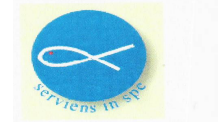




# ST. VINNIE'S VENUE

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



President's Report

September 2007

By the grace of God we have been given a very active and dedicated Executive Council. They have spent many hours on your behalf researching and administering activities and assistance to Conferences and Councils across Ontario. In a special way, I would like to thank and acknowledge our executive: Agnes Turley, Treasurer, Brenda Kormendy, Secretary, and Jim Paddon, Vice President for their extraordinary service.

The theme chosen for our Provincial executive is a return to our spiritual roots found in the Rule. As you are aware, an updated version was completed last year. In it you will find a "user friendly" interpretation making it easier to find pertinent information. In order to have an informed Society all members must read it and follow the guidelines.

After the initial shock of organizing our Executive Council, we have become aware of some serious issues, which are evident across the province:

1. **Stores:** They must be organized, managed and are under the direct control of the Conference or Council. Store managers run the business operation and are responsible to the store Committee of their respective Conference or Council. If the Store is incorporated it should be done through the local Conference or Council. The store is a special work of the Society and is subject to the Conference or Council.
2. The fact is that in some instances the stores have become divisive. This is contrary to the spirit of the Society and the purpose for which the stores were formed. Lack of trust, innuendoes, and the lack of charity are some of the evils that spawn when egos and personal ambition get in the way.
3. There are some Conferences who are operating and we know little about their operations and in some instance their existence.
4. Traveling across Ontario is expensive due to the large distances involved. We are keeping our expenses to a minimum. It is important for the executive to be readily available to those who need us. Conferences and Councils must send monies to the Provincial level.
5. In all home visitations members must go in pairs. There have been some unfortunate situations because this rule was not followed. Home visits have been the traditional means of serving the poor. There are exceptions such as in inner city situations where home visits are impossible. Efficiency in distributing goods to the poor is not the main objective. Caring, consideration and a spirit of love of our beloved poor is our paramount goal.
6. Our Web site is our main means of communication thanks to Bernie Hartlin. However, we lack communications to members who do not have a computer or are not into computers. In spite of being in the age of modern technology. A St. Vincent de Paul information quarterly bulletin sent to all members is a necessity. I am looking for an editor to compile and organize such a project. Please feel free to volunteer.
7. Youth activities must be expanded if we wish to keep the vitality and creativity active. Do not be afraid to approach your local Elementary School, High School, College or University explaining how students can be active members in our Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Elementary and High School students can use the hours of service toward their graduation. Approach your local parishes and work in concert with the Youth Minister or Parish Priest. Our Executive Council Youth Coordinator and myself are available to assist you.
8. Membership and Screening are issues that must be brought up to date. In order to achieve this, Mary Anne Kieran, Chair of Membership and Ron Trent, Chair of Screening, need your assistance and cooperation.
9. Our model is the "Christ Model" as compared to the "Corporate Model" In the "Corporate Model" power comes from the top executive and trickles down to the grass roots. What the boss says is the law. In contrast, the "Christ Model" power is in the community of believers and through trust and love a consensus is reached.
10. Lawsuits are not the way we resolve disputes. Trust and sincere understanding are the tools to reach resolution.

These are some of the issues we have faced up to now. Dear sisters and brothers as you can see we have our work cut out. Since we are a lay religious organization it is essential we continue to do corporal works of mercy. We are more than just a social agency. We are an apostolate that requires self-sacrifice. Prayer is our main source of strength. The mass and the rosary are our main means in community and individual prayer. From time to time giving alms and acts of self-denial will enhance our spiritual life. Since I have become a Vincentian I find my spiritual life has improved. I have a long way to go but I am encouraged by your support to fulfill my mission. To paraphrase St Teresa of Avilla: A few dollars and the Provincial Council are nothing but a few dollars, and the Provincial Council and God, that is everything.

John E. Staley (President)

## Youth Action Around The Province



Above:  
Windsor /Essex Youth Doing a Car Wash

Right>  
Kitchener –Waterloo Youth taking  
a break.



### Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Kitchener-Waterloo Youth 2007

Since March, the youth have taken up an old tradition of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Kitchener-Waterloo. The 'sandwich project' was originally started years ago by the Particular Council in our area as a means to fill the gap of meal programs to the homeless.

At that time, a few agencies, including St. John's Soup Kitchen, served one hot, sit-down meal from Monday to Friday. Particular Council identified the need for weekend meals and started the sandwich project. Over the years, the project had evolved and taken on many faces. As a group, they started their own version of the sandwich project. Serving bagged lunches at the end of each month when most people run out of money from their government cheques. They have gone back to the society's roots and serve out of the garage at the Annex, the original SSVP thrift store. Since March 2007, they have served 1,300 bagged lunches to the homeless of Kitchener-Waterloo.

This year, the group also enjoyed the success of a new project called 'project pencil case'. New and used school supplies were collected and shipped to Rwanda. A new school is being built in that area and the supplies will be given to children unable to afford them. They plan on making this an annual event.

The youth have just completed a bake sale, which is their last fundraiser of the year. They baked 77 apple pies as a group and various cookies, squares, cakes which they donated to the cause.

The group is looking forward to the Christmas hamper and toy give away, where they become Santa's helpers and wrap toys chosen by the parents of families in our area. It is a time for volunteers and friends to come together to share a cup of coffee, some treats and the joy of the season.

Respectfully submitted-Archangels of K-W SSVP

## Around The Province

St Leonard's Brampton Peel North Particular Council under the leadership of Bill Graham organized a full day of Learning, meeting new Vincentian and Friends of the Society on September 22, 2007. There were over 15 items on the agenda which made a full day. Guests included: Most Reverend Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, Sr. Wendy Yip, President, Toronto North Particular Council, Bros. Danny Bourne, President of Toronto Central Council, Chris Schulthies, Daniel Cullen, and Friends of the Society, just to name a few. At the end of mass local Vincentians received their Certificates. A tip of the hat to Bill Graham and his wife for housing myself and five youths! A job well done.



### The President of Ontario Council

John Staley was invited to Speak to Councils in Halton and Brantford. The hospitality and welcome made his stay a pleasure. And a source of spiritual strength. At these meetings was a call to our spiritual roots and the importance of becoming familiar with Following the meetings refreshment and sharing was enjoyed by all.

[http://  
www.ssvp.on.ca/](http://www.ssvp.on.ca/)

### Jim Paddon –(Working in the Vineyard)

Jim has been quite active. In London he is overseeing the re-structuring of London Particular Council as well as their thrift stores.

As part of the membership committee they are working on creating a current data bank for all members. This will assist communications and screening efforts.

Jim has visited the north shore of Lake Ontario conferences and councils. In addition visits to Kingston area and Petrolia were extremely well received by those members. Jim is anxious to establish a provincial jail committee to make it easier for any council or conference .

Jim as chair of the Health and Safety Committee is working with Toronto Central Council to develop a program for all stores. What does Jim do in his spare time?

### Brenda 's Nook

We have New  
Rule Books-\$5.00

New ssvp Logo  
Pins-\$4.00 Email  
your pin orders to:  
[brenda.kormandy@  
st-clair.net](mailto:brenda.kormandy@st-clair.net)

Brenda has been working with Jim Paddon .assisting London Particular Council organize their stores. We are happy to report the stores are working well.

Thanks Jim and Brenda for your countless hours of hard work and dedication for the sake of the Society. Brenda is also working with the summer camp program. There are only two in Ontario.

### Frederick Ozanam

*“Our guiding Rule should be neither to force  
Ourselves on the public gaze nor conceal ourselves from those who may wish to find us”*

## Most Wanted : Ontario Regional Council Members



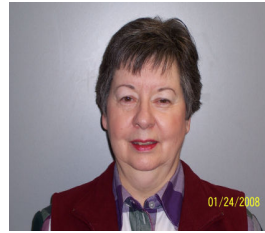
Agnes Turley



Jim Paddon



Bernie Hartlin



Brenda Kormandy



Carmella Addonte



Anne Elliott



Ron Trent



Doreen Simmers



Fr. Ted Slamen



Nicholas (Nick) Volk



Mary Anne Kieran



Pat Laurette

### Vinnie Facts:

- Our Web site has received 11,894 inquiries
- We have 44 operating Stores in Ontario
- There are 9 youth Conferences and one Particular Council
- We have twinned with 102 conferences
- We have 368 Conferences reported. Where are the rest?

### Report From Holy Redeemer Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Conference ,Ottawa Bernie Hartlin, President

Our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, formed in 1986, has devoted countless hours working with and for those in need in our community. In those 20 years, we have taken part in the formation of and continued support for the Community Resource Centre, Kanata Food Cupboard, and local Co-op Housing initiatives. We have also provided furniture; clothing, basic utility needs and friendship to those we are called to serve.

Our ongoing work includes a commitment to supply food vouchers to the Kanata Food Cupboard for perishable food supplies and assistance to individuals and families through the parish office and/or the Community Resource Centre. We sponsor seasonal drives for clothing distributed through the St. Vincent de Paul Store. Our drop-off bin (empted twice a week), results in approximately 4,722 bags or 77,440 pounds of clothing collected each year? Many parishioners generously donate furniture as well. Our annual Shepherds of Good Hope Christmas stocking program is currently underway. We purchase 200 pairs of warm socks and distribute them after mass asking our parishioners to fill them with items that will be useful to persons of the street. These are placed by the bedsides of the homeless, who stay at the shelters on Christmas Eve.

None of this could be accomplished without the continuous generosity and the many hours of volunteer time graciously given to support our work. I thank you, on behalf of those whom we serve, for your generosity in the past. I ask you to be generous again this year. Our annual Saint Vincent de Paul collection is also under way. Your donation will enable us to assist the many more people who are experiencing the need for assistance.