



**“Inspirations from our Founders and Patrons”**

## **SSVP Canada named its Patron Saint** ***Saint Marguerite d’Youville***

As SSVP Canada celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada last November, it also instituted the Consecration of our Society in Canada and placed it under the holy protection of the first Canadian born saint, St. Marguerite d’Youville. Consequently, Saint Marguerite d’Youville is now the Patron Saint of SSVP Canada.



Among Canadian saints, Marguerite d’Youville is the one whose life witness, works and spirituality most reflect the mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Her feast day is celebrated on October 16. She was a woman of action, the example of someone who drew from the very Heart of God and made it visible to all persons in need to whom she attended. The cry for help from the poor did not come to her only from without, instead it arose from within herself, a poor person among poor people. For her, the poorest of the poor was the person who had the greatest need of God in order to become a man or woman. Her dream was to liberate the poorest of the poor by teaching him or her, through action, that he or she is loved. By her actions of serving the needy and her compassion for the poor, Pope John XXIII described her as the “Mother of Universal Charity”.

Marguerite had a great trust in the goodness of God and His justice towards all. This enabled her to achieve charitable works of astonishing scope, even by today’s standards. By her many works, she laid the foundations for the social and community services that we are currently familiar with within our society. In 1737, with three companions, she founded the Grey Nuns when they took their initial vows. As the years passed, the Grey Nuns were responsible for running hospitals, schools, housing for the poor and orphanages throughout Canada, the United States, Africa and South America. They were also well known for their work with the Inuit.

She was born in Varennes, Quebec on October 15, 1701, and died on December 23, 1771. Marguerite left to her contemporaries and to future generations, a spiritual legacy marked by an unconditional compassion for the poor and an inextinguishable faith in God the Father and His Providence. We pray that her source of inspiration be an example for us as we continue to serve the needy under her guidance.

*Deacon John Girolami, ONRC Spiritual Advisor*

## ***“From the President’s Corner”***

### President’s Message

Greetings Sister and Brother Vincentians,

In his Easter Vigil homily, Pope Francis called us to *“bring Christ into our everyday lives: through gestures of peace in these days marked by the horrors of war, through acts of reconciliation amid broken relationships, acts of compassion towards those in need, acts of justice amid situations of inequality and of truth in the midst of lies. And above all, through works of love and fraternity.”* Vincentians live the Holy Father’s message. Is it not our mission to bring compassion to those living on the margins, to advocate for individuals seeking righteousness and to share our love with those who are lonely or suffering? As we celebrate the Easter season, let us proclaim that Jesus is risen!



On March 4<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of joining the members of Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate Conference in Guelph celebrate an amazing milestone – the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conference’s service to the needy. (see photo). Thank you to all the conference members who were so welcoming and had put in hours of work to organize the event.

Like Basilica of Our Lady, the Society across Ontario has many conferences and councils that are thriving and have served their communities for decades. At the same time, there are conferences that are struggling to grow its membership and to identify successors to take on leadership roles. If your

conference would benefit from renewal, the Rejuvenation Committee is ready to work with you. Please contact Committee Chair Dan Lohin at [danyl@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:danyl@ssvp.on.ca). ***Send forth your spirit and new life will be created!***

Special thanks to Guido Kelly, Shelley Gilbert, and the Communications Committee for their efforts in creating this issue of **Vincentimes**.

***Ann Massel***  
***President, Ontario Regional Council***

***“We should keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God”. – St. Vincent de Paul***

## **"Milestones in our History" (Individual)**

### **An Interview with Peter Burns, Hamilton's longest serving member since 1970 (By Guido Kelly)**

1. ***How long have you been a Vincentian? and how much have you enjoyed this aspect of Vincentian work?*** I first worked with the SSV in the early 60s during the construction of their Hostel for Men which then became the Good Shepherd Centre. I became a member of the society in 1970 at the Regina Mundi Conference. I thoroughly enjoy being with others who share a concern for the needy and are happy to meet their needs.

2. ***Since being a Vincentian is a vocation, who or what motivated you to join the Society?*** I was born into a Catholic family that displayed a strong faith. My parents instilled in us the message of "Love your neighbour". It was a "natural" for me then to join with others to put my faith into action and join the Society.



3. ***As Vincentians, we serve with "Love, Respect, Justice and Joy". Which of these motivates you the most? And why?*** Personally, "Love" is the most important motivator". "Love" is at the heart of all human relations not only those at the very personal level but also in the relations between communities both small and large.

4. ***What leadership positions have you held with your Conference or Council? Of which are you most proud? Why?*** I have served as Founder/President of Regina Mundi Conference then also Founder/President of Annunciation of Our Lord Conference. I then became President of the Hamilton Particular Council. I always enjoyed the people I worked with at every level. As President of the Particular Council which at that time included Conferences in Kitchener, Guelph, and Halton areas, I was fortunate to become involved with the breadth and depth of the work of the Society in Ontario and across the country. At the Particular Council level there was a need for continued growth and a hope that more parish Conferences in the Diocese would be formed and that more Particular Councils would also be organized. Father Lambertus, editor of The Register at the time, was a great help as Kitchener and

Guelph formed their own Councils.

5. ***Drawing from your vast experiences over the years, what aspect continues to motivate you in your Vincentian work?*** I love seeing and knowing that our Society continues to grow. Growth in the sense of seeing fellow members and our Society reaching out not only to the needy but also to other members of our faith in the sense of inspiration, rejuvenation, and brotherhood. This means that there will always be the need to promote our involvement in the community and develop that growth that will only lead to better things. I am pleased to be still active in our Society and to be able to personally promote that growth.

6. ***What advice do you wish to share with "new" as well as "not so new" Vincentians as they respond to the wide-ranging calls for their service?*** All Vincentians should strive to do their best and be content with what they can do. The work is never ending, and its success is sometimes elusive. Keep in mind that as SSV members we are putting our faith into action and that our purpose is twofold, that is, to serve the needy but also to promote the spiritual growth of each member with whom we interact.

***NOTE: Peter is still a very active member of Annunciation of Our Lord Conference in Hamilton. He has mentored Guido when he became a member of the Conference. Guido is also a Past President of both the Conference and the Hamilton Particular Council. One of Guido's present roles is being a member of the ONRC Communications Committee.***

# **Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate Conference**

## **Celebrates**

## **150 years of Continuous Service**

In 1872 the streets were filled with horse-drawn carriages, Canada had just legalized trade unions and a “Horse Flu” epidemic threatened the health of millions of people throughout North America. As the many years rolled by, there have been countless events that have shaped the Parish. A new church, now a basilica, was built among other accomplishments. One significant event took place in March of 1872, a Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was established in the Parish to care for the needy, offering them both material assistance and spiritual encouragement. Since then, here in Guelph, Ontario, one thing has remained constant, that is the dependable assistance provided by our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul here at Our Lady Immaculate.



Consequently, on March 4, 2022, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, “Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate Conference” celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - an accomplishment deserving accolades and much celebration. Having served our needy through World Wars, the Great Depression, and multiple global health crises, this Conference has a rich history of overcoming adversity and finding hope in times of great darkness. In photo from left, Cathie Evans (President), Betty Rowsell, Deacon Carlos Diaz, Natalie Marconi, Agnese Nagy. The Conference’s current team of dedicated volunteers assists their Parish community, and the city at large, in a variety of ways. Not only do they deliver grocery, furniture and clothing vouchers to hundreds of adults and children in need, but they also provide homemade, hot meals for the local homeless shelter which serves 50-100 people each week. They have advocates for social justice working with other agencies in their city, and they have a designated correspondent who communicates regularly

with their twin conference in Grenada. Most recently, they have established “Vinnie’s Table” which provides a healthy breakfast to dozens of homeless men and women each weekend.

Their enduring dedication and hard work have withstood the test of time, and they march boldly into the future with confidence and pride. Their teams are comprised of men and women, of ages spanning seven decades, ensuring their longevity for years to come. We bestow on them our sincere congratulations for a job well done and wish them well as they continue to “Serve in Hope”. A display of certificates of congratulations and appreciation are in photo at right.



***Natalie Marconi***  
***Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate Conference***



## **Saint John the Baptist Conference**

### **Amherstburg**

Our Conference was blessed in 2021 to have the strong support shown by the parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church as well as the Amherstburg community (located south of Windsor). With their gracious gifts of money, food, and clothing we were able to answer 264 calls for assistance which serviced 461 adults and 255 children.

Our “Giving Tree” program allowed us to ensure that 55 families, which included 124 children, were able to enjoy their Christmas season. This was closely followed by our Winter Wear program, by which we assisted 8 children with coats, snow suits and boots. These families were very grateful as the cold weather season started.

In 2021, we offered a program by which we helped our families to navigate accessibility of the various government offers that provided much needed additional assistance during the pandemic. We also continued to support the “North of 60 Project”. We were able to assist our friends in the town of Gjoa Haven, Nunavut with the supplies that were shipped.

Our SSVP Conference is proud of all of our volunteers who continually go out into the community and



assist families in need during these difficult times. Allow me to mention Anita Gibb, Debbie Laing, Michelle Hayes, and Bonnie Reeves who were the leaders of the programs already mentioned. Our Vincentians have given 4,665 hours assisting those in need during 2021. Our organization strongly believe in treating the poor with respect, love, compassion, justice, and joy.

We wish to recognize Frank Rocheleau as our longest standing member for serving the Amherstburg/Lasalle SSVP community for 40 years. He still serves today with the same passion and genuine spirit of humility to help those who may be in need.

Our conference also recognized two couples who gave many years of service to the Amherstburg community. First, Dick and Denise Bondy, (photo of presentation

by Sharron) who served proudly for a combined 42 years before retiring. Second, Ray and Marie Burns generously gave 34 years of combined service before they stepped aside.

We wish to acknowledge the Amherstburg Knights of Columbus, Amherstburg Goodfellows, St. John the Baptist Catholic Women’s League and the Lambda Delta Sorority for contributing food and financial aid. We have operated locally for the last 69 years in Amherstburg as we continue with the good works started by Frederic Ozanam, the founder of our Society.

***Sharron Bombardier, President, St. John the Baptist Conference***

## **St. Kevin's Conference**

### **Val Caron**

Our Conference is few in numbers but alive in spirit. Besides our work as Vincentians, we also serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, leaders of confirmation and members of our Parish Council.

St. Kevin's Conference is in Val Caron, which is located in the Sudbury region. Our members are very busy as we also operate a food bank, and a Thrift Store in addition to the numerous calls to help our friends in need. We do not only "serve in hope" but our members are also "hope filled". Our "hope filled" plans include a new build for the food bank, as well as a new workshop, office space, a meeting room and more. A committee has already been working on raising funds to realize this project. To date, our campaign has raised \$70,000.

Our Vincentian brothers and sisters are always giving of themselves, providing a food bank to assist our friends, working bingos for shares in order to help them with payments for basic needs such as rent and utilities. We are happy to announce that despite the numerous closures caused by the ups and downs of the pandemic by which we had to abide, our Thrift Store has survived these interruptions and has returned to some form of normalcy. We are kept busy with a lot of donations most of which are gently used clothing, household items and furniture, most of which are sold at our Store. When we are approached by some who just cannot afford to purchase these household items, furniture, and the like, we donate the items in our effort to reach out.



Among our other works, we have a great twinning relationship with the Padre Pio Conference in Jinotega, Nicaragua. Our twin advised us of the problems that they were experiencing with the water supply system in their village. We decided to pursue this as a project under the twinning guidelines. Consequently, we invited the parishioners of St. Kevin's to join with us in raising funds for this project. We were delighted with their response and our Council was able to match their generosity for a total of \$4,800.00 CDN which was forwarded to our twin. This helped immensely and they were able to complete the new water supply system. (Photos are attached). Our members continue to attend numerous Zoom meetings and workshops on subjects such as truth and reconciliation, housing, prison ministries and systemic racism. These are great sources of learning, as our members strive to become better advocates for all forms of Social Justice. Pursuing the ways and means by which we can achieve true "Reconciliation" with our first nation people is a goal of our Conference and will continue to be a topic of discussion at our upcoming meetings. Our true heroes at St. Kevin's are our parishioners and their generosity with their monetary donations as well as the food stuffs that keep our foodbank shelves filled. To them, we say THANK YOU.



***Susan Godin, Vice-President, St. Kevin's Conference***



***Ottawa Central Council  
responds to the  
National Action Campaign***



The [Ottawa Central Council \(OCC\)](#) has embarked on a project to create safe, secure, affordable housing for four or more Indigenous families in Ottawa. The Council was responding to the challenge of the National Action Campaign on housing of the SSVP and the housing emergency declared by the city of Ottawa.

The OCC studied the housing options in Ottawa. They formed a partnership with the [Multifaith Housing Initiative \(MHI\)](#) which is a well-respected affordable housing provider in Ottawa. This was a prudent move since the Society had no experience in building affordable housing. MHI has been very supportive and appointed some of their staff to support and guide the Council in planning. They welcomed Vincentians into their planning sessions, and this has been an educational opportunity for the Society.

The OCC's plan is to provide housing for families in need so that they would pay rent equal to the shelter allowances that their social service incomes provide, thus freeing up the recipients' basic needs allowances for food, clothing and so on. To accomplish this, the council has committed to raising funds for the down payments on as many units as possible so that the mortgage payments required would be covered by the shelter allowances. An additional benefit that will be incorporated into this project is that the housing complex will make appropriate cultural supports available in the community.

The fundraising plan includes asking for support from Vincentians, their conferences, other church organizations, parishes, and businesses. As well, the council is running a progressive lottery called Catch the Ace which features weekly draws and a jackpot which builds until the envelope containing the Ace of Spades is found. Tickets can be bought from anyone living in Ontario at <https://ssvpottawa.ca/>

*Bernie Hartlin, Ottawa Central Council*



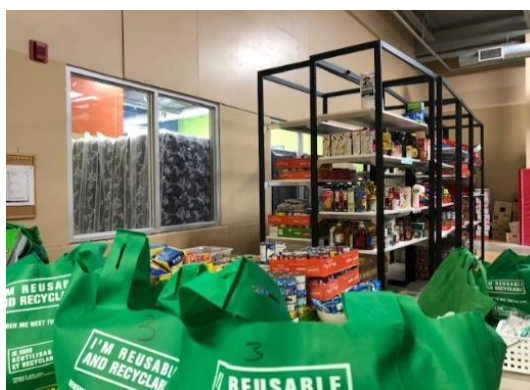
## ***"Clothing the Naked" (Store related activities)***



The supportive relationship between the Particular Council of Brant SSVP, its thrift store operation and the Brantford Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board in Brantford and Brant County is longstanding. Student helpers were key to the transition of the thrift store operation (established in 1990) to its new location in September 2018. They unloaded tractor trailers, built/installed workshop benches/sorting tables and set up for/ushered at our official blessing ceremony by Bishop Crosby. Due to

the pandemic, the steady stream of students, that have volunteered, has paused. Lately, a regular roster of students on co-op placements or completing community hours supplements our 100% volunteer Store staff of over 100 Vincentians. Our Store serves to fulfil the promise of the home visit. Friends in need shop free, for non-perishable food, personal hygiene items, clothing, household items and/or furniture, using vouchers issued by our five conferences.

Although the pandemic initially impacted regular school collections of food and personal hygiene items, the adaptations of cash collections and Covid grant monies kept us going. Recent Lenten collections have once again swelled our supplies of food and hygiene items as well as cash to fill in the gaps. Personal hygiene items were added as our students challenged us to do so, committing to keep these items on our shelves.



Last, but not least as they say, our Bed for Every Child program was established through a \$17,000 donation from Assumption College School (ACS) in 2014, with a commitment to add to those funds every two years. More than 750 new beds have been gifted to local children through this program. While the pandemic has paused the ACS fundraising activities for now,

United Way Brant has stepped in with three years of funding. However, the ACS connection continues as our current ACS coop student is coordinating a drive for children's books to be gifted with each new bed! Students and staff of BHNCD SB continue to support, to challenge and to inspire the Vincentians of Brantford and Brant County.



*Pat Lenz, (acting) Volunteer Coordinator,  
Brant Thrift Store*

***To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it.***

**- St. Teresa of Calcutta**



## **SSVP Saint Louise de Marillac Youth Conference**

### **Holy Family Parish, London, Ontario**

Our Youth Conference is in our 14<sup>th</sup> year of operating. This group is having the best year ever, even during our most trying times with the ups and downs of the pandemic.

We have been “brain-storming” about creating new and exciting events to be done at home or together and with other like-minded groups within our city’s limits. These challenges have made our Executive team come up with better ways to serve in a safe and practical way, helping those on the street with items for the time of year, namely, any one of our four seasons, fall, winter, spring, or summer.

Our “At Home” events have been a triumphant success and they are mostly about our environment and what each of us can do to make the difference.

The inspiration for our projects come from all directions. The first one was inspired by this link on our worldwide bee population.

[Microsoft Word - worldwide loss of bees a growing concern 1350 \(weebly.com\)](#)

1. To grow a Bee Pollination Garden for sustaining our Bees. We are in danger of losing our bees for food production, so our youth members were encouraged to grow a flower garden for the Bees to ensure our bees a food source. There is a lot of literature on this important movement to save our bees, please take some time to read up on this.
2. We have been attentive to our natural resource: our Common Home, Mother Earth and took part in the Earth Hours on March 26<sup>th</sup> (not using electricity for 1 hour in solidarity) and a cleanup on Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>). We will be joining the Hyde Park Lions’ Club to clean up a major road on May 1<sup>st</sup>.



3. We are currently starting up a Salad Garden program (partnering with “The MicroFarmers” in P.E.I.) to feed our friends on the street by Youth members taking on the growing of veggies this season and once the plants are ready to harvest, they will deliver the food to our local Soup Kitchen, St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre. Our team is excited to see how this NEW Garden Program will come to fruition! See you at HARVEST TIME!

God has blessed our young people with a passion “to help in all possible ways”. They do so and serve with love, respect, justice, and joy!

*Lil Mulder,  
Saint Louise de Marillac Youth Conference*

## ***“The Gains from North of Sixty”***

Naujaat, Nunavut is the first community to reflect the many “gains” shared by both the north and south. The north being the many communities that we have “adopted” in the Far North of Ontario as well as those in Nunavut and the south being the Conferences and Councils that are engaged in shipping sea containers which are shipped in the summer and arrive in the “north” in the fall. I have had the opportunity to visit our friends in the Naujaat community on two occasions and have been rewarded by their warmth and hospitality.

Naujaat sits right on the Arctic Circle, boasting days of full sun and full darkness. When Saint Vincent de Paul was embraced by the community, a host of changes began. It all began with the St. Catharines Central Council’s vibrance to gather items and share with Naujaat. The area Vincentians joined with the



schools, parishioners, friends and neighbours in refreshing their spirit of “love, respect, justice and joy” and their drive “to help in all possible ways”. Sea containers have been arriving since the early fall of 2016 in Naujaat. The food gathered has immensely helped families when funds are dried up and store shelves are bare. This is somewhat common due to storms and the supplies cannot be flown in. In the process of packing items for the first shipment, our elementary students went so far as to write notes on boxes of KD welcoming our Northern sisters and brothers. Vincentians also gathered small household items allowing the Church community to enjoy a pre-Christmas raffle. Father

Daniel, the local priest in Naujaat, runs an extensive after school program. (see attached photo). Children come daily to pray, to receive guidance, to play and most important to eat two healthy snacks before they return nightly to their home. Employment opportunities are limited. Thus, families *seriously struggle*. Our sharing provides them with the much-needed snacks. Our shipments are greeted with tons of enthusiasm by the children as well as their families, all under Fr. Daniel’s abundant care.

I can attest to the Inuit joy, gratitude, of all our endeavors. They pray for us asking Our Lord to keep us safe and healthy. I am humbled by their genuine care and respect for us.

***Pegg Leroux, ONRC Director, North of Sixty Chair***

***“The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it”.***

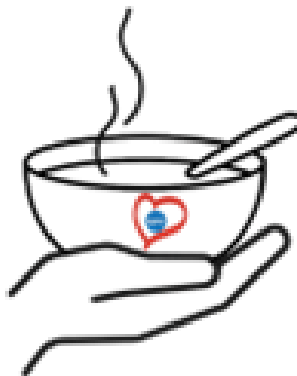
***-- Saint Vincent de Paul***

## Feeding the Hungry in St. Catharines

### at Ozanam Centre

### St. Catharines’ Soup Kitchen

Initially opened in 1989, the Ozanam Centre was organized by the St Catharines Central Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Initially, it was set up as a one room drop-in centre for coffee and fellowship. We outgrew this room and are now located in the Knights of Columbus Hall. Over the years, the format also changed to a lunch service for anyone in need. We are now a full-fledged “Soup Kitchen” which is open for lunch only, Monday through Friday each week. During our pandemic year of 2021, there were 20,770 lunches served. We are a registered charity and not-for profit. We do not receive government funding of any kind and are totally dependent on the generosity of donations. We are blessed to receive funding from several churches, local service clubs, corporations and concerned citizens. Some of our sponsors include Rotary Club of St. Catharines, May Court Club of St. Catharines, Ontario Power Generation, Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation, United Way, Meridian, Ontario Charitable Gaming Association and Starbucks.



The demand for our service continues to grow. Based on the vision of Frederic Ozanam, the founder of our Society, we continue to “feed the hungry” once they arrive at our Ozanam Centre. Many of those we serve are elderly low-income folks, struggling to make ends meet, as well as the more vulnerable who are those living in the vestibules and alley ways, dealing with mental health issues and addictions. Since the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak and the various psychological fallouts because of it, we have experienced a steady increase in the number of guests that join us for lunch each day. We receive foodstuffs from various sources, including anonymous donors with items, such as meat and poultry. We accept foods and supplies that are commercially packaged but cannot accept homemade food items. Feel free to visit our website, <https://ozanamstc.ca> through which you may donate, or mail us a cheque to “Ozanam Centre”, 235 Church Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2R 3E8. Kudos to our volunteers, as they are our most precious resource. This work is unsustainable without them. Our non-denominational management Committee includes members of the community with expertise in governance, finance, and community service. Their teamwork allows us to operate with an extremely well-managed budget.

*Edith Bacon, Volunteer Coordinator*



## ***“Social Justice Gains” (Highlighting one of these areas)***



Our Social Justice activities over the last twenty years keep growing and growing. This growth is in response to the many injustices that we experience in everyday life and our efforts to address some of these as one group or other cries out for help. This is a call for all Vincentians to “help in all possible ways”, as the Mission of our Society implies, in working towards the eradication of the injustices we have identified.

One of these issues that we face is that of dealing with systemic racism. As Vincentians, we need to embrace the need to become more diverse in our thinking and also in our membership. Here in Ontario, we started with a small working group which has now blossomed into our newest Social Justice addition in the name of the Multi-Cultural Diversity Committee (MCDC). This is a prime example of how we can respond to an injustice that has a direct effect on the people in need that we help, as well as fellow Vincentians with whom we break bread. The goal of this Committee is to help us all identify the prejudices that lead to systemic racism and set out the steps by which all Vincentians can recognize what it may take to accomplish an attitude change in dealing with our own personal biases and prejudices.

The Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) issued an important statement recently that identifies, “Racism and discrimination remain an appalling reality for a civilized society”. For some of us, there are uncomfortable issues that we need to face and address. However, I encourage all members to engage and listen to others from a more culturally diverse background and strive to become part of the solution rather than stay part of the problem.

Personally, the inspiration that I have received from my MCDC experience is one that I shall always value. We need to embrace and promote the need to become a more diverse Society. I suggest that every Vincentian has a role to play in achieving the goal of our MCDC, so engage and enjoy the experience!

*Jim Paddon, Chair,  
National Social Justice Committee  
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul*

***May you experience the truth that he, Christ, looks upon you with love!***  
**- St. John Paul II**

## ***“Sharing our Wealth” (TWINNING)***

Back in 2014, my husband and I decided to travel through Central America to sight see but also to learn the Spanish language. One day after Spanish class, we were sitting in the town square when we were approached by a young man who offered to take us on a walking tour of Antigua, Guatemala. We accepted and the final stop on this tour was a hospital devoted to its founder San Pedro. It is a non-profit medical facility for the neediest of the needy. Volunteer medical teams usually arrive from different countries for a span of two weeks each time to assist. They offer treatments for specific conditions during their stay of working with these patients. Shortly after our return to Canada, on inquiring, we discovered that there was a SSVP Conference in the town by the name of Camino de Amor. This conference was seeking a twin for help to maintain and repair their Hospice. I presented an appeal to our home Conference, St. Francis of Assisi, Newcastle that we should respond to their search for a twin. Our Conference members enthusiastically supported the application, and our twinning relationship was born.



The hospice **Hogar Temporal Federico Ozanam** offers shelter and nutrition for patients and their families referred by the social workers at San Pedro National Hospital. The patients and families often came on foot from the surrounding areas of the country.

By 2017, the Hogar was rejecting patients because of lack of space. Work began on a special project to add a second story. Camino de Amor raised \$5,000. Our conference raised \$11,000 from the generosity of our Council and private

donors in our parish. My husband and I received and accepted an invitation to attend the opening and Benediction. It was a great honour to attend this grand event.

In the photo above, the lady in the red (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) is Patricia Hidalgo, National President, SSVP Guatemala, Joan and Michael Tisi (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from left) along with unidentified members of the SSVP Camino de Amor Conference, Antigua. The photo on the right is a wall plaque which was unveiled during the “opening” ceremonies.

It reads: **THANK YOU to the Saint Francis of Assisi Conference, Canada**

**May 2019**

*Joan Tisi,  
Twinning Chair,  
St. Francis of Assisi Conference,  
Newcastle*



## *“NOT to be FORGOTTEN” and “Wrap-up”*



***Lest we forget our brothers and sisters who served His people, please keep them in your prayers....***

**Jacqueline Marshall**, Annunciation of Our Lord Conference, Hamilton. **March 5, 2021**

**Margaret Badeau**, St. Francis Xavier Conference, Stoney Creek. **May 17, 2021**

**Robert “Butch” Brown**, St. Thomas More Conference, Niagara Falls. **July 5, 2021**

**Isabel Callaghan**, Annunciation of Our Lord Conference, Hamilton. **November 19, 2021**

**Alice Heffernan**, Sacred Heart Conference, Peterborough. **January 14, 2022**

**Ib Fynbo**, Holy Name of Jesus Conference, Essex. **April 8, 2022**

**Marie Buchanan**, Annunciation of Our Lord Conference, Hamilton. **April 11, 2022**

**Patricia Melnike**, St. Dominic’s Conference, Mississauga. **April 24, 2022**

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### **UPCOMING DATES TO CIRCLE ON YOUR CALENDAR**

MAY 14, 2022 – ONRC Webinar, “Misperceptions of the WHOM of Poverty”. Visit our website [ssvp.on.ca](http://ssvp.on.ca) to register

JUNE 17 – 18, 2022 – Annual National Formation, Ottawa. Visit our website for more information

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### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

This Committee has revised the format of the **Vincentimes**. The object is to be more inclusive on reporting the many SSVP happenings across our Region. The stories in this edition originated from Amherstburg, Brantford, Guelph, Hamilton, London, Newcastle, Ottawa, St. Catharines, Val Caron, and Waterloo as we attempt to bring our Vincentians together as a family, which is one of our VALUES. HAPPY READING as we share in each other’s accomplishments. Feedback is welcome.

PLEASE crank up the enthusiasm and get your Conference included by putting your pen to paper. You may submit your stories for inclusion in our **Vincentimes** to Shelley at [shelleyssvp@gmail.com](mailto:shelleyssvp@gmail.com)

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

**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 our Society 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.

**VISIT our website:** [www.ssvp.on.ca](http://www.ssvp.on.ca)

**Email us at:** [info@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:info@ssvp.on.ca)