

# Vincenpaul Canada

The Magazine of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
National Council of Canada  
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## LET US PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION

Bl. Frédéric Ozanam

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# Table of content

Message from the President	3
Vincentian Activities Across Canada	4
Spirituality	6
In Memoriam	7
Twinning	11
Haiti	12
Canada's Councils in Action	
Atlantic Regional Council	14
Quebec Regional Council	17
Ontario Regional Council	18
Western Regional Council	20
BC & Yukon Regional Council	24
AGA 2014	26

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# Message from the President

## DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER VINCENTIANS,

First of all, I wish you a very good year in 2014, filled with beautiful Vincentian moments. May your volunteer work feed your faith and fill you with joy. Health and happiness.

Once again this year, the Christmas season showed us that Vincentians all over the country do everything they can to ensure that people in need can also participate in this marvelous Christmas celebration. Non-perishable food collections and financing activities took place to collect, or purchase, the supplies needed to fill Christmas hampers. I know that for the people we help, Christmas hampers make a big difference and are greatly appreciated. And what about the generosity of donators? It is simply remarkable to see how generously and spontaneously people are giving.

In the Fall 2013 Vincenpaul Canada magazine, I mentioned that we had to upgrade our services, because poverty is changing and we have to adapt to the new realities, one of which is certainly the great solitude that affects an increasing number of people. It is a fact that in our modern society, people are more and more isolated and marginalized, in spite of all available communication tools. They fall deeper and deeper into their loneliness, and do not see how they can get out of it. What could be more natural for us than to visit these people at home and take time to listen to them? It is by visiting people in their home that Frederic Ozanam and his friends chose to help people in need; it has been the approach favoured by the Society from the very start, and it is what sets us apart from other charitable organizations.

I propose, to those who do not already do it, to include in their activities regular visits to lonely people. Whether they live in seniors' homes or in their own house or apartment, a visit can do them a world of good. As it is the case for all of us, those people need someone who will listen and understand them, and I am convinced that we have the experience to establish a trusting relationship with them. We have the power to help them give their life a different meaning. All you have to do is to set up a visiting program and very quickly, you will



notice a change in their attitude. I am convinced that you will grow spiritually through that experience.

To conclude, in my President's message on page 4 of the magazine's Fall 2013 issue, I shared with you a few statistics on the work accomplished in 2012/ 2013 across Canada by our fellow Vincentians, and I invited you to read Appendix A for additional statistics. Unfortunately, the appendix was not included. A few months later, you will find Appendix A at the end of this message.

This year, our Annual General Assembly will take place in Edmonton, Alberta, from June 11th to 14th, under the theme: Let us be as Christ to one another.

General assemblies are always an excellent opportunity to engage and exchange with our Vincentian brothers and sisters, all the while participating in the various training workshops that, once again, promise to be quite valuable. It is also an opportunity to live a very nourishing experience of Vincentian spirituality. You may register by visiting our web site at [www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca), or by filling out the center page of this magazine.

Looking forward to meeting you there.

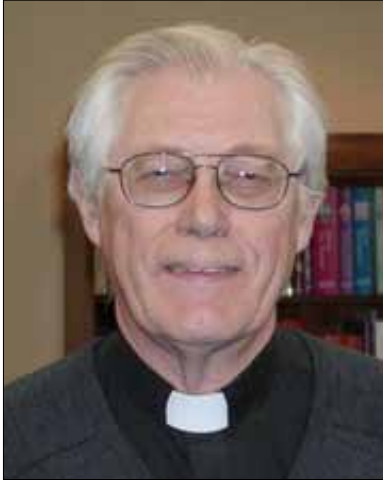
**Jean-Noël Cormier, President  
National Council of Canada**

# Vincentian Activities across Canada

	BC & YUKON		WESTERN	
	2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012	2012/2013
<b>Home Visitations</b>				
Number of homes visited	5,739	2,730	8,994	10,438
Number of visits to these homes	9,943	5,880	14,080	13,436
Number of adults served	9,256	3,593	15,545	13,747
Number of children served	4,605	2,716	12,693	9,958
Total of persons served	13,861	6,309	28,238	23,705
<b>Other visits</b>				
Number of visits to the sick (homes/hospitals)	3,172	1,759	110	217
Number of friendly visits to persons	561	1,334	356	475
Number of inmates visited in prison	624	1,650	2	3
<b>Activities</b>				
Number of stores	9	8	-	-
Number of outlets	1	1	-	2
Number of soup kitchens	5	2	-	-
Number of foodbanks	3	3	6	3
Number of shelters	2	2	-	-
Number of drop-in centres	1	1	1	2
Number of low cost housing units	46	46	-	38
Number of children attending summer camps	-	-	-	-
<b>Twinning</b>				
External (outside Canada)	11	12	6	7
Internal (inside Canada)	2	1	1	1
<b>Financial operations</b>				
Receipts	\$ 4,790,955	\$ 5,143,966	\$ 824,864	\$ 1,369,921
Expenditures	\$ 4,965,447	\$ 4,992,270	\$ 817,600	\$ 1,241,150
<b>Conference Membership</b>				
Number of full members (age 36+)	403	447	805	738
Number of young adult members (18-35)	13	12	58	54
Number of youth members (under 18)	0	10	11	26
Number of auxiliary members	0	165	185	180
Total members	416	634	1,059	998
Spiritual advisors	-	17	-	23
<b># of councils and conferences included in report</b>				
Central councils included in this report		1/1		1/1
Particular councils included in this report		5/6		6/6
Conferences included in this report		34/43		42/52

ONTARIO		QUEBEC		ATLANTIC		TOTAL	
2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012	2012/2013	2011/2012	2012/2013
56,406	35,853	102,457	104,021	8,960	5,800	182,556	158,842
84,580	68,541	102,457	104,021	15,197	7,862	226,257	199,740
98,815	82,271	135,102	142,359	10,906	9,058	269,624	251,028
72,122	61,723	77,483	72,365	7,941	5,427	174,844	152,189
170,937	143,994	212,585	214,724	18,847	14,485	444,468	403,217
3,418	3,573	-	107	10	5,144	6,710	10,800
4,780	5,957	-	-	-	1,213	5,697	8,979
3,124	489	-	15	-	-	3,750	2,157
21	30	106	93	1	2	137	133
4	26	-	-	-	-	5	29
11	11	1	1	1	1	18	15
62	62	1	2	13	13	85	83
19	4	-	-	-	-	21	6
2	2	2	-	-	-	6	5
202	202	-	-	-	-	248	286
2,450	2,474	200	775	-	-	2,650	3,249
65	70	11	10	6	6	99	105
19	17	-	-	3	3	25	22
\$ 8,246,603	\$10,001,915	\$ 14,386,344	\$ 16,751,950	\$ 1,330,742	\$ 1,362,584	\$ 29,579,508	\$34,630,336
\$ 7,871,204	\$ 9,112,382	\$ 14,902,662	\$ 16,186,073	\$ 1,324,166	\$ 1,183,757	\$ 29,881,079	\$ 32,715,632
3,608	4,050	2,569	2,864	686	n/a	8,071	8,099
92	91	61	96	33	n/a	257	253
85	70	0	0	6	n/a	102	106
472	532	1,125	1,749	53	n/a	1,835	2,626
4,257	4,743	3,755	4,709	778	1,024	10,265	12,108
-	168	-	250	-	n/a	-	458
	5/5		5/5		0/0		12/12
	35/36		37/37		5/5		88/90
	275/317		254/282		46/54		651/748

## THE ART OF LISTENING: THE ESSENTIAL FOR COMMUNICATION



Recently I was asked to hear confessions at a reconciliation service taking place in one of the Catholic schools in our Diocese. The ceremony was for the Grade 6 who were preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

One of the children who came to see me was a particularly nervous boy. In response to my question he said: 'It is hard to always be the peace-maker at home. My parents are divorcing and I wish they would talk rather than argue.' Great wisdom from such a young source.

Indeed communication is a skill that is so important to develop. We sometimes do not understand it well. When Pierre Elliot Trudeau was Prime Minister there was a story about his brief relationship with Barbara Streisand. The story goes like this: (Pierre is speaking) *Barbara, Barbara! We must dialogue. It is so easy. I will talk and you will listen, and then, you will listen and I will talk!*

Too often communication is but a series of statements that are like ships passing in the night. Problems are solved when we honestly attempt to understand a contrary opinion. It is only then that our responses have a chance to advance the issue.

Good communication is essential for the Communion of Life that is the founding principle of a good marriage.

Good communication is also essential in any human enterprise, including Vincentian work. The better we understand the people who are in need, the better we are able to bring them meaningful service.

This story comes from one of the parishes I served. Jerry had been a travelling salesman who solved his periods of solitude with excessive drink. His wife was a hard working nurse's assistant. Jerry lost his job and health through a traffic accident. The couple owned their modest home along with a sizable mortgage. Through wise management by the wife the family of three (there was a young son) survived. Jerry applied for a disability pension but was told to first sell his house, an idea the couple did not find interesting. I knew the couple since they had received a Christmas hamper.

One day Jerry came to the rectory and asked for \$60 to pay the Hydro. I said I found it very odd that his wife had not budgeted for the cost. Because of the relationship with Jerry I was able to get the truth out of him. His son had a dog and the dog hurt his paw and the Hydro money went to pay the veterinarian. I was able to help with the expense and the family's development continued since honest communication prevailed.

Good communication seems to take time but in the long run it saves time and leads to growth and solution.

When we study the life of Jesus we discover how good he was as a communicator, always finding the right message for the situation at hand. May we always bring his wisdom in our work and may we always see those we encounter as children of the same Heavenly Father we worship.

**Peter Schonenbach**  
**National Spiritual Advisor**

# In Memoriam

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

- Vincent Sobocan**, St. Thomas Conference, Windsor ON, 20 mai 2013  
**Allan Graves**, Sarnia Particular Council, Lambton ON, 5 juin 2013  
**Doreen Lisle**, St. Mary Conference, Campbellford ON, 28 juin 2013  
**Ted Bicknell**, St. Timothy Conference, Winnipeg MB, 29 juin 2013  
**Rosemary Woods**, Charles Garnier Conference, Kelowna BC, juillet 2013  
**Mr. Arnie Sprogis**, St. Albert Conference, Edmonton AB, 16 juillet 2013  
**Louis Gouin**, St. Ann Conference, Tecumseh ON, 30 juillet 2013  
**Mike Clifford**, London Particular Council ON, 31 juillet 2013  
**Linda Olaksew**, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Conference, Kamloop BC, août 2013  
**Mike McCormick**, East West Fraser Particular Council, BC, août 2013  
**Ken Cross**, Peterborough ON, août 2013  
**Angus Lafford**, St. Patrick's Conference, Caledonia ON, 23 août 2013  
**Lorraine Duxbury**, Holy Family Conference, Amherst NS, 31 août 2013  
**Hubert Riekenbrauck**, St. Anthony of Padua Conference, Kincardine ON, 31 août 2013  
**Gerry McDonnell**, Holy Rosary Conference, Burlington ON, 1 septembre 2013  
**Denis Hamel**, Conference of Victoriaville QC, 7 septembre 2013  
**Tony Unholzer**, Holy Name of Jesus Conference, Essex ON, 10 septembre 2013  
**Jim Bissonette**, St. Mary's Conference, Grafton ON, 19 septembre 2013  
**Bev Honsberger**, Holy Rosary Conference, Burlington ON, 23 septembre 2013  
**Gene Minard**, St. John Baptist Conference, Amherstburg ON, 30 septembre 2013  
**Roland Meloche**, Ste-Angèle Conference, St-Léonard QC, septembre 2013  
**Margaret Kelly**, Saint John of The Cross Conference, Mississauga, Ontario  
**Alfred "Zeno" OBrien**, Holy Redeemer Conference, Charlottetown PE, October 2013  
**Pierrette Cousineau**, St-Thomas d'Aquin Conference, Ottawa ON, 2 octobre 2013  
**Jean-Paul Parent**, Montreal Central Council, Quebec Provincial Council, National Council, 8 novembre 2013  
**Willa "Billie" Sinnott**, Holy Redeemer Conference, Charlottetown PE, December 2013  
**Moira Duffy**, Saint Dunstan's Basilica Conference, Charlottetown PE, 16 décembre 2013  
**Georges Landry**, Saguenay Lac St-Jean Central Council QC, 19 décembre 2013  
**André Picard**, Maison Ozanam, Repentigny QC, 21 décembre 2013  
**Alphonse Charron**, St Paul's Conference, Thamesville ON, 4 janvier 2014  
**Glenn Peltier**, Blessed Sacrament Conference, Chatham ON, 4 janvier 2014  
**Renée Lessard** (née Caron), Maison Ozanam, Repentigny QC, 4 janvier 2014  
**Ruth Johann**, St. Joseph Conference, Bowmanville ON, 2013  
**Ron Bates**, St. Joseph Conference, Bowmanville, ON 2013

**They were our brothers and sisters serving the poor.**

**Lord, we pray that all the good they did bear fruit and be continued.**

**Help us keep their memory alive in our hearts. Let us keep them in our prayers.**

*Please send your death notices to [editor@ssvp.ca](mailto:editor@ssvp.ca)*

## FREDERIC OZANAM - LET US PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION



Two young men climbed the rickety stairs of a Paris tenement. They carried a supply of wood and coal - all that was left of their winter's fuel. Though spring had come, there was a damp chill in the air where wretched folk had neither fire nor enough clothing or bedding. The two young men knelt at the cold and empty hearth, arranged the wood and struck a flame. Grateful warmth came to shivering bodies and discouraged souls of the poor people in the room and grateful warmth flooded the hearts of the fire makers.

When Frederic Ozanam and his friend, Auguste Le Taillandier, lit that first fire in a Paris hovel in the early 1800s it was the first of countless fires of love, that love of neighbour, would light on the hearths of the poor in all parts of the world. At the same time they kindled another, a symbolic fire, an immaterial, spiritual flame, in their own hearts and in the hearts of their fellow students. This flame would spread from their tender breasts to those of many others in the French capitol, first: then to the hearts of men and women everywhere, to burn brightly as long as we have a sense of humanity and the godlike quality of mercy.

Frederic and Auguste had carried the fuel to the tenement fireplace at once upon leaving the meeting at which the challenge that we are all so familiar with had been flung: what is Christianity doing now, not what did it do in the past for humanity. What are you doing for the poor? Upon leaving the meeting, Frederic and

August were both upset and they asked one another "Well to be practical, what are we going to do to translate our faith into deeds? The answer came from their compassionate hearts: we must do what is most agreeable to God. Therefore, we must do what our lord Jesus Christ did when preaching the Gospel. Let us go to the poor. This was the night that Frederic said that we must start up a charitable Catholic association and show their unbelieving or indifferent comrades that Christianity had not lost any of its love and tender compassion for the poor.

There is no doubt that other Christians had been challenged in a similar manor, but they did not respond as Frederic did. What was it that was in his heart that caused him to accept the challenge that he had been given?

Frederic was born into a home where faith, love and compassion could be found in abundance. Frederic's parents had lived through both good times and very difficult times- both financially and emotionally. Dr. Jean Antoine suffered numerous financial losses and he and his wife Marie Nantes had 14 children- ten of whom had died in infancy or youth; through all of this, their faith in God never wavered. Because of that faith, no matter how difficult things were at home, the Ozanams always found time to help those who were less fortunate. Never did Dr. Ozanam hesitate when he was called to the home of the sick and never did Marie Ozanam hesitate to forgo comfort or sleep when she was needed at a sick bed or to keep a prayer vigil. Through all of this, they were always there for their children-especially Frederic who was frail right from birth.

Both "Praying with Frederic Ozanam" written by Father Ronald Ramson and "The Great Friend Frederic Ozanam" written by Albert Schimberg tell the story about Frederic being stricken with typhoid fever when he was 6 years old. For two weeks his parents never left his side. In his delirium Frederic asked for beer, and, according to Frederic, the beer cured him. His parents, however, believed that Frederic's recovery was due to



the intercession of Saint John Frances Regis for whom the Ozanams had a strong devotion.

Frederic still felt that it was the beer that was cause of his return to good health. As Vincentians we try to follow what Frederic teaches. So, if someone objects to you having a beer with your supper, feel free to respond that Blessed Frederic says that beer is good for medicinal purposes. Just remember that he only asked for ONE beer.

Until he was 9 years old, Frederic was home schooled by a scholarly father, a talented and patient mother and a gentle sister. This probably was not an easy task for Frederic himself says that he was a very difficult child when he was 8. He was headstrong, passionate, disobedient and frightfully lazy. If he was punished, he revolted and would write letters of complaint to his mother. However, Frederic's older brother Alphonse tells us that he was all of that, but he says that Frederic was also pure and tender to children and compassionate to every form of suffering.

As a child Frederic was fond of boys' games and was lively and gay in spite of his frailness. At games he insisted upon fair play, but at times he was stubborn and selfish, exchanging blows with his playmates and unwilling to admit that he was defeated or in the wrong.

Frederic grew up in a home where the Catholic faith was not only a tradition but a living daily force. His father gathered the family for prayers and readings from the Bible. He was an active member of his parish. Frederic's mother took the children to church and taught them to appreciate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Frederic inherited much from his parents - his father's energy, his dogged perseverance and serenity in the face of hardships and struggles; love of books and all intellectual pursuits, devotion to duty, eagerness to help and willingness to follow up sympathy with action. He inherited his mother's gracious and gentle personality, her love of beauty in nature and art and a heart full of tenderness.

Frederic was not without temptations to stubbornness and pride and he struggled to deal with this. Early in

life Frederic began the struggle to attain a spiritual greatness. He succeeded but only through the most strenuous effort.

As a teenager Frederic was confronted daily by his fellow students who challenged his faith. After constantly listening to these challenges, Frederic began to question his faith; this was a great struggle for him as he really wanted to believe in what he had been taught and what was in his heart. For months he was torn between believing and not believing. In his darkest hours the stress and pain were so great that he went to the church to pray. Spiritually exhausted Frederic drew to the tabernacle and with a desperate sense of his own inadequacy and need, knelt and prayed humbly to the Lord. He asked that the Holy Spirit be sent upon him, that his faith might be strengthened and he never again be tormented by doubt. He pleaded for the gift of absolute faith, positive and unshakable faith. He was begging for a great gift and he made the greatest offer that was within his power to promise. He pledged, in return for his gift of absolute faith to consecrate his life to God's service. We are all in this room today because Frederic kept this promise to God and accepted the challenge from his unbelieving fellow students.

Our world today is not unlike the one that Frederic experienced. We live in a world of turmoil, confusion, injustice, poverty and lack of compassion for others. Frederic's life gives us lots of examples of the virtues that we need today to respond to God's call to serve His poor. Frederic knew the meaning of fragile health and suffering and he learned patience and gratitude as he became reconciled to his frailness. He was also a man of many talents who responded to the gifts he had been given. He brought his abilities to his relationships within his family, to his work and to his service of the poor. Frederic was able to see Christ in the person of the poor, the sick, the abandoned and the lost. Frederic was able to discern quickly what his gifts were and where and when to use them. He knew that his call was to serve God's poor and to regard them as his master. He always showed them the greatest respect. He was sensitive to their needs without judging them and always treated them respectfully. For example, he

# Spirituality

would remove his hat when he entered the home he was visiting and indicated that he was there to serve. He never judged the people but used his judgment to determine to see where he could help. Then he would take the time to sit and chat with them about their concerns and difficulties.

The Vincentian way of life is a vocation and not all are called to this vocation. Those who are called are asked, like Frederic was asked, to use our God-given talents to serve His poor. How do we do that? We turn to God and to our founder to guide us. In his book, Father Ramson states that Frederic was a man of passion- love for his faith, zeal for the truth and ardency in compassion. He says that if someone were to design Frederic's coat of arms, those three words could well serve as Frederic's motto and appear on the ribbon scroll under the emblem: Faith, Truth, Compassion. Far be it for me to critique my good friend Father Ron, but I think he missed a virtue and that is Humility. Humility is a very special gift as it recognizes that God is supreme truth and to be humble means to walk in truth as we realize that we are nothing without our God.

Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. Our beloved Frederic is an excellent example of humility as all his life Frederic put the needs of others ahead of himself.

Let's have a look at the three virtues that Father Ron lists. And I quote

## Faith

Faith was the sacred fire for Frederic. It was a virtue to be nourished and a gift to be shared. It was a grace and a heritage in his life that made him justifiably proud and insisted in public proclamation. Faith gave him the nobility and the call to serve the poor with intelligence, humility and mercy. Frederic understood the importance of Christians to be and to be seen as, apostles sent to counteract the coldness of the world by the ardent fire of faith. He saw the importance of fraternal support in practicing the works of mercy. Above

all, he saw Christ in the persons of the poor, and he responded as the representative of his master.

## Truth

While he was still young, Frederic stated that his mission in life was the service of truth. Falsehood and half-truths were to be shunned. Truth needed to be uncovered, articulated, and publicized. Frederic, in his passion for the truth, could not tolerate duplicity and hypocrisy. Ignorance was always an enemy to be overcome. Seeking wisdom and truth was an attractive and satisfying endeavor. Truth did indeed set one free. It brought light and joy to the intellect and peace to his soul.

## Compassion

Frederic's manner, though intense and ever active, was always cordial and friendly- even gentle. He learned from his difficulties and his doubts to be patient with others in their turmoil. He enjoyed being with others: those who were older like his parents, Father Noirot and M. Bailly; his peers, Amelie; and the young, his students and his daughter. But his compassion was shown most strongly in his love for the poor. He gave them time, sympathy, and respect. His writings show his empathy with their often-frightful circumstances, his capacity for mutuality, and his honour toward them in their suffering. Frederic lived the dual commandment to love God and to love one's neighbor as oneself.

**Maureen MacIsaac, Chairperson  
National Spiritual Committee**

## TWINNING WITH HAITI - NEW PROJECT

The International Council General authorized the resumption of twinning with Haiti in June 2013. This decision did not apply to Canada as we were allowed to continue twinning activities during the interdiction period due to historic links with this country. The decision was made following the signature of a *Tri-Country Twinning Agreement* between the Council of the USA, the *Conseil national d'Haiti* and the National Council of Canada. The main objective of the Agreement is to twin all Aggregated Conferences of Haiti within the next 4 years. This responsibility is shared between the USA and Canada. The Agreement comprises coordination mechanisms and the filing of semi-annual reports to the International Twinning Committee by the three countries' twinning coordinators.

I had several E-mail exchanges with the Twinning Coordinator at the *Conseil national d'Haiti* in the last few months. As well, a formation team, headed by National President Jean Noel Cormier, traveled to Port-au-Prince in September 2013 and offered a formation curriculum for close to 130 Vincentians from all regions of Haiti. All conditions are present to proceed with new twinning with this country, one of the poorest in the Western Hemisphere.

The Society in Haiti is divided into 5 Regional Councils covering the whole country and 67 Conferences are aggregated. I recently received **22 Twinning Applications** from the Twinning Coordinator in Haiti. At the time of writing this article, I was preparing to write to the Canadian Regional Councils Presidents to solicit their cooperation and that of all Conferences under their responsibility to

submit Twinning Applications (donor). This request will be particularly addressed to Francophone Conferences and those with members with fluency in French as Haitians have limited abilities in the English language.

Canadian Conferences and Councils have been twinning with Haiti for more than a decade. We have continued our correspondence and fraternal assistance even when faced with adverse conditions in Haiti. We can collectively reach the objective of this project and truly support our Brother and Sister Vincentians to alleviate misery by accepting to twin with a Conference of that country.

Thank you for your support.

**Clermont Fortin**  
Chair, Twinning Committee,

### 22 CONFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR TWINNING:

- Western Regional Council 4
- Northern Regional Council 8
- North-East Regional Council 10
- Southern Regional Council USA
- Grand'Anse Regional Council USA



## TRAINING OF SSVV MEMBERS IN HAITI

### Background

At the December 2012 meeting gathering the new executive of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul National Council in Haiti, representatives from the Council General International, and representatives from the SSVV in the United States and in Canada, the Haiti representatives asked for the development of a training program to educate all elected members of Regional Councils and Conferences, considering that elections had taken place recently across the country to fill in those positions. All participants agreed to that request and decided to use the French language training program already in use in Canada, since most Haitians understand French.

It was agreed that the training would be provided in two phases. The first phase would consist in training the trainers, thus allowing the National Council of Haiti to continue the initiative without needing outside resources (1<sup>st</sup> week). The second phase would consist in gathering as many Haitians as possible in Port-au-Prince, to start giving the training program, but this time in Creole (2<sup>nd</sup> week). The sessions started on August 22, and ended on September 4, 2013.

### 1<sup>st</sup> week

Provide training, in French, to 24 trainers, who will then be able to disseminate the information received to all Vincentians in Haiti. That was done by Luc Casséus, a Vincentian from Orleans, Ontario, and me.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> week

Provide training, in Creole, to the 143 Vincentians who joined us in Port-au-Prince. That task was assigned to 10 of the 24 members who were trained during the previous week.

The program was modified somewhat, but as a whole, we used the same approach and the same tools.

### TECHNIQUES

One part focused on theory, and then there were brainstorming sessions, question and answer periods, and

group-forming to allow workshop discussions, followed by presentations that helped us evaluate to what degree the information conveyed was understood.

### UNFOLDING OF THE PROGRAM AND CONTENT

#### 1<sup>st</sup> day

The Society of Saint-Vincent de Paul

Overview of operations at all levels of the Society, from the Conference level to the Council General International level, via the Regional and National Council levels within Haiti.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> day

The Conference

Operational aspects (meetings, etc.)

Ethics

Role of administrators (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer)

Examples of Conference activities, such as financing, and assistance activities

Recruiting new members

Aggregation of a Conference

Twinning policy

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> day

Vincentian Spirituality

The first week, using excerpts from the writings of the Blessed Frederic Ozanam and from the Bible, we reflected on the notion of charity versus philanthropy, on self-abnegation to better help the needy and on the fact that abnegation means not expecting anything in return. Mass was celebrated by Father Jean-Baptiste, of the Congregation of the Missions, Spiritual Advisor of the National Council of Haiti. During his homily, he went over the themes discussed during my training presentation.

The second week, Father Jean-Baptiste provided Vincentian spirituality training through his homily.

## 4<sup>th</sup> day

The Volunteer

The Vincentian approach to volunteer work.

The Person in Need and the Home Visit

Who is a person in need?

How to behave when receiving or visiting people in need, and why the Vincentian approach to charity.

## 5<sup>th</sup> day

For Trainers (1<sup>st</sup> week only)

A few practical tips to help the newly trained members to better prepare and present the sessions, when the time comes for them to provide training.

## CONCLUSION

During both weeks, people worked enthusiastically and showed much interest. Cell phones and other devices were turned off during classes, and the level of participation was remarkable. Some participants were assigned to taking notes during the entire training session, and the National Council of Haiti will prepare its own training manual from the notes taken.

Now that the National Council of Haiti has 24 trainers ready to continue the work, it only has to organize training sessions in the regions to complete the project.

I can conclude that in spite of the various logistics difficulties we had to face during those two weeks, the training was very successful. I thank Sister Gloria of the Saint-Charles-Borromée Centre in Port-au-Prince for her great patience and flexibility, the 167 participants for their exemplary work, as well as the members of the National Council of Haiti for their support and understanding during the entire process. I also thank my Canadian brother Luc Casséus for supporting me so well during those two weeks.

**Jean-Noël Cormier, President  
National Council of Canada**



Training in French to 24 trainers (first week)



Outdoor classes (second week)



170 participants to the second Sunday mass



# Canada's Councils in Action

## ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

### The Halifax particular Council

The Halifax Particular Council continued its advocacy work on behalf of the poor and needy. Special seminars were held on systemic change, tenants' rights and other life enhancing indicatives aimed at helping the needy. David O'Conner president of Halifax Particular Council made his voice known during the recent Provincial election. He noted that our mission is to help the poor with basic needs. In the Halifax Regional Municipality alone The Council annually spends in excess of \$400,000 helping the needy.

For many years, the Halifax Particular Council has been assisting those living in poverty with the payment of electric power and home heating bills. What began as a small program to provide occasional assistance to a few has grown exponentially to the point that more assistance is needed. The poor are unfairly burdened with ever increasing electric power and home heating costs and public officials, not just local charities, have a duty to provide a winter home heating supplement to the poor of Nova Scotia. David asked the parties to support the introduction and implementation of a winter home heating supplement for every Nova Scotian living in poverty. 'We urge you and your Party to support this request and we look forward to your response and campaign commitment during this provincial election.'

During the winter months Dennis McCormack will visit many Conferences served by the Halifax Particular Council and the Dartmouth Particular Council. Says Dennis 'Conferences have wonderful stories to tell about the Vincentian spirit close to the heart of our founder Frederick Ozanam.'

### Prince Edward Island Notes

The majority of people going hungry are working for a living says Valerie Tarasuk the author of Household Insecurity in Canada. Her report found that 15.4 percent of households in Prince Edward Island suffer from some sort of food insecurity compared to the National average of 12.3 percent. 15,900 adults and

8,500 children under the age of eighteen are living in food insecure households in PEI.

The vast majority will never set foot in a food bank and even if they do they will still go hungry. The working poor need better pay, says Tarasuk and provinces need to reconcile social assistance programs. A model worth following is Newfoundland where there has been a dramatic drop in food insecurity in part because of the intervention of social assistance programs. They index benefits to inflation. I urge Vincentians to read the complete article featured in the Guardian, Saturday, September 28, section A4. What does it mean? How can The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul make a contribution to the elimination of poverty among the working poor where 12.3 percent of households in Canada suffer from food insecurity? We can see Christ in the faces of the working poor.

### A Visit To Newfoundland

President Dennis McCormack thanked Chris Ryan President of St. John's Particular Council and the entire Vincentian family for their kindness during his recent visit to the Conferences of Newfoundland. Chris made his home available to Dennis and Con Milmore, incoming president of St Peter's Conference, provided the transportation allowing Dennis to visit the four Conferences of St. John's and three isolated ones. A letter sent to Conferences in Newfoundland from Dennis is included with this item...

# Canada's Councils in Action

October 2013

Dear Vincentians,

I have been reading the Narnia books by C. S. Lewis over the past month. In his work, nature comes alive, filled with intelligence and wonderful characters. The books have a magical quality and remind of my recent trip to Newfoundland Labrador and the amazing Conferences of The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and your leaders.

Newfoundland is an island, a great island for me filled with art, intelligence pouring out of every rock on Signal Hill, the hills before Chance Cove and the little villages surrounding its cities. The rocks seem to be shaped by an artist to feast upon. Even the fog I observed was not a barrier to seeing things straight. The fog touched the rocks moved away then returned again for another visit. The world of Newfoundland Labrador is one of motion and life.

In Newfoundland Labrador I found Mary, God's mother everywhere, in front of St Joseph's church in Grand Falls Windsor, at the historic Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of St John the Baptist, St Patrick's Parish, Corpus Christi, St Peter's Church, St Theresa's and at Mary Queen of the World filled with priceless art and the famous painting of the last supper reminding us of truth and our present moral choices.

Newfoundland Labrador is filled with art, but it is also the home of Vincentians providing services to fifteen thousand persons in need in St John's city alone. Twenty thousand hours of free volunteer service make that community come to life.

I was impressed with the work done by Bob Lovett and Vincentians of the Food bank of Mary Queen of the World. They love the poor, love serving them at their food bank. They are changing things, methods of service and I observed love in action, love in thought.

Judy Peddle President of Corpus Christi Conference and her forty volunteers serve the needy from an

out building called the Hut. During my visit the Hut was being painted with Judy's mum at the helm. The volunteers know their work is a special vocation. The vocation runs through the generations and eternity.

St Theresa's Church is a work of art impressed on wood. It's also a home to St Teresa's Conference under president Jim Dinn. When I visited this Conference I met with Shirley MacKinnon our twinning representative of Atlantic. Shirley is proud of the work done for the needy of St Theresa's and all the Conferences. St. Theresa's provides a home delivery service to the poor in this large community and I sensed the clergy admire and gain courage from observing this Conference helping the needy.

St Peter's Conference is also a food bank working closely with Mary Queen of the World providing the only two food banks in the City of Mount Pearl. They serve over seven hundred families a year. President Anne Marie Cox hosted a luncheon for me and Cornelius Milmore, incoming president, during my visit. Thank you Anne Marie of St. Peter's.

I had the opportunity to visit food sharing facilities during my visit. Eag Walters, director of Community Food Sharing is a wonderful supporter of all charitable organizations on the Island and wants to do more for the needy. He works closely with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to help the needy.

Christopher Ryan President of St John's Particular Council and the Conferences of St John's place emphasis on unity. Chris and the Conferences team organized a very successful St Vincent de Paul feast day event on Friday Sept 27. A mass complete with a Vincentian choir and a turkey dinner with all the trimmings brought the four Conferences together. The Ode to New Foundland was sung with great gusto and a visit from dancers in costumes closed this special evening.

I thank Con Milmore for driving me to so many communities in and outside St John's. I thank

# Canada's Councils in Action

Chris Ryan for providing a place to stay, and food fit for a king. Chris seeks unity and a willingness to assist those isolated Conferences in communities outside the St John's area. It is a win win situation. All Conferences in Newfoundland are made up of wonderful Vincentians who see Christ in the poor.

Meeting Father Houlahan, Dorothy Knight and her fourteen member team of St Joseph's Isolated Conference Grand Falls Windsor was a wonderful experience. Their message was that the needy need food, clothing, compassion, love and friendship.

Twenty Vincentians met Con Milmore and me at Immaculate Conception Isolated Harbour Grace Conference in Harbour Grace. Harbour Grace is an amazing community and its Conference is lead by Debbie Farrell, a dedicated Vincentian of Irish decent. Vincentians know of her dedication to the needy. It's been long standing, remarkable and appreciated by the Vincentians in this beautiful sea port.

St Patrick Isolated Conference Carbonear is under a very young president Kerri Abbott, supported by senior members and an influx of younger persons to the Saint Vincent banner. We long for greater membership of all ages in Atlantic and our longing will be satisfied. The young and those of senior age love the poor, see Christ in them.

In closing I must apologize to President Cecilia Burke for not making a trip to St Stephen's isolated Conference in Stephenville. I will return soon Cecilia.

Blessings

**Dennis McCormack, President  
Atlantic Regional Council**



There is a youth center in our area which offers programming and services to youth at risk. I had spoken to the Executive Director and arranged for some of our youth volunteers who have experience with working with youth at risk to come in and show the kids around and have them work in the food bank. The visit was an amazing success! The kids began filling hampers, stocked shelves, learned about both food banks and Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

We've increased our numbers of volunteers - and are receiving an increasing amount of support from the community - which is bursting our hearts.

**Kerri Abbott  
St. Patrick Isolated Conference, Carbonear NL**



# Canada's Councils in Action

## QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Québec calls upon art and publishing to promote its mission; two widespread projects have developed in 2013: one review, preceded by a photo reportage and exhibition as a tribute to volunteers.

### The Thousand And One Faces Of Frederic: A Very Strong Photo Project!

In Saguenay Lac Saint-Jean, Vincentians mobilized under the theme “The thousand and one faces of Frederic” in tribute to founder Frederic Ozanam, participating in a feature story aiming to promote volunteer work. The end result, a photo exhibition, was launched with great flourish at the *Musée Régional, La Pulperie*, on Wednesday September 25, 2013. Forty large size photographs taken by Jacques, a renowned photographer with the *Le Devoir* daily newspaper, were presented from September 26 to October 15. More than 2000 visitors thus had the opportunity to get acquainted with the work of the volunteers and the mission of the Society. Louise Larivière, publisher of the [LeRevedOzanam.org](http://LeRevedOzanam.org) website, organized the reportage and acted as curator of the exhibition. Monique Laferrière, President of the Saguenay Lac Saint-Jean Central Council was able to rally her team, as well as, local partners: dozens of volunteers actively participated in the reportage. The Mayor of Ville Saguenay contributed financially, and praised the courage of Society members at the inauguration. It is proof that when art meets a cause, results speak for themselves! The concept that aspires to be national from the start, hopes to rally other Vincentians so that reportages can be organized in other areas of Québec, and even in the rest of Canada.

The photo exhibition The Thousand And One Face Of Frederic will be presented once again, this time at :  
The History Society of Lac-Saint-Jean  
1671 avenue du Pont Nord , Alma (Québec) G8B 5G2  
From February 14 to May 23, 2014

### An Annual Review For Québec

Last November, the Québec Regional Council published its annual review, the first edition of LA REVUE ANNUELLE, LE RÊVE D'OZANAM (THE ANNUAL REVIEW, OZANAM'S DREAM). The 16-page publication has a definitely modern tone, and includes several photographs



taken during the “Thousand and One Faces of Frederic” project. The magazine aims to reflect Vincentian life in Québec. The annual campaign and the Society’s *National Week* activities are reported in it. However, the publication does not pretend to be an exhaustive report; it is rather a communication tool where we can read articles written by members and other general interest articles related to the Vincentian community. A feature article fosters reflection on a hot topic. One chapter is reserved for the extended Vincentian Family locally and abroad, another one for youth. As a conclusion, the magazine briefly reviews major Vincentian gatherings.

The Annual Review thus hopes to be useful for members in their recruiting and positioning activities. It is expected to be published every November. It can be accessed via [LeRevedOzanam.org](http://LeRevedOzanam.org).

**Louise Larivière**  
Senior Communication Advisor  
for the Quebec Regional Council



# Canada's Councils in Action

## ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Recent activities of the Conférence St-François d'Assise of North Bay, ON

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founder, Frédéric Ozanam, members of our Conference presented themselves at the 11:00 a.m. mass to serve as welcomers, readers and mass servers. We also prepared a short history of SSVP in North Bay. It was put into the parish bulletin that day.

After the mass, parishioners were invited to an "Open House" in our meeting room. About thirty people came to have a coffee and some delicious desserts, but also to see what goes on in our little building to help the less fortunate in our community. Some members were available to answer questions and to explain the system which we use when we receive those in need every week.

On Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, three schools, St-Vincent, St-Raymond and Sts-Anges, gifted us with all the items that they had been gathering during their "Thanksgiving Drive". The students and staff of St-Vincent school created a human chain from a truck half a block away, right into our building. Items were passed from hand to hand and members inside were helped by a few older students to place them on our shelves. This activity ended up on the front page of our local newspaper, the Nugget, the next day. Our president and a member attended a special celebration in one of the schools that marked the end of "their" drive, and they very gratefully brought everything back to our site.

Because of the great generosity of the families and staff of the French schools in our community, we now have our shelves full of items that we can give to families and individuals who come to us for help. We thank them all sincerely.



### The Ozanam Education Fund

Education is the key to getting young people or single parent families out of the continuous circle of poverty. With that in mind the Ontario Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul established the Ozanam Education Fund in 2012. Frederic Ozanam was a 20-year-old University student in Paris who formed the very first St Vincent de Paul Society. 2013 is the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his birth.

The Ozanam Education Fund gives students who want to have an education, money to cover some of the expenses not normally covered. A single mother is using her money to pay for day care for her children while she trains as a Nurse. Another student besides using the money to pay for a computer and books has bought a bike so she has transportation to College as public transportation does not work out. Another is a student with no parents who is staying with friends and is trying to support himself so he can get an education.

So far 21 people have received \$2,000 each to help them cover their education expenses, with 4 more pending. They attend Carleton, Toronto, Ryerson, Western and Windsor Universities and Mohawk, St Clair (Chatham), George Brown and Seneca Colleges.

This fund needs to grow so that students from all over Ontario can be given the opportunity of an education to break the cycle of poverty.

Donations can be made to the Ozanam Education Fund, ONRC SSVP, PO Box 20069, Chatham, Ontario N7L 5K6. Also check for information on our website [www.ssvp.on.ca](http://www.ssvp.on.ca) under Systemic Change.

**Geraldine Campbell, Secretary**  
ONRC Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
[geraldine.ssvp@hotmail.com](mailto:geraldine.ssvp@hotmail.com)

# Canada's Councils in Action

## ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Thanksgiving Meal to Remember

Every Friday St Joseph's Conference in Chatham , Ontario has been providing between 80-100, sometimes more, bag lunches to those in need in the community. Many start with coffee, tea or juice at 10:00am and then we serve them the bag lunch and whatever other goodies we have at 11:15am. Often we have fresh fruits or vegetables for those who want to take them home. In the summer we have volunteer helpers from Entgrus (formerly Chatham-Kent Hydro) helping us.

During the summer one of the volunteers asked "What are you doing for Thanksgiving?"; the answer was nothing special as we have a special celebration for SSVP Week and Christmas. Entegrus offered to not only pay for, but prepare and serve a full Turkey Thanksgiving Meal with all the trimmings. Everyone was involved from the CEO to the linemen who helped with wrapping of the cutlery and insisted on not just tying the ribbon but curling it as well. Over 176 people had a delicious meal served by enthusiastic volunteers who at the end were having so much fun that they didn't really want to go back to work.

Their generosity did not stop there. The Entegrus staff filled a whole table with donated food to start the St Joseph's Conference Thanksgiving Food Drive.

A certificate of appreciation was presented on behalf of St Joseph's Conference.

St Joseph's Conference has been blessed with assistance from many people in the whole community of Chatham-Kent.



# Canada's Councils in Action

## WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Our Modern Day Mini Miracle: Shoes for Kids!

The Western Region of St. Vincent de Paul heard our call and catapulted us into major success! We were approached for CWL assistance by an educator at the Aboriginal alternative school within the Calgary Board of Education, the Piitoayis (bee-doe-yeez) Family School (K-6) in the Inglewood area in Calgary. This school has students with many diverse needs. The wonderful staff at this school works extremely hard to meet all these needs, but they have limitations due to finances. Many families at Piitoayis School were greatly impacted by the flooding in Calgary in June and many family resources were lost and need to be replaced.

The way we agreed to support the school's 120 students was to help provide them with appropriate indoor shoes. Many of these students were participating in gym class with outdoor footwear, or bare feet. The need for proper footwear was identified to avoid a health and safety hazard. It was also felt that new footwear would be a bright light in these students' lives and would connect them to their school and keep them interested in attending and being successful students.

We are the CWL for St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Chestermere, east of Calgary, and our council is less than two years old. Rev. John Nemanic is our parish priest.

After a cursory poll of the students requiring shoes, we had a benchmark of \$3000 for approximately 60 pairs of shoes and in our letter of request, stated that anything in excess would be used for coats and outerwear. Through our fundraising efforts to find a discount on shoes we identified that the Canadian Tire/Forzani Group Jumpstart program has a mandate to help with anything that promotes physical activity. The school

had to register for this program itself. It seems that this program will cover the cost of 75 pairs of shoes and we can use our collected funds of \$3300 to buy coats and outerwear!

We did not know how this was going to happen as through the flood relief, donor fatigue has set in for many. We stepped out in faith. Our CWL did some fundraising through cookbook sales and has received some monetary donations from other CWLs within the Calgary Diocese. With the incredible and generous donation from the Western Region of St. Vincent de Paul, who heard our call from a local CWL, we will be able to purchase coats and outerwear! We have already bought some hats, and gloves for the students as some parents



expressed concern that their kids could not attend school, as they had no warm clothes. This has already been distributed to the classes. During this purchase, the clerk at a local General Store added two great big bags of new scarves and hats!

The school is in discussion to make an open invitation to donors to a morning Smudge tour and Phys. Ed class.

The picture below is of the donated hats, scarves and mittens. We are working to secure a discount to make an immediate purchase of coats and snow pants. The monetary blessing of the Western Region of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is profound and will be felt in the warmth of these children and in our hearts.

We are truly blessed!

Thank you from the St. Gabriel CWL Council #4027  
Chestermere, Alberta

**Denine Welsh, CWL President &  
the "Shoes for Kids" Committee**

# Canada's Councils in Action

## WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### North of 60 Goes National

A few weeks before Eileen Orysiuk died early this year she insisted that I keep a focus on Canada's far north and on those that are living in poverty in a unique and different culture. We now continue to develop what she was so very dedicated to and that is our Society support to Northern Canadian Communities.

At the November National Board meeting, your Society unanimously passed this motion.

**That the National Council, with the support of all five Regional Councils, develop for presentation to the 2014 AGA, an action plan for immediate increase in the number of northern communities to which SSVP will be involved in a continuous and supportive long term relationship. Now we can move forward with the skills and resources of Vincentians across Canada.**

Now we can address the needs that are being expressed by members of our Religious Community who live and serve in the North.

Now we can bring our Vincentian spirit to those who are calling out for our help.

What can you do? We need Parish Conferences to express interest in a long term engagement process with a specific northern community. Not a twinning program but more of a mentoring program. Longer term Vincentian Conference formation in these communities may result, but that is not the objective. Our mission is to help those in need. Our hope is that several Vincentians from across the country will offer their time and talents to develop a unique and comprehensive understanding of one of these northern communities. These Vincentian Coordinators will develop the needs analysis, they will work with their home Conference and Councils to provide for these needs and they will work with the transportation and logistics industry to arrange shipments.

It can be done and we can help you get started. We have a list of communities in need. Find out more.

Email me - Peter Ouellette at [pres.wrc@ssvp.ca](mailto:pres.wrc@ssvp.ca).

You can be at the beginning of this new systemic change initiative that will do so much to reduce the poverty in Canada's far north.

**Peter Ouelette, President  
Western Regional Council**



Vincentians in Gjoa Haven around the table repackaging bulk food from Sea Can shipment. Patricia Lyall (just came over to help us out), Her baby Naveah, John Aglukkaq (Baby's father), Simona Akkikungnaq (treasurer SSVP), Miriam Aglukkaq (Lay Leader), and Fr. Lukas Zajac o.m.i.



Two week food supply packages prepared and ready to deliver to those in need.

# Canada's Councils in Action

## WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### St. Vincent de Paul in Edmonton Opens the New "Terrence Mahon" Clothing Room

Archbishop Richard Smith walked the Gospel talk Nov. 12 as he packed hampers and sorted household items at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's distribution centre.

The archbishop went to the distribution centre to bless the recently-renovated facility and decided to help out a little.

"The poor are close to all of our hearts and I wanted to be here today to show my personal support for the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society," Smith said.

"I have long been impressed by the work that they do and I am thrilled to have them in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. To witness the work that they are doing is truly edifying."

The distribution centre, located in the former chapel of St. Joseph's High School, is the place where the SSVP stores donated items and goods, and then distributes them to people in need across the city.

"We have beds and furniture and pots and pans and linens and towels - everything a person may need to set up an apartment," said SSVP vice president Mary Dunnigan. "We also have a small food bank for emergencies."

People in need can also visit the clothing room once every 60 days and "take a full bag of clothing for free."

Prior to the blessing, the archbishop helped dedicate the clothing room in memory of Terrence Mahon, a well-known volunteer and top Knights of Columbus recruiter at Good Shepherd Parish.

Mahon's father, Terry Mahon, who was present at the dedication, donated \$60,000 to the Society.

Recently the distribution centre underwent \$38,000.00 worth of renovations to make it brighter and better organized. "We just renovated it over the summer and it's never been blessed, so we've asked the archbishop to do that," Dunnigan said.

"In his great love for all of us Christ said that whatever we do for the least among us we do for him,"

the Archbishop said during the blessing.

"Let's pray for the Lord's richest blessings on the members of the St. Vincent de Paul organization who are devoted to helping their brothers and sisters and today in particular upon this distribution centre."

SSVP gets about 1,200 calls a month - some from donors, the majority from families and individuals in need of help. In 2012, the SSVP served almost 10,000 people and did more than 62,000 volunteer hours.

"An order can include housewares, furniture, even clothing and specialty items," explained volunteer Lauren Cleland. "In the housewares there would be a coffee pot,



Archbishop Richard Smith, Terry Mahon and Bernie McCracken (President of the Edmonton Council)

# Canada's Councils in Action

## WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Football and Flood Relief

dishes, cutlery and things like that, and also decorations, like a picture, for their houses.”

Once packed, the order is delivered to the needy family or individual at no cost to them.

Dunnigan said the majority of the people who request help from SSVP “are immigrants or people new to the city, people who are just coming out of abusive relationships, people who have been released from prison or single moms that have nowhere to go.”

One school brought in things like socks, toques, mittens, scarves and even crayons and colouring books for needy kids. Another school brought in a combination of socks and brooms and dustpans.

SSVP has 18 parish-based Conferences and serves the needy in Edmonton, Vegreville, Red Deer and St. Albert.



Archbishop Richard Smith and a Vincentian volunteer from the Distribution Centre

There are ten games that the Calgary Stampede have at home during the regular CFL season. This year there are eleven as the Western Final is in Calgary. How does this affect the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at Saint Pius X Parish? Saint Pius SSVP is approximately two blocks away from McMahon Stadium where the Calgary Stampede play. Chong Chan is the president of the SSVP Conference at St. Pius X Parish. He and six other Vincentians came up with the idea of using the land that is not being used as a parking lot during the game days of the Calgary Stampede. The area that they are using is land designated for the future expansion of the church. Chong and six other Vincentians run this parking lot like professionals with the added ingredient of hospitality, conversation and helping people leave their vehicle in safe hands with folks who are truly welcoming. These people keep coming back during the football season because of the genuine warmth and interaction they experience. There are approximately 90 parking spots and they are charged 10 dollars per spot on game day. This raises nine thousand dollars. In times of scarce resources and money this creative idea has made the Conference more money that is being used for those in poverty in an effective manner. Chong says it is a great time of fellowship and genuine fun.

This fund raising endeavour has enabled this Conference to take part in Bishop Henry's call to the Calgary Diocese to assist in the great need of the flood of 2013. On November 13, Chong presented Bishop Henry with a cheque for \$5,000. This money will be used to help in the flood relief in Southern Alberta. Bishop Henry was very appreciative of Chong's explanation of the Vincentians' creative way of raising money. Bishop Henry's directive to his Flood Relief Committee was that the process should be pastoral and that it should be person to person using the concept of subsidiarity. We should focus on those who fall through the cracks, the disabled, children from disenfranchised families, seniors and exceptional cases that may arise. Chong and the Vincentians at St. Pius heard the cry of the poor and answered that call in a humble manner with poise and great generosity.

**Byron Price**

# Canada's Councils in Action

## BC & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL

### “WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS”

On June 3, 1996, Christ the King Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Comox Valley) began Monday and Thursday noon “Soup Kitchens” held at St George’s United Church in Courtenay. Implemented by Archie Forest of Christ the King Conference, many changes were seen over the years. Other Church and support groups have graciously taken over four of the weekdays while our local Conference has carried on with serving a delicious hot lunch to those in need each and every Monday.

For their years of contributing time, expertise, and in many cases, generosity in preparing and supplying much of the food, eleven of these stalwarts were presented with Certificates of Appreciation. At a ceremony held on Sunday, October 13th at the 8:30am Parish Mass, the Conference President (now Vice President, National Council of Canada), Claude Bedard, conveyed the thanks of a very grateful Society, Conference, Parish, and Comox Valley community-at-large. He acknowledged that, true to the vision of their founder, Frederic Ozanam, and their patron, St. Vincent de Paul, they have aided in “encircling the world in a network of charity”. He further stated that they had all indeed fulfilled the aim of the Society which is “dedicated to the sanctification of its members through serving the poor and disadvantaged”.

Those receiving the Certificates of Appreciation were:

- Dr Tillman Briggs Council No. 4597, Knights of Columbus
- Ted Fortosky, GK 17 yrs service:
- Jill Tantrum 17 yrs service
- Jane Tasse 17 yrs service
- Rosemarie Reisinger 17 yrs service, now retired
- Gela Pisto 16 yrs service, now retired
- Joe Richard 14 yrs service, now retired
- Joycelyn Richard 14 yrs service, now retired
- Pat Tantrum 13 yrs service
- Linda Cade 13 yrs service
- Joan McGrath 13 yrs service
- Else Forster 10 yrs service, now retired
- Jack Forster 10 yrs service, now deceased
- Paule Pinder 10 yrs service, now retired

Congratulations to all the recipients – your combined 181+ years of service is appreciated by so many – we are very proud of your efforts in our community!

**Denise Buckley**



# Canada's Councils in Action



**Back row, left to right:**

**Ted Fortosky, Paula Pinder, Jane Tassé, Rosemarie Reisinger, Gela Pisto, Else Forster, Joan McGrath**

**Front row, left to right:**

**Joe Richard, Jocelyn Richard, Jill Tantrum, Linda Cade, Chrissy Fraser**

# AGA 2014 - Program

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

9:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
5:30 PM - 6:45 PM  
7:00 PM

## ACTIVITIES

Registration & Hospitality with sales table  
National Council Committee Meetings  
Tours & Visits  
Supper on Your Own  
Regional Meetings  
Evening on Your Own

## THURSDAY, JUNE 12

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM  
8:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM  
8:45 AM - 10:15 AM  
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM  
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM  
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Breakfast  
Registration & Hospitality with sales table  
National Council Board Meeting  
Workshops  
Break  
Workshops  
Lunch  
Workshops  
National Council Committee Meetings  
Break  
Workshops  
National Council Committee Meetings  
Rosary – Memorial Service – Mass  
Evening Reception & Official Welcoming (includes supper)

**“LET US BE AS CHRIST  
TO ONE ANOTHER”**

# AGA 2014 - Program

## FRIDAY, JUNE 13

7:00 AM	-	8:30 AM
8:00 AM	-	9:00 PM
8:45 AM	-	9:30 AM
9:30 AM	-	10:15 AM
10:15 AM	-	10:30 AM
10:30 AM	-	12:00 PM
10:30 AM	-	12:00 PM
12:00 PM	-	1:00 PM
12:00 PM	-	1:30 PM
1:00 PM	-	3:00 PM
3:00 PM	-	3:15 PM
3:15 PM	-	4:30 PM
5:00 PM	-	6:00 PM
6:30 PM		

## ACTIVITIES

Breakfast  
Registration & Hospitality with sales table  
Parade of Banners – Official Opening  
Keynote Speaker  
Break  
Presidents’ Round Table with voting members  
Workshops  
Lunch  
Spiritual Advisors’ Luncheon  
Plenary  
Break  
Regional Reports & National Committee Reports  
Rosary - Mass  
Evening Get Together (includes supper)

## SATURDAY, JUNE 14

7:00 AM	-	8:30 AM
8:00 AM	-	12:00 PM
8:45 AM	-	9:15 AM
9:15 AM	-	10:15 AM
10:15 AM	-	10:30 AM
10:30 AM	-	12:00 PM
12:00 PM	-	1:00 PM
1:00 PM	-	3:30 PM
3:30 PM		
5:00 PM		
7:00 PM		

Breakfast  
Registration & Hospitality with sales table  
Spiritual Reflection on the Theme - Msgr. Peter Schonenbach  
National Committee Reports Continued  
Break  
Statutory Meeting  
Lunch  
Statutory Meeting Continued/Presentation 2015 AGA  
Free time  
Mass & Commissioning – St. Joseph Basilica  
Banquet – MacEwan University

## SUNDAY, JUNE 15

7:00 AM	-	8:30 AM
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Breakfast

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday June 11 to Sunday June 15, 2014 - Edmonton AB  
MacEwan University, Edmonton, AB

As you need to register online for the accommodation arrangements,  
we invite you to register online at the same time for the registration fee and the meals.  
Everything is on the same link, on our website.

To register online, please go to : <http://www.ssvp.ca/GeneralAssembly/Registration>  
and click on the link for the electronic registration.

Payment by credit card is preferable (but cheques are accepted).

Early Registration deadline : April 30, 2014  
If you need to use this form, please print clearly

**\*\*\* DO NOT FILL THIS FORM IF YOU REGISTER ONLINE. \*\*\***

Name:		Tel:
Address:	Apt:	Email:
City:	Prov:	Postal Code:
Conference:	Council:	
Contact in case of emergency:		Tel:
Spiritual Advisor:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Arrival date & time:	Departure date & time:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus	<input type="checkbox"/> Train	<input type="checkbox"/> Plane
Arrival number:	Airport and carrier:	
Departure number:	Airport and carrier:	

Would you like a volunteer to meet you at the airport, train or bus station?  Yes / No

Do you require transportation back to the airport, train or bus station?  Yes / No

Do you have any special mobility needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Cancellation requests (full refund) will be honored up to Wednesday, May 28, 2014,  
after which time no refunds will be available.

If you have an extraordinary circumstance  
and require cancellation after Wednesday, May 28, 2014, please contact us  
and the conference committee will connect with you.

## REGISTRATION FEE

REGISTRATION FEE covers conference registration, Thursday supper (official opening/reception), Friday Barbeque/Supper and Saturday Banquet.

EXTRA MEAL PACKAGE FEE covers hot breakfast Thursday to Sunday, hot lunch Thursday to Saturday, GST & gratuities

MEALS: There are no other food services available on campus, however there are restaurants within a few block radius.

Registration (no extra meals) (before April 30)	\$250	Registration (no extra meals) (after April 30)	\$265	\$
Registration & Meals (before April 30)	\$345	Registration & Meals (after April 30)	\$360	\$
Youth Registration fee (no extra meals)	\$175			\$
Youth Registration & Meals	\$270			\$
Additional ticket(s) Thursday supper	\$25	Number of ticket(s)		\$
Additional ticket(s) Friday supper	\$30	Number of ticket(s)		\$
Additional ticket(s) Saturday Banquet	\$40	Number of ticket(s)		\$
			<b>TOTAL</b>	\$
One day registration (lunch included)	\$60	Number of day(s)		\$
			<b>TOTAL</b>	\$

Do you have any dietary concerns or allergies? Please specify:

## ACCOMODATION

Accomodation arrangements to be made directly with MacEwan University.

Please go to : <http://www.ssvp.ca/GeneralAssembly/Registration>

### RESIDENCE SUITES

Bachelor Suite	\$63,75 / suite / night
Two-Bedroom Suite	\$80,75 / suite / night
Four-Bedroom Suite	\$178.50 / suite / night (limited availability)

### HOTEL STYLE SUITES

Queen Hotel Room	\$76,50 / room / night
Queen-Double Hotel Room	\$83,30 / room / night

\* Prices subject to a 4% Provincial Tourism Levy, 3% Municipal Tourism Levy and 5% GST.

\*\* A valid credit card (Visa or Mastercard ONLY) is required upon reservation

\*\*\* You can view the suites on the online registration website.

If you have questions about the registration process or our event, please call  
780-633-3820 or email [conferenceoffice@macewan.ca](mailto:conferenceoffice@macewan.ca)  
and you will be responded to within 24-48 business hours.  
MacEwan University, Robbins Health Learning Centre, 10910 104 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4S2

# AGA 2014 - Workshops

## “LET US BE AS CHRIST TO ONE ANOTHER”

### Proposed Workshops

**Secretaries:** More than just taking minutes! More exciting than Pricewaterhouse Coopers who tabulate the Oscars! Come see how to keep the conference running smoothly. Presented by the National Training Committee.

**Treasurers:** Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask! Whose money is it? Stewardship & accountability. Presented by the National Training Committee.

**Spiritual Advisors:** Are you being used to your potential? Does your conference have one? Presented by the National Training Committee.

**Presidents:** How to Run an Effective Meeting and keeping their attention. Presented by the National Training Committee.

**CRA/Aggregation? Instituion/Insurance:** Bi-lingual presentation with focus on the administration, financial & legal issues. What could be more important? Presented by the National Training Committee.

**Strategic Planning:** Bi-lingual presentation updating the status of the National Strategic Planning Committee with focus on training at the conference level. Presented by National Strategic Planning Committee

**Extraordinarily Ordinary: Seeing Versus Being:** Seeing God in the smallest and most ordinary of things and practically applying the love that is witnessed in service to each other. Focus on youth involvement with SSVP & social justice. Presented by Brittany White, St. Joseph's Campus Ministry.

**Ministry in Challenging Times:** Experiences with First nations Ministry. Presented by Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie OMI the Pas, Manitoba

**Discovering Your Inner Spirituality:** (2 time periods – ½ day workshop, must attend both sessions). What Saint are you most like? Come learn about your strengths as you minister to those in need. Presented by Val Merchant & Mary Anne Warren, Edmonton

**Transitioning to Urban Areas:** Aboriginal relations and issues transitioning into Urban areas. Presented by Dave Ward, Homeward Trust

**Chaplaincy Services in Hospitals & Prisons:** assisting those returning to the community, an extension of prison ministry.

**Addictions & How to Assist those we serve**

**Justice & healing initiatives**

**Empowering Youth in the Vincentian Movement:**

**To Situate the Spirituality of Vincentians into the call for a New Evangelization:** Tracing the Evolution of the Vincentian Charism; “To live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.” Presented by Sister Gertrude Sopracolle, Ursuline Sisters of Prelate, Edmonton Spiritual Advisor

**Succession to Leadership:** Presented by National Training Committee

**The Home Visit:** The essence of how we serve those in need. Presented by Ontario Council.

**French workshops:** There will be in addition, 5 workshops offered in French and organized by National Council.