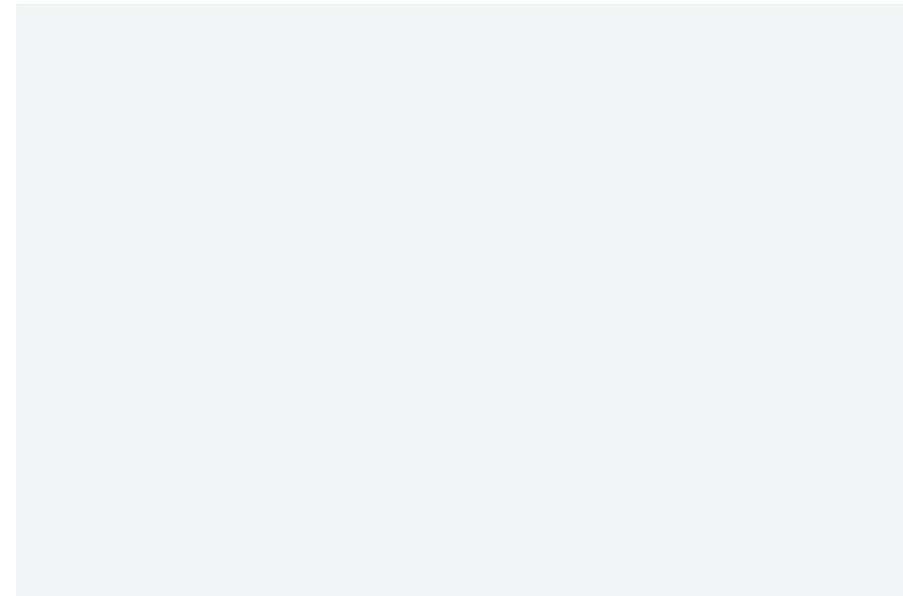
COBS Bakery has also been assisting us by donating all of the bread and pastries we use. We have had a bread slicer donated by a parishioner and this helps with the sandwich making.

The parish community is seeing another side of the good work the Society does. The volunteers are giving their time and talents to help with the success of this venture and the community spirit is alive and well. We have many who come in to make the 350-400 sandwiches on a weekly basis and there is a wait list to get out on the truck in the evening to help distribute to those in need.

The joy that is felt in the kitchen every Monday morning is overflowing. This has opened our volunteers' hearts even more and the love and care shown is truly a sign of our baptismal call.

We ask for your prayers to keep receiving the resources we need to continue this good work.

*Samm Ferristall, Administration & Finance Coordinator
Vancouver Central Council*



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SSVP STORES - VANCOUVER

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The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul celebrated Feast Day of Saint Vincent de Paul on September 27th with the staff and volunteers at our Value Shoppe on Main St.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul staff stand in front the Society's new van, ready to start donation pick ups and furniture deliveries!

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the following deaths:

James Richard Strate

SSVP Stores Ottawa, Ont.

January 9, 2019

Agnes Brenn

Good Shepherd Conference, Edmonton, Alta.

January 29, 2019

Nora Dixon

Mother Teresa Conference, Edmonton, Alta.

February 2019

Isabelle Hofman

St. Ann's Conference, Abbotsford, B.C.

February 4, 2019

Jean-Guy Desrochers

SSVP Joliette, Que.

February 7, 2019

Gordon Keith Wilbur

St. Joseph Vianney Conference, Windsor, Ont.

February 14, 2019

James Franklin Renaud

St. Joseph Vianney Conference, Windsor, Ont.

February 14, 2019

Father Angus Dan Campbell

Glance Bay Particular Council, Cape Breton, N.S.

February 21, 2019

Don Rowe

St. Joseph Conference, Port Moody, B.C.

March 1, 2019

David Armit "Scotty" MacLaren

British Columbia and Yukon Regional Council

March 4, 2019

Let us keep them in our prayers.

**Please send your death notices to
editor@ssvp.ca**

NEW ITEM IN THE SSVP CATALOG

We now have a black hooded sweatshirt with zipper.

This new unisex sweater is available in sizes small to XXXL, at \$30.

**You can order it in the catalog of our website:
www.ssvp.ca**

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS - AGA - JUNE 19-23, 2019

WORKSHOPS ARE HELD ON THURSDAY JUNE 20, 2019

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 COMMITTEES 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. Presenters must provide their own presentation materials and equipment, i.e. portable disk drives and their own pcs for connection to existing in-house-supplied AV equipment. Any handout materials are the responsibility of the presenters to produce, bring and supply to attendees.

Final date for submission of workshop forms is Monday April 1, 2019. You may mail your forms in, or email them to exdir-digen@ssvp.ca.

Richard Pommainville, Executive Director
2463 Innes Road, Ottawa ON K1B 3K3

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE FORM](#)

TO PRESENT A WORKSHOP, PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM OR THE FORM ONLINE AT: WWW.SSVP.CA/2019-AGA

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 April 1, 2019 to:

Richard Pommainville, Executive Director
2463 Innes Road, Ottawa ON K1B 3K3
exdir-digen@ssvp.ca

Approved by the National Training Committee

Date: _____



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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