

# The Vincentimes

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## Young Vincentians at Saint Matthew Parish, Oakville

Our group of Young Vincentians was formed in March 2017 as part of an initiative from the Halton Particular Council to create Youth Conferences in the region. Our most important goal is to spread our Vincentian charisma to young people, for them to learn that they do not have to wait until they are older to help people in need. At the same time, this initiative helps to keep our ministry young, infusing it with the ideas of our young members as Frederic Ozanam wrote:

*“If it is helpful for young people to meet friends and brothers, it is essential for the Society to recruit its members among the Youth. Fourteen years ago, the Society was born: it must not get old as its founders grow old and charity becomes a routine practice. Youth is useful for their audacity, even for their imprudence, for the new ideas they bring, for the works which we had not thought of.”*

The Young Vincentians from Saint Matthew includes a group of children from Catholic and public schools between the ages of 10 and 14 years old. During their first year in our ministry, the children have organized two bake sales, one to benefit Food for Kids Halton and the last one to help the SSVP North of 60 project. They have also run Lenten drives at their schools allow-

ing our conference to help our neighbours in need by providing them with comfort food for Easter. This year they are also organizing a piano recital at our Church in June.

We hope that our Young Vincentians get as much as they are giving and that they learn that through their work of helping others, they are not only satisfying a short-term need, but they are also helping develop peaceful and safe communities for the future by working in the name of Jesus.

Carla Calitri, Youth Advisor



*Saint Matthew's Young Vincentians at St. Bernadette school during the Lenten Drive*

*In my life I want to become better and do a little good.*

*— Frédéric Ozanam*

## My Amazing Volunteer Experience



Hello, my name is Matteo Vecchio. I am 15 years old and in grade 9. I started volunteering with Saint Vincent de Paul when I was in grade 7. It all started when Lil Mulder came into my class to talk to us about volunteering. After she was done I wanted to start as soon as possible. I went to all the events

and I loved them. I wanted to know if there was more that I could do, as it was the time of my life.

Two years later, I am still volunteering. I just started high school, so it was tricky to find time to do everything, and I knew I needed to find a way to manage my time. I sadly had to go to fewer volunteering sites and I was upset, but a miracle happened, and Lil asked me to be on the Executive team. I was so happy and shocked. I was speechless. This meant I had to manage my time so that I could do volunteering and help with organizing the events with the team and have time to do school work...ever since that day Lil asked me, I have been there.

April will be my 8th month with the team and I can't believe it. At first, I was taking it slow and not talking

at meetings but making notes in my head. Now I am used to it, and I have a bigger part with the Executive team than I thought I would. Now I am going to the ONRC (Ontario Regional Council meeting) and I will be part of a workshop presentation; that is a big step, but I know I will be ready. I have heard everyone talk about how amazing it is and I just wanted to go so bad, but I thought I could never go because I was only 15, not true at all. The best part is this is only the beginning. I guess it does pay off to start at such a young age!

Well this is only the start for me, I cannot wait to see what I will do next...so far it has been amazing!

Matteo Vecchio,  
St. Louise de Marillac  
Youth Conference

## Abuse Prevention Training Workshop

Holy Family's Saint Vincent de Paul adult and youth conferences in London, Ontario gathered together April 7th to attend an abuse prevention training workshop. This training equipped members with the knowledge and understanding of how to approach any potential

abusive situations while we are volunteering with the SSVP. The great turn out to this event symbolizes the eagerness our Society has to serve the community through charitable works. Attending this workshop made us feel more safe and secure in our mission to serve the poor and vulnerable members within our community.



Lauren, Jenna and Victoria  
Goldsack,  
Saint Louise de Marillac  
Youth Conference

*“Whoever  
oppresses a poor  
man insults his  
Maker, but he  
who is  
generous to the  
needy honors  
him.”*

*Proverbs 14:31*

## How I became involved with Saint Vincent de Paul Youth



My name is Emma. I'm in grade 9 and have been volunteering with Saint Vincent de Paul youth for a little over 2 years now. I was introduced to SSVP youth by Lil Mulder when she came into my grade 7 class. She explained to us what Saint Vincent de Paul youth was all about and some events they do monthly. When I first heard about it at school, I automatically wanted to join.

I took the training that same year and continued to volunteer and

came out to different sites more and more throughout grade 7 and 8. I just enjoyed volunteering so much and it gave me such a good feeling while doing good deeds for others. When I volunteer with other SSVP youth members, I feel like part of a family. We all work together and do great things to help out the community.

Just at the beginning of grade 9 in September 2017, Lil asked me to join the executive team of SSVP youth. I said "yes" and then we had an interview to secure my spot on the team. One of the questions Lil asked me was, "What do you want to achieve while being on the executive team?" I said, "I hope to make younger volunteers more comfortable and open minded at events" because when I began volunteering, I was extremely shy and nervous until I overcame that when volunteering.

Although volunteering is a good way to attain volunteer hours and

looks good on a resumé, volunteering is so much more than that. Coming out to events and offering your time to help out can spread joy to everyone. Making people feel loved and cared for makes yourself feel accomplished, fulfilled, and humbled. Volunteering really puts yourself out there to experience new things. I'm so glad that I joined SSVP and I definitely recommend for other youth to join as well. It really opened my eyes to what those in need go through, and it really feels good to help out and be a part of Saint Vincent de Paul youth.

Emma Chaddock, St. Louise de Marillac Youth Conference

## Youth Activities at National AGA

This year's National AGA is taking place in St. John's Newfoundland from June 20 to June 24 and we are very excited to announce that the youth are running more workshops alongside the adult workshops and even side trips. Consider attending one of our workshops run by youth in Ontario and Newfoundland.

Be prepared to take part in our new youth initiative called #SSVPRocks. The idea behind it is to initiate Random Acts of Kindness and create a social media movement that will hopefully gain more awareness for our Society, invite potential members, and create something fun to unite members across Canada. We have collaborated with Kerri Abbott for some actual service work within the Newfoundland community. If this interests you, sign-up

quickly by emailing [sophia@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:sophia@ssvp.on.ca) because spaces will be limited.

We can't wait to see you all this coming June!

Sophia Mutuc, ONRC Youth Representative

**SOCIETY OF  
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**ONTARIO REGIONAL  
COUNCIL**



**Visit us on the web**

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## The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

### Mission:

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is: To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

### Values:

The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians, we:

See Christ in anyone who suffers;  
Come together as a family;  
Have personal contact with the poor;  
Help in all possible ways.

## Upcoming Dates

**June 20-24, 2018** — National Annual General Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland. For more information, go to [www.ssvp.ca](http://www.ssvp.ca)

**July 15, 2018** — Deadline for newsletter submissions (please note: we cannot guarantee all submissions will make the next issue, but will do our best to include in upcoming issues)

**September 29-30, 2018** — Ontario Regional Council General Members Meeting (aka the Fall Meeting), Sarnia. Details to be announced.

## Notice of Passings

We would like to recognize and remember the following Vincentians who have passed.  
They blessed so many with their lives.

February 16, 2018: Clive O'Neill, St. Pius X, Brant

February 18, 2108: John McMahan, St. Francis Xavier (Tilbury), Kent Deanery

April 2, 2018: Gloria Gandor, Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph

April 5, 2018: Agnes Gilmore, St. Martin's, London

May 5, 2018: Lyola Routliffe, St. John of the Cross, (Mississauga), Peel North