

Vincenpaul Canada



The Magazine of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
National Council of Canada
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Extend a *Hand* to our
Neighbours in Need.

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President change

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Message from the President

Dear brother and sister Vincentians,

At the onset of this New Year, I wish all Vincentians a very good year 2016, filled with good health and happiness. I hope that you have had time to recover, after a very full month of December, since the New Year promises to be another busy one.

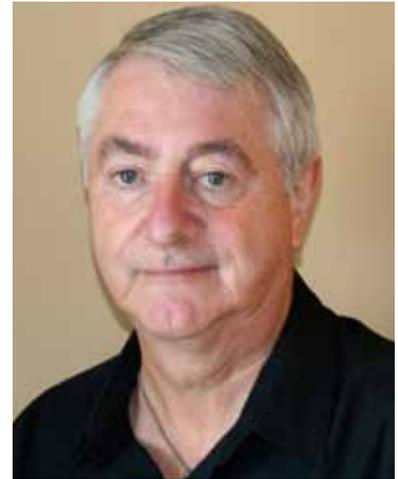
Indeed, you most certainly know that in the past months, the Canadian government has put in place a process to welcome 25,000 refugees from Syria and Iraq, who are presently in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The governments of Canada, the provinces and the territories are working very hard to carry out this vast social and humanitarian project. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul must, without reservations, support and contribute to that national effort.

Pope Francis and the Catholic Bishops of Canada asked that all the parishes, which are able to, do so to mobilize resources on behalf of the refugees. Furthermore, one of the Society's values stemming from our mission is to help in any way we can. The Society must focus above all on the poorest among the poor. Those refugees who outran death and destruction and are scarred psychologically by the horrors of civil war and terrorism are among the least fortunate.

I ask all Councils and Conferences, stores, outlets, as well as soup kitchens to come forward and advise their parish, diocese, town authorities and local communities that the SSVP is ready to participate in welcoming the strangers whom the Lord is sending our way, and in facilitating their integration.

We are experiencing a particular moment in history and our help is needed. I ask you to join forces and allocate resources to this great humanitarian project. We are fortunate enough to live in a country which protects us from the horrors of war. Let us share our country with people who have not had that much luck.

On another note, you will notice while reading this edition of the magazine that several articles are about the creation of new Conferences, or the revitalization of existing ones, and even about recruiting new members. We thought that we would put together in one edition as much information as possible on one specific topic, with the purpose of allowing you to explore a variety of approaches used to arrive at a same end. In the present edition, we are addressing the issue of revitalizing the



Society. In our next edition, we will talk about youths. If, on your end, there are topics about which you would like to know more and find out what other Councils or Conferences are doing across the country, please let us know, by writing to: editor@ssvp.ca. We will group your comments under similar themes and seek answers to offer you valuable overviews on what is being accomplished elsewhere. This way, all Vincentians can benefit from the experience of their brothers and sisters. Hoping to read your letters soon.

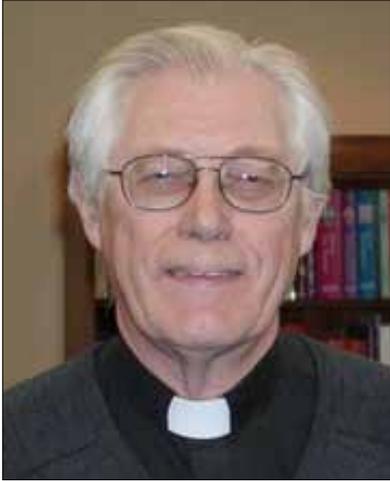
To conclude, I invite you to our 45th Annual General Assembly which will take place this year from June 16 to 19, in Vancouver, B.C. The organizing committee is finalizing preparations, and I am certain that you will find workshops that meet your needs. At the risk of repeating myself, it is a unique opportunity to meet Vincentians from all over the country, not only to pray and meditate together, but also to fraternize and celebrate. We can also take this opportunity to start celebrating the creation of the first Conference in Canada, founded by Dr. Joseph Painchaud in the Notre-Dame Cathedral, in Québec (now a basilica), on November 12, 1846. This means that we have been present in Canada for 170 years. Such a feat must not remain unnoticed, and all Vincentians should be very proud of that success. We will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first conference in Victoria, British Columbia.

Looking forward to meeting you in Vancouver.

May peace be with you,

Jean-Noël Cormier
National President

Spirituality



Mission

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organisation 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

100% CHRISTIAN

What is a 100% Christian? It is a way of living that in a most natural manner is focused on doing good in the style and methodology of Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Indeed it is the life of a disciple, no 'ifs' or 'buts'.

Is such a life possible? Though difficult, yes, and effort and time are required. It is also a project that benefits from the help of others. It means also that the engaged practice of our Faith, joyfully involved in the rituals and sacraments of the Church must become foundational for our life.

Disney-Pixar has recently released the animated film Inside Out, depicting how the emotions, Joy, Sadness, Fear, Disgust and Anger control the life of an 11-year old girl. The emotions are centered in the mind's control center. As an aside, the tremendous imagination at work in the film to depict the marvels of the mind leads one to a thankful prayer that God has provided us with our priceless mind.

Using the language of the film, one could say that 100% Christian means that we invite the Holy Spirit to be the governor of our mind's control centre. This of course means that we will be attentive to His presence.

Bear in mind that such an outlook of 100% Christian is not to be a source of pride but one of gratitude. Such gratitude is itself joy-giving.

One can readily understand that the idea of a 100% Christian fits very well with the job description of the active Vincentian. Without such a 100% Christian attitude how can we claim to bring Christ to those in need?

Keeping the Holy Spirit solidly in charge of our personal mind control centre is the best way to successful Vincentian work. Moreover that is how such work brings about personal sanctification.

Msgr. Peter Schonenbach
National Spiritual Advisor

GENEROSITY

When we look at all the turmoil in the world around us it is significant and necessary for us to ponder deeply all that we have been given. If we reflect quietly and honestly, we become almost overwhelmed by all that is ours. God has been very generous. None of the gifts have been earned. God gives all gifts freely. Even Jesus is an abundant, free gift to us. God is lavish in love, generous in the outpouring of goodness. This great generosity can draw us to look at our own generosity. How generous have we been with others in our lives? Do we yearn to have the heart of God, the one who lavishes love upon us freely? Do we cherish deeply all that we have been given? Do we hold that love with open hands, allowing it to be readily available to others or do we clutch it to ourselves in fear that we might lose it?

There seems to be two sets of people in the world- those who have very little and are constantly struggling to exist and those who seem to have more than enough. But how much is enough? What is the difference having what we need and having what we want? What is the point at which we become generous?

This feeling of not having enough can stretch over to our spiritual life. Life, love and time are three of our greatest gifts. Yet it is so easy to be stingy and clutch them to ourselves. We tend not to share our God given gifts and talents. We become afraid that we will not have time for ourselves. But we need not be afraid to share what we have with others because the Christ in us will always be food for others, even when we think the cupboard of our hearts is bare. He will sustain us and renew our weary empty hearts with new life and giftedness. No one has ever become poor by giving. God does provide. Generosity encourages us to rely on God knowing that He is always with us.

**Maureen MacIsaac, Chairperson
National Spirituality Committee**



Closing prayer

O gracious God, who so generously lavishes our lives with goodness, create, in our hearts a deep centre of gratitude that grows so strong in its thanksgiving that sharing freely becomes the norm and the pattern of our existence. Remind us often of how much you cherish us, of how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in the hour of our greatest need. May we always be grateful for your reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth and unearned love. Amen

Spirituality

2016: JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

For Catholics all around the world, 2016 is going to be especially intense, after the Holy Father's announcement on 13 March of an Extraordinary Holy Year, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the closure of the Second Vatican Council, a great Jubilee of Mercy, a theme dear to the heart of Pope Francis. He hopes for **"spiritual renewal of the whole Church"**. Preparation for this event has been entrusted to the **Pontifical Council for the new evangelization**.

The Holy Year was officially announced in the publication of the Papal Bull of Indiction **Misericordiae vultus** on 11 April 2015, the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday. In this document, Pope Francis explains the reason for this "Holy Year" and its highlights, planned for Rome but also for all dioceses, who will be visited by *"mercy missionaries"*. He invites Christians to contemplate and live this mystery of mercy, **"a source of joy, serenity and peace."**

On 29 November 2015, during his African tour, Pope Francis marked the first high spot of this year by opening the first of the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of Bangui, a few days before the Jubilee year begins, thus making this Central African capital, a city ravaged by war, and one of the poorest on the planet, the "spiritual capital of the world".

The Holy Year and Jubilee begins officially on 8 December, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, when the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica is opened. This door will be closed again on 20 November 2016, solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe, marking the end of the jubilee year. Between these two dates, a whole series of events is planned in Rome and in the dioceses.

THE SSSVP INVITED TO JOIN THE JUBILEE

In a letter addressed to the International President General, the Pontifical Council Cor unum has called on the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to promote a day of spiritual retreat on the theme of "Caritas Christi urget nos" (The Charity of Christ Crucified urges us), for all those who contribute to the Church's charitable action, as professionals or as volunteers. Mgr. Giampietro Dal Toso – Secretary, states in the letter: "Faithful to the wishes of the Holy Father, it will be an encouragement to us to apply especially to our daily lives this dimension of compassion, by exploring more deeply the roots of our charitable action".

This day will be held during Lent 2016, and each entity (whether local, regional or national) of the Confederation is free to choose a date that suits them. Cor Unum will provide topics for reflection on its website after Christmas, with tools for organising this event.



As chair of our national social justice committee, I was honoured to attend the recent 2015 VinFam Gathering of North America in Denver, Co, USA. VinFam is the larger international body that includes the various branches of the Vincentian Family. This family includes the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Congregation of the Mission (CM), Daughters of Charity (DC), Sisters of Charity(SC), Ladies of Charity(AIC), Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY), the Miraculous Medal Association(AMM), Missionary Cenacle Family, Lay Vincentian Missionaries(MISEVI), Depaul International and Vincentian Mission Corps(VMC). There were over 200 attendees this year. These gatherings started in Belleville, IL. in 2005 and occur every 2 years. I am also a representative on the Vincentian Family Leadership team that organizes the larger gatherings, which meets annually.

These gatherings began with a strong focus on systemic change which, here in Canada, we include under our social justice committee, along with advocacy, prison ministry and various other areas. The working definition of Systemic change developed by VINFAM is:

Systemic change among those living in poverty aims beyond providing food, clothing, shelter, and alleviating immediate needs. It enables people themselves to engage in the identification of the root causes of their poverty and to create strategies, including advocacy, to change those structures which keep them in poverty. Systemic Change requires transforming attitudes.

The other key component of these gatherings is the concept of collaboration with other branches of the Vincentian family as well as other organizations who share the common goal of addressing poverty reduction. There is no doubt that the more we can work with others, there are few limits to what we can achieve.

As a worldwide organization within the larger Vincentian family, I would like to emphasize that we are not limited to only working within our parish or community boundaries. If we are to realize the global concept of having a common bond with our fellow men and women, as Pope Francis has stressed, we must be open to sharing ourselves and our resources with others. If I can refer to the definition of Systemic Change, the last sentence refers to the requirement of transforming

attitudes. This transformation is what Vincent experienced as he moved from being a person with a full understanding of church dogma and knowing about Jesus to a person who came to know Jesus Christ intimately as he could only experience by having a direct and very personal relationship with Jesus through his work with those living in poverty. It was walking with the poor that he became their true friend. It was by maintaining such an on-going friendship that he experienced this transformation.

Social justice should not be a foreign term to Vincentians but one that we all embrace in whatever manner we are able to. Our most important work of charity, which we are all familiar with, can also be transformed by simply including a new dimension. The Home Visit can be transformed into systemic change by simply using the visit to learn more from those we serve in regards to their needs, their hopes and possible solutions they may offer to alleviate poverty.

As a key component of our efforts to educate our membership about social justice we must gain the support of our presidents at every level. This support can best be demonstrated by appointing a social justice rep. at every council and conference in Canada and including social justice on the agenda of all meetings. These actions will then allow our general membership to learn about social justice while sharing their own comments and efforts. The creation of a network of social justice reps. across Canada enables us to effectively communicate with all members.

Finally, I cannot emphasize enough how much social justice has the potential to give hope for a better future to both those we serve as well as our own members. The ability of social justice actions to strengthen the Vincentian spirituality is one that we need to embrace and act upon. The Systemic change or transformation begins with us and our own conferences. Social justice can also be an attractive recruitment tool for new members, especially our youth. The opportunity to develop and implement various systemic change projects and to advocate for poverty reduction can be very appealing for our youth. Please join us in this new and exciting direction.

Jim Paddon

Twinning

TWINNING AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Twinning aims to create a worldwide community of love and solidarity dedicated to sharing the absolute necessities of life with Christ's poor. Donor Councils and Conferences help twinning beneficiaries in designated countries in their activities for the poor they serve. This 'Special Work' also seeks the promotion of social justice and to help people lift themselves out of poverty.

Contributions by donor countries assist beneficiaries in the service of charity. Much more can be achieved. Twinning must become a means to change lives. It is not only a program to help with the basic necessities of life, but can be a vector provoking a qualitative and permanent change in the life of families and communities. Twinning becomes a means for the partners, both donors and beneficiaries, to define and realize small projects, with the participation of those in a situation of extreme poverty, allowing them to take charge of their life and become self-sufficient.

Twinning projects are described in Twinning Guidelines and apply when the annual contributions exceed \$2,000, however a lot can be done within this maximum amount. We can do better and act towards a permanent change in the life of people languishing in extreme poverty. I encourage Canadian twins to resolutely engage in this activity, to discuss it with their twinning partner, and create initiatives and projects to free families and communities of injustice and poverty enslaving them. Photographs show a few projects currently underway.

**Clermont Fortin, Chairperson
National Twinning Committee**



TRICYCLES PROJECT



SEWING CLASS PROJECT



PEANUT BUTTER BOTTLING PROJECT

Education/Formation

NATIONAL EDUCATION/FORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Our committee met in early November to look at our mandate and decide how we should proceed into 2016. We explored the questions – how should Vincentian education and formation evolve and expand? How do we ensure that our traditional vision, mission and values statements are evident in all training and education offerings and courses? How do we maintain the underlying spiritual components that all our Vincentian education offerings must have? Spiritual leaders need training and encouragement too.

Research indicates that requests for education and training topics are common across most of our country – such as: succession planning; conference and council rebuilding and rejuvenation; exploring collaboration with other groups, such as our local diocese and other Catholic organizations, to work together to deliver common services and share resources. Regions are asking for training on what Social Justice and Systemic Change really means; and how might these concepts affect and change their local operations. We need to recognize the bilingual areas of our regions and ensure that any written or posted material is available in both languages. Quebec members have certain programs that differ from the other regions, and we want to provide support for these initiatives.

Our committee members are going back to our respective areas to compile an inventory of education and training needs and gaps now; asking - does training differ across areas; from conference to council? How many, or are there any, official trainers in an area; do they only train conferences, or offer other sessions? Do Councils hold yearly AGMs or other regular gatherings and is there an education component to these meetings? Are local Special Works operations part of annual meetings and education sessions? What materials and courses exist now; are there written local policies and procedures manuals; can we share these resources across the regions?

We are aiming to redirect our efforts to meet the training and education needs presently identified across Canada; and to explore new technology to bring training closer to the individual, particularly new Vincentians. Any education session – large or small – should aim to encourage fellowship and sharing among old and new members of conferences and councils, as well as delivering information on specific policies and procedures.

We are also soliciting and approving workshops for the 2016 AGA, to be held this coming June in Vancouver. The call for workshops and the application form are available elsewhere in this issue and on the National website.

I would like to close with this reflection. Next AGA theme will be – The Joy of Serving. What a positive, active, encouraging, and soul searching theme this is – asking us to experience joy as we go out to work with those we meet in our Vincentian lives - our fellow Vincentians as well as those needing our help and support. The National Board chose an action word, not a noun, to express this theme – Serving, not Service. Let us remember this phrase of action as we work on the challenges of change we will face this year and in the following years.

**Mary Grad, chairperson
Education/Formation Committee**



Canada's Council in Action

ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE BLESSED MOTHER TERESA CONFERENCE, A NEW SSVV CONFERENCE

Pope Francis wishes the Church to be more alive. During an audience granted to members of the media a few days after being elected, the Pope clearly formulated his wish, "How I would like a Church that is poor and for the poor." In reality, Pope Francis asks Christians to go to the poor and, with them, to find ways to work their way out of poverty gradually. His wish has found an echo in the heart of a small group in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Against this background, and with the support of the National Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, a group of Moncton people who belong to the John Paul II and Good Shepherd pastoral units, wish to create a new SSVV conference named *Blessed Mother Teresa Conference* that would respond to the wish of Pope Francis, while complying to the Rule and Statutes of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The Blessed Mother Teresa Conference will be sponsored by the Second Chance Workshop, a non-profit organization, who manages a used furniture and household appliances store in Moncton. Furthermore, thanks to the intervention of the National President, Jean-Noël Cormier, and the National Twinning Chair, Clermont Fortin, the Québec Central Council accepts a pre-aggregation twinning from the Blessed Mother Teresa Conference in Moncton.

The conference wishes to adopt a systemic approach, similar to that of the Second Chance Workshop sponsor, who believes in the importance of systemic change, as recommended to conferences organised by the Vincentian Family.

The members of the Blessed Mother Teresa Conference will work as volunteers, serving the poor in Moncton, regardless of their address, religion, language, or political opinions. Those people are sometimes looking for work, often without revenue or with limited resources. Among them are homeless people, people who suffer from isolation or are victims of abuse, old people, etc.

The work will be done by informing citizens in need about various options available to them. The members of the new conference will receive, by phone, requests from people in a situation of poverty and they will go, in

pairs, visit them at home, mainly to listen to their plight and redirect them to existing resources in the Moncton region. Within their own means and power, they will try to help those people in need, who might be able to obtain the money that will allow them to eat better, enjoy better health and improve their chances to find work.

The members of the new executive, President Thérèse Caissie, Vice President Denise Janelle, Treasurer Raymond Bourque and Secretary Auréa Cormier wish to invite people from the region, who feel compelled to sympathise with persons in a situation of poverty, to join them in offering that new service, in the spirit of Pope Francis' wish to see a Church that is poor and for the poor.

Auréa Cormier, Conference Secretary
aureacormier@rogers.com; Tel. 506-204-1134.

Executive Committee of the Blessed Mother Teresa Conference. From left: Denise Janelle, Thérèse Caissie, Auréa Cormier and Raymond Bourque



Canada's Council in Action

QUEBEC REGIONAL COUNCIL

HOW TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN NEW MEMBERS?

Talking about volunteer work seems superfluous sometimes, since we are volunteer workers, often since many years.

What can we add to what we know already? That is what I wondered about a few years back, when a workshop on volunteer work was proposed to us, within a training context. It piqued my curiosity. There are so many things to say about motivation, refusal to do volunteer work, recruitment, irritants, welcoming young people and many other topics.

Volunteer work, motivations and obstacles

Incentives that might lead someone to volunteer are varied, according to Statistics Canada: contributing to a cause that is dear to us, making use of one's skills, being concerned personally by the cause served by the organization, feeling useful, occupying one's free time, getting involved in response to religious values...

Based on the Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which identifies the basic needs in humans, volunteer work helps satisfy several of those needs: belonging to a group, self-esteem...

On the other hand, certain motivations, such as unavailability, poor health and a fear of long-term commitment may constitute obstacles to volunteer work.

Recruitment

Recruitment consists of targeting people for a specific task within the organization. We must start by knowing the rules of volunteer work: defining the volunteer worker profile, a description of tasks, the needs of the organization. It is important to clearly differentiate between recruitment and selection, since the latter consists in linking the best person to a specific task.

Volunteer work is an opportunity to achieve fulfilment, realize one's full potential, extend one's social network and develop relationships. The happy volunteer worker remains the main source for recruiting.

A certain number of interested volunteer workers need a period of reflection before committing. It is essential to provide a job description that enumerates precisely what the tasks are, in terms of knowledge, know-how and life skills. The driving principle of volunteer work relies on appropriate training, based on the candidate's interests and role.

When someone finds himself or herself on the job market, he or she must deal with irritants (schedule, unpleasant situation...), which must not be the case for the volunteer worker who wants to give some of his time in a pleasant and harmonious atmosphere.



Among the irritants likely to bring the volunteer worker to disengage, we must mention the multiplication or undue extension of meetings, hold up or control of a committee by one person, an unpleasant work atmosphere, a faulty division of tasks, difficulty working within a group, a lack of leadership, monopolizing the right to speak or looking for recognition by someone seeking to impose themselves among their peers. Volunteer work must be a pleasant experience that provides personal satisfaction.

Welcoming young people

Young people and older adults do not perceive each other in the same way. In order to ensure succession, we must make space for the young. Such cohabitation is desirable without being easy. Both groups are at the same time similar and different: young people see older people as experienced persons who have values, are concerned by traditions and more available; in the eyes of older adults, young people are full of life, spontaneous, creative, and they rather accept sporadic actions such as the December Guignolée operation.

Throughout the division of tasks, youths and adults must trust each other, because both groups are generous and want to be useful, while being respected.

Conclusion

Volunteer work is a source of wealth and satisfaction. Helping others, particularly those whose situation is difficult, is giving meaning to one's life. La Bruyère wrote, "Big hearts are never happy when they are alone, they miss other people's happiness".

Madeleine Morency Roy
Notre-Dame-de-Foy Conference

Canada's Council in Action

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

REJUVENATING AND CREATING CONFERENCES IN OTTAWA

The Ottawa Archdiocese consists of 52 French and 56 English parishes located in eastern Ontario. The Ottawa Central Council (OCC) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul serves this area. In January 2014, the region had 10 active English and 5 active French-speaking conferences. Nineteen parishes were in the network of the Society.

In May 2014 we initiated a 3 to 5 year project to rejuvenate existing conferences and create new conferences with a goal of doubling the number of parishes served by the Society. Our objective was to create conferences with at least 12 members. Where parishes were too small to support a conference with 12 members, we planned to group neighbouring parishes.

Archbishop Terrence Prendergast was briefed on the activities of the Society in the Archdiocese and forthcoming plans. He wholeheartedly supported our undertakings. A similar message was also brought to the English and French diocesan pastoral councils.

In the past 18 months, we have visited 12 parishes and created new conferences in 6 parishes. Two parishes are awaiting grouping to have sufficient numbers to form a conference. In addition 3 existing parishes have been rejuvenated. We also invited 3 other parishes to participate in information sessions. One parish did not want to be involved at this time. More than 150 people attended information sessions and half of them have joined conferences. As of November 2015, the number of participating parishes has grown from 19 to 27.

So how did we go about expanding St. Vincent de Paul in our diocese? We devised a standard approach. We visited the parish priest and obtained his support to make announcements at masses. We attended masses at the church, made announcements from the pulpit, distributed brochures and collected names after the mass. This was followed by an information session the following week at the church. At the information session, we collected names of those who would be interested in starting a conference. In the month following, an initial conference meeting was held. In some parishes we also contacted other church organisations such as the Knights of Columbus, and Parish councils

and made presentations. Where the numbers in a parish were insufficient we started the process of grouping them with other parishes.

Each information session had a standard content. We started with our opening prayer, followed by a spiritual reflection by our spiritual advisor Monsignor Schonenbach or the parish priest. This was followed by a video prepared by the youth of Windsor Ontario, which briefly described the role of a conference and a conference member. Then we delivered a slide presentation which included a brief description of the society, its mission and values, a statement of who are the poor, how does St. Vincent de Paul serve the poor, where do our resources come from, and how does a person volunteer.

We have experimented with other approaches. In some parishes we have made announcements at mass and then delivered our information session after each mass rather than a week later. The advantage of this approach is that people do not have to wait to obtain more information about St. Vincent de Paul. In two parishes where we tried this approach, we had more than 25 people attend the session and were able to start a conference, having reached the minimum 12 members.

In area 3 of the Ottawa diocese, we invited parishioners of all 12 parishes to attend an information session. We found that only people from the church where the information session was held attended. It seems that the further away in time and place, the less likely people are to take the initiative.

The rejuvenation effort was enhanced by the involvement of experienced Vincentians. Some Vincentians acted as president or secretary, until such time as parishioners took over.

Pope Francis has committed himself to the service of the poor. There is a growing desire in our parishes to support that commitment. We in St. Vincent de Paul are the most important avenues in the church for meeting that commitment. Rejuvenation initiatives can help us do this.

Bryan DePape and Pierre Hubert

Canada's Council in Action

WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

WHAT A MARVELOUS EDMONTON CENTRAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT DAY

October 17, 2015- -A stirring talk by Spiritual Advisor Deacon Hyland Fraser led into an enlightening and informative presentation by Edmonton City Councilor Ben Henderson on End Poverty Edmonton. He spoke about the history and the future of the project which fits so very well with the Mission of SSVP.

The host Conference, St. Frere Andre and President, Francois Clavel's Vincentians did well in providing the hospitality needed to welcome Vincentians from the 18 Conferences in the area. This new Francophone Conference in Edmonton offers assistance to many French speaking families that are in need.

Thanks goes out to those effective speakers who participated in the Development Day. Pat Moric used facts and figures to help us understand where we fit in the Edmonton, Western and National picture of SSVP. Maria Lupul - with the help from a babushka wearing older woman -helped us improve our understanding of the fundamental importance of the Home Visit, both with a grounded attitude and thoughtful details

through the skirts. Carol Attrux in her inimitably organized fashion, lead people with a focus on being a leader, sharing actions, details and helpful handouts. Jeff Vande Brink held a lively session with not only telling WHY we do or don't accept furniture and house hold items for our friends in need.

The Police Information Check area was kept busy with Vincentians signing up and signing on for this important aspect of work.

The day ended with a session by Gail Dumas and Dan Dunnigan on updates to the Edmonton Central Data Base. With Barry George in attendance, the time was filled with information and thoughtful future.

The Edmonton Central Council continues to expand support to those in need. As the Gateway to the North, Vincentians in Edmonton have been the drivers of the North of 60 Project. They are currently launching a new initiative into First Nations Communities.

NORTH OF 60

All the sea cans have arrived at their Arctic destinations in September thanks to Landtran Systems Inc., Continental Cartage and NTCL Barge Shipping. The Northern Community Coordinators have been busy allocating clothing and house hold items. Food products have been stored for future allocation.

We are introducing our Society to Fr. Jon Hansen C.Ss.R. Previously from Saskatoon and now with the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith in the North West Territories, Fr. Jon is resident at Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Parish, sometime noted as the Igloo Church in Inuvik, but his pastoral responsibilities will range throughout the western Arctic.



CLOTHING FROM THE SEA CONTAINER BEING DISTRIBUTED IN INUVIK NT

Canada's Council in Action

BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON REGIONAL COUNCIL

2015 has been and continues to be a busy year for all our members. Below are some of the projects and programs being undertaken in our area.

SSVP Vancouver Island:

Rosalie's Village: Construction is underway, meeting timelines and on budget. 42 units of subsidized housing for single mothers and older women coming out of transition housing will be provided. Childcare (Mary's place) will also be available within the Royal Oak community.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island was awarded the **2015 Housing Provider of the Year Award from the BC Non-Profit Housing Association**, for achieving innovative solutions to the communities housing needs and demonstrating creative solutions to offer services that go beyond housing. Congratulations are extended to all for the hard work accomplished by so many. They also received a Community-Institutional Merit Award from the Victoria Real Estate Board for their partnership at Hope Centre.

National AGA is scheduled to take place at UBC in Vancouver, June 15 – 19, 2016. Book now a give yourself a great Christmas present.

Regional AGM is scheduled to take place at St. Charles Garnier parish in Kelowna, April 29 – May 1, 2016.

Proposed expansion into Whitehorse, YT: after a visit to Whitehorse, we are encouraged by the enthusiasm shown and hope to have 1st Yukon Isolated Conference formed in early 2016.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Isolated Conference: SSVP in Kamloops operates a breakfast program 4 days a week. On 3 days everyone is welcome and the attendance is about 80 patrons. 1 day a week is designated for women and children only, and the attendance runs at about 20. A small thrift store is operated averaging earnings of about 5000 dollars per month. This past Spring the shop was painted and a ramp was installed. From this 20 bags a week are forwarded to "Canadian Food for Children" who send clothing and supplies all over the world. In addition to these endeavours, a service is available for those in need of food hampers, items from the thrift store, and various other requests ranging from help with dentures to providing bus tickets or rental assistance.

Our Lady of Guadalupe-North Island Particular Council: The SSVP volunteers get together and serve a hot meal every Tuesday evening for up to 75 needy souls. (see photo)

Scotty MacLaren, President



What's New?



Statue of Saint Vincent de Paul from BACCI SARL (France)

Decor wood tone; approximate height of 20 cm.
Those statues made of HYDRACAL acrylic resin, a material that looks like plaster, but is much more resistant, like a resin.



SSVP pen with cardboard gift box. - \$17.50



SSVP USB Flash Drive 2.0 - 8GB - \$10.00



SSVP bracelets - \$1.00

See our online catalogue for more information or to order any articles. Visit our website at: www.ssvp.ca.

You may also order by phone at 1 866 997-7787.



Like our Facebook page: SSVP Canada and join our Facebook groups:

- **SSVP Canada Activities/Activités**
- **SSVP Canada Twinning-Jumelage**

In Memoriam

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

- Patrick Taylor**, St. Mary Conference, Collingwood ON, December 26, 2014
- John Joseph (Jack) Seifred**, Church of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph ON, December 29, 2014
- Gordon Burns**, St. George Conference, London ON, January 7, 2015
- Pierre Lafrance**, Conseil particulier de Bellerive, Montréal QC, January 14, 2015
- Pearl Leppers**, St. Anne Conference, Abbotsford BC, January 16, 2015
- Thérèse Lafleur**, Conférence Notre-Dame-de-Pitié, Québec QC, January 19, 2015
- Père Lionel Dion, M.Afr.** (Pères Blancs), Conseil régional du Québec, February 1, 2015
- Grant McAuley**, St. Agnes Conference, Chatham ON, February 13, 2015
- Anna E. Boom**, Holy Family Conference, Amherst NS, February 15, 2015
- Cecilia (Cis) Rayworth**, Holy Family Conference, Amherst NS, February 16, 2015
- Kevin Crozier**, St. John Vianney Conference, Barrie ON, February 22, 2015
- Eugene Mooney**, Holy Family Conference, Amherst NS, March 15, 2015
- Lucette Plamondon**, Conférence Saint-Denys, Québec QC, March 23, 2015
- Marie Hunter**, St. Cecilia Conference, Calgary AB, April 7, 2015
- Carole Palmer**, Conférence Repentigny QC, April 11, 2015
- Beverly Brown**, St. Thomas More Conference, Niagara Falls ON, April 23, 2015
- Anne Marie Kaplan**, St. Joseph the Worker Conference, Richmond BC, May 2015
- Trish Yates**, Brant Particular Council ON, May 26, 2015
- Roland Binette**, Conférence Sainte-Louise-de-Marillac, Montréal QC, July 13, 2015
- Lorrain Muise**, Brant Particular Council ON, July 15, 2015
- Pat Zahrybelny**, St. Mary's Conference, Brantford ON, July 17, 2015
- Louis-Marie Normandeau**, Conférence de Repentigny QC, July 26, 2015
- Joe Johns**, Kent Deanery Particular Council, Chatham ON, July 29, 2015
- M. Edward (Eddy) Phillips**, Conférence St-Rosaire de Gatineau QC, August 2, 2015
- René Martel**, Conférence Saint-Pascal-de-Maizerets, Québec QC, September 7, 2015
- Guy Fortin**, Conférence St-Jérôme de l'Auvergne, Charlesbourg QC, September 18, 2015
- Garry Stanhope Richardson**, Christ the King Conference, Comox Valley BC, September 26, 2015
- Else Maria Forster**, Christ the King Conference, Comox Valley BC, September 29, 2015
- Gloria Clendinning**, All Saints Conference, Coquitlam BC, September 29, 2015
- Jacques Poirier**, Conférence Notre-Dame de l'Eau Vive, Gatineau QC, October 14, 2015
- John Ryken**, Blessed Sacrament, Chatham ON, November 16, 2015
- Paul Dole**, St Theresa of the Child, Ottawa ON, November 19, 2015
- Dorothy Ardito**, St John Vianney Conference, Barrie (Simcoe County PC, Huronia CC) ON, December 4, 2015
- Jean-Paul Benoît**, Conférence de Saint-Luc, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu QC, December 9, 2015
- Peter Thompson**, St. Mary's Conference, Collingwood ON, December 21, 2015
- Germain Dugas**, Conférence Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain, Laval QC, December 21, 2015

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

AGA 2016 - Workshops

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS - AGA 2016

The theme presented at this AGA is:

“The Joy of Serving”

The theme has been chosen so that we as Vincentians may take time to reflect on how we interact with those we serve. Workshops will be developed around the theme - workshops will be in French and English to open up this theme to all Vincentians.

National Education Committee sponsored workshops – topics vary from year to year:

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

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 SIXTY (60 deg. latitude)
7. Advocacy and How to Advocate Effectively
8. Systemic Change projects
9. Youth in Action
10. Fundraising

Workshops are typically 90 minutes long.

Please submit your proposals and requirements for workshops to:

Mary Grad, Education/Formation 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 to:

Mary Grad
Education/Formation Committee
71, Waxwing Crescent
Guelph ON N1C 1E3

mrosegrad@rogers.com

Approved by National Council Education/Formation Committee:

Date: _____

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA 45TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday June 15 to Sunday June 19, 2016

University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC

THERE ARE TWO WAYS YOU CAN REGISTER TO THE AGA:

To register online, please go to: www.ssvp.ca/generalassembly/registration

Payment by Paypal is preferable, but cheques are accepted.

To register by mail, please fill this form. Payment must be sent with completed form.

Address at the end of this form

Early Registration deadline : April 30, 2016

Please complete one form for each person attending the AGA.

***** 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:	
Do you have any special mobility needs? (Difficulty walking long distances/stairs, wheel-chair or other mobility aid.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, please specify:			
If you are the Spiritual Advisor for your Conference or Council, will you be attending the Spiritual Advisors Lunch on Friday.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<p>WestJet has been recognized as the preferred airline of travel for the Annual General Assembly and has offered at 10% discount for all flights into and out of the Vancouver International Airport. Applies to the fare at the time of booking.</p> <p>Either book online or call WestJet at 1-844-213-5230 (08:00 – 16:30 MST, Mon. – Fri. for help/info).</p> <p>Quote promo code YVR02 and coupon FMMVBWB.</p> <p>Valid for conference attendees for travel during the period commencing June 8th and ending June 26th, 2016.</p>			
Arrival date:		Departure date:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Plane <input type="checkbox"/> Train	Arrival Time:	Airport:	Flight No:
	Departure Time:	Airport:	Flight No:

Available Tuesday to Sunday only :

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

LODGING ON CAMPUS

Accommodation arrangements are to be made directly with UBC University. To book your accommodation online, please go to: www.tinyurl.com/ssvp2016 OR www.ssvp.ca/Events (up-coming events section), and follow the UBC link or by phone: 604-822-1000, extension 3, or 888-822-1030. | Single bedroom in pod of six \$45 per night plus 13% tax - Single bedroom in pod of four \$56 per night plus 13% tax - Studio suite \$129 per night plus 13% tax - One bedroom suite \$159 per night plus 13% tax (\$25 for each additional guest, per night, max 4) - West Coast suite \$189 per night plus 13% tax (\$25 for each additional guest, per night, max 4). On-site parking is available at a charge of \$12.70 per night (inclusive of tax). **The above rates include breakfast.**

WEDNESDAY DAY TOURS (optional, check box if interested - please sign up for only one tour)

- Tour # 1 - (5 hours) \$40 per person - Queen Elizabeth Park & Bloedel Conservatory, Granville Island, Chinatown, Gastown, Vancouver Harbour/Olympic Cauldron, Stanley Park/Totem Poles/Prospect Point, English Bay.
- Tour # 2 - (4 hours) \$30 per person - Chinatown, Gastown, Vancouver Harbour/Olympic Cauldron, Stanley Park/Totem Poles/Prospect Point, English Bay, Granville Island.
- Tour # 3 - Free - Walking Tour of UBC Campus, including Japanese Gardens and other points of interest.

Tours subject to cancellation if insufficient participants registered. Tours #1 and #2 based on a minimum of 30 participants per tour. Fee due on date of tour. ALL TOURS commence at 2:30 pm and start and end at Gage Residence.

REGISTRATION FEE

Up to April 30, 2016 : \$275 - From May 1, 2016: \$300

This amount covers conference registration, Thursday Welcoming Ceremony, Friday BBQ, and Saturday Banquet.

Registration fee, per person:	_____	x	\$275/300	=	\$ _____
Youth registration fee, per person:	_____	x	\$200	=	\$ _____
Additional Welcoming Ceremony tickets:	_____	x	\$35	=	\$ _____
Additional BBQ tickets:	_____	x	\$35	=	\$ _____
Additional Banquet tickets:	_____	x	\$60	=	\$ _____
			Total A	=	\$ _____

ONE DAY REGISTRATION

Registration fee, per person (NOTE: does not include meals or evening events)	_____	x	\$65	=	\$ _____
			Total B	=	\$ _____

MEALS

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

Select desired meals:

	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Number of meals		
Breakfast*	---	---	---	---	_____ x	---	= \$ _____
Lunch	\$20	\$20	\$20	---	_____ x	\$20	= \$ _____
Dinner	---	---	---	---	_____ x		= \$ _____
						Total C	\$ _____

*Breakfast vouchers are included as part of the accommodation package when lodging on campus.

TOTAL PAYMENT: **A + B + C = \$ _____**

**Payment (cheque only) must be sent with completed registration form.
 Make cheque payable to SSVP AGA 2016 and mail to
 Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
 Vancouver Archdiocesan Central Council - AGA 2016
 1738 East Hastings Street, Vancouver BC V5L 1S5
 Tel: 604-873-1303 - Fax 604-873-1320**

PLEASE NOTE: A confirmation of registration will be sent to you by email (or regular mail if no email address given). CANCELLATION: Please note, refunds for verifiable emergencies will be granted at the discretion of the committee; refunds less \$50, will be made for other cancellations received up to one week prior to the conference. No refunds will be given for cancellations made without notice.

AGA 2016 - Program

“The Joy of Serving”

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Registration & Hospitality	
	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	National Council Committee Meetings	
	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	National Council Board Meeting	
	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Lunch on your own	
	2:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Tours and visits (see registration form for details)	
	5:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Supper on your own	
	7:30 PM	Regional Meetings	
		Evening on your own	
THURSDAY, JUNE 16	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast	
	8:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Registration & Hospitality with sales table	
	8:45 AM - 10:15 AM	Workshops	
	10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Break	
	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Workshops	
	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch	
	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Workshops	
	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	National Council Committee Meetings	
	2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Break	
	2:45 PM - 4:15 PM	Workshops	
	2:45 PM - 4:15 PM	National Council Committee Meetings	
	4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Rosary - Memorial Service - Mass at St. Mark's	
	6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Meal & Welcoming Ceremony	
	FRIDAY, JUNE 17	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
		8:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Registration & Hospitality with sales table
8:45 AM - 9:30 AM		Parade of the Banners - Official Opening	
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM		Keynote Speaker - Msgr. Gregory N. Smith	
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM		Break	
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM		National President's Round Table with voting members	
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM		Workshops	
11:45 PM - 1:30 PM		Spiritual Advisors' Luncheon	
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM		Lunch	
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM		Plenary	
3:00 PM - 3:15 PM		Break	
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM		Regional Reports & National Committee Reports	
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM		Rosary & Mass at St. Mark's	
6:15 PM		Buses leave for BBQ at Musqueam Reserve	
SATURDAY, JUNE 18		7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
	8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Registration & Hospitality with sales table	
	8:45 AM - 9:15 AM	Spiritual Reflection on the Theme - Msgr. Peter Schonenbach	
	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	National Committee Reports (continued)	
	10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Break	
	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Statutory Meeting	
	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch	
	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Statutory Meeting (continued) - Presentation 2017 AGA hosts	
	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Free time	
	4:00 PM	Buses leave for Holly Rosary Cathedral	
	5:00 PM	Mass (Note: SSVP Commissioning Ceremony follows Mass)	
	6:30 PM	Buses leave for the Metrotown Hilton Hotel	
SUNDAY, JUNE 19	7:00 PM	Banquet followed by Official Closing of AGA 2016	
	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast	