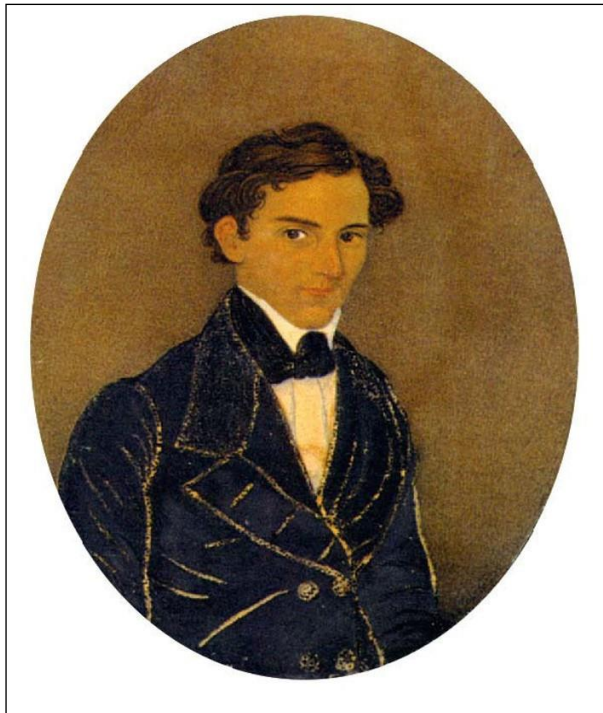




“Inspirations from our Founders and Patrons”

A tribute to the Founder of SSVP Canada ***Joseph-Louis Painchaud***

Our SSVP Canada celebrated its 175th anniversary of the founding of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada last November. A natural question, then, is “who was it?” relative to the founding of the SSVP Canada. The “who” was a young doctor, Joseph-Louis Painchaud. He was born on June 12, 1819, in Quebec City to Joseph Painchaud, a doctor, and Marie Parant. Joseph-Louis started his medical studies in Quebec and completed them at a university in Paris. It is likely that, having joined the Society during his student days in Paris, he would have known, not only Frederic Ozanam, but also the other founders of our Society. He returned to Quebec in 1846 as



a graduate doctor.

Joseph-Louis came back to his hometown that was experiencing economic hardships as well as medical epidemics. The needs of the people, especially the poor, was great and obvious. Just before his return, the SSVP General Council in Paris had written to the bishops of the world to acquaint them with the aims and objectives of the SSVP. When Joseph-Louis went to discuss the founding of a Conference in his parish, the Bishop at the Cathedral already had that letter and welcomed him.

On November 11, 1846, the first Conference in Canada met in the St. Louis Chapel of the Cathedral, where a memorial plaque still exists as a reminder of our beginning in this country. When I was in Quebec City in 2016, I saw the plaque. While visiting Canada in July, Pope Francis was in Quebec City. He celebrated Mass on the Plains of Abraham just down the road from this Cathedral.

During his lifetime, Dr. Painchaud founded 12 conferences, and it was from these that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was built in Canada. Based on the successes of Quebec City, the Society started in Montreal in 1848, and expanded

to Toronto in 1850, and then to other parts of Canada. Presently, there are over 1000 conferences and councils in Canada, with more than 12,000 members. Perhaps you never knew about Dr. Painchaud, but without him, the Society would not be where we are today helping those in need across Canada.

I hope we all come to understand the importance of our Spiritual Ancestors and the contribution they made to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that the source of inspiration, passed on to us by our founders, be an example for us as we continue to serve the needy under their guidance.

Deacon John Girolami, ONRC Spiritual Advisor

"From the President's Corner"

President's Message

Greetings Sister and Brother Vincentians,

On May 19 this year, I had the absolute privilege of joining members of St. Peter's Conference, Goderich in presenting their president, Pat Clifford, with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. The Governor General's website proclaims that "Passion, dedication and a commitment to community are the driving



Pat and Ann at the event

forces behind the volunteers who receive the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers". One could not find a more fitting description of Pat. Among the comments made from those who nominated Pat for the award were: ***"She has worked tirelessly putting in 40-60 hours every week, be it in the thrift store, food bank, on home visits, delivering Christmas Hampers or even making soups for the Daily Soup Pot". "Pat's service is in leadership, scheduling volunteers for various tasks and surprising others such as baking a cake for a woman who had never had a cake to celebrate her birthday". "Pat often tells people how blessed she is - for all the good in her life - the stores, the volunteers***

that never give up, the Society that continues to do what no other organization does, the community which rallies when needed, donors, supporters, and friends of the Society - without them, she says, she couldn't do what she does. Her faith in God is inspiring. Pat credits God for giving her the strength to persevere through what others have said was impossible."

My sincere thanks to everyone who organized the event, to Elaine Mihm, who initiated the nomination process, Mary Barry and Anne Elliott who wrote letters supporting Pat's nomination and the many friends in the Goderich community who attended the ceremony to congratulate Pat on this outstanding achievement. To learn more about the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, please visit the Governor General's website: <https://www.gg.ca/en/honours/canadian-honours/sovereigns-medal-volunteers> Vocation or volunteer? I am often in meetings where the definition of Vincentian is debated: volunteer or vocation. Does it matter how we see ourselves? A Volunteer is defined as a person who performs a service or undertaking willingly, and without pay. Vocation is a particular occupation or profession; an inclination to follow a particular activity or calling. Regardless of the term that we use to describe our service to the less fortunate, we strive to live by the Vincentian spirit of charity, sharing and humility.

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

ON ANOTHER NOTE: Ann's mother, Mary Margaret Massel, passed away on July 20, 2022, in her home province of Alberta. The fellow members, of our ONRC Communications Committee, ask that you join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Ann and her family on this crushing loss. Her contact is: ann@ssvp.on.ca

"The soul is in God and God in the soul, just as the fish is in the sea and the sea is in the fish". - St. Catherine of Siena

"Milestones in our History" (Individual)

An Interview with Gord Jenkinson as we honour Michelle's Vincentian service. (By Guido Kelly)

NOTE: Michelle Jenkinson passed away on May 9, 2022. Our "Communications Committee" would like you to join with us as we honour our sister by highlighting her devotion to our Society (SSVP). We thank her husband, Gord, who has graciously agreed to this interview by sharing some of her Vincentian accomplishments with us. He says they were soulmates for forty-eight years.

1. How long was Michelle a Vincentian? and how much did she enjoy the aspects of Vincentian work? She was a Vincentian for sixteen years. Together, we had started out by helping the homeless in Sudbury. To assure their survival in wicked frigid temperatures, we often had to convince them to come with us to a shelter where they would spend the night. We were thrilled with each person we were able to coax off the street into a shelter.

2. Since being a Vincentian is a vocation, who or what would you say motivated her to join the Society? Michelle had a vocation to serve Christ in the poor that went back to her childhood. She experienced poverty as a child in a single parent home with seven siblings and very little resources. She remembered getting help from the Church at Christmas when she was a youngster and always wished to get the opportunity to reach out to the poor when that opportunity to give back became affordable.



3. As Vincentians, we serve with "Love, Respect, Justice and Joy". Which of these meant the most to Michelle? Why?

"Love" was the most important part of any relationship with Michelle. The foundation of any relationship is love and Michelle would always find something to love in those she served.

4. What leadership positions did she hold with your Conference or Council? Of which was she most proud? Why? Michelle started as the Spiritual Advisor to the St. Kevin's Conference in Val Caron and it was in her work in this prayerful capacity that she was most proud. She later became President of the Rainbow Spirit North Particular Council.

5. Of all her Vincentian "works" over the years, which aspect motivated her the most? Over the years, the aspect of service that

motivated her the most was to always be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in everyday encounters with the people that she met. She loved to volunteer at the food bank and sit with friends to see if there was any other way she could help.

6. What do you think Michelle would have wished to share with us, her fellow Vincentians, as we continue to serve His needy? By her nature, Michelle was always reaching out to help people who were considered the "less fortunate". For this reason, I would say that she would share this with fellow Vincentians: "The Lord will put people in our path who need His love as well as our care. Keep looking for those people and respond as He would".

7 As a veteran Vincentian yourself, is there a "tidbit" of your Vincentian work that you shared with Michelle that could be an inspiration to us? A few years ago, the people of Attiwapiskat received new mobile homes to alleviate their housing crisis. Michelle's first question was, "Do they have furniture?" This led to a parish campaign to raise funds to provide furniture. This went viral across the Ontario Region and a lot of Conferences and Councils jumped in to help, with the result that all the units were furnished with the money that was raised. This contagious ability to motivate people around her was inspiring to many others including myself.

St. Alphonsus and the Windsor Essex Council

Celebrates

125 years of its Aggregation

While the “Society” arrived in Canada in 1846, in Quebec City, and introduced by Dr. Joseph Painchaud who had studied in Paris and knew Ozanam and his confreres, it was not established in Toronto until 1850. The founder of that conference was Sir Manly Muir, who was a native of Amherstburg, located here in Essex County.

Rev. Dean Fr. James Theodore Wagner, a local Parish Priest, who was born in Lorraine, France was instrumental in establishing the first Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Conference in Windsor at St. Alphonsus Parish Church. The conference was aggregated on February 10, 1896. Due to COVID restrictions, a Mass of Celebration (125 years) was deferred until May 10, 2022 and was held at St Alphonsus Parish Church (see photo at left) in downtown Windsor.



In 1865, Bishop Pinsoneault named Fr. Wagner first resident pastor of all of Windsor. Among his various works in the Windsor area, he founded institutions such as St Alphonsus Church, Hotel Dieu Hospital, St Mary’s Academy among others.

Since its inception in 1833, the work of the Society has always been to assist and advocate for those in need. While the nature of the work may have changed, for example bringing candles, pieces of coal or wood to those in need back then, the underpinning element of “hope” has never changed. Our thanks to the Frederic Ozanam article written in 1848 for its inspiration even today, *“Help honours when, to the bread that nourishes, it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect, not only as an equal but as a superior,*

since he is among us as the messenger of God, set to put our justice and charity to the test and to save us by our works”. In our community of Windsor Essex County, we extend our gratitude for the generosity of so many people who have helped our Society with food drives, funds, donations of goods including businesses and organizations such as the Rotary Clubs, Legion, CKWW AM 800, Cans 4 A Cause and others such as our current partner Caring Hearts Food Bank and The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County. Many are the works of the St Alphonsus Conference serving a variety of persons without homes, many ethnic groups as well as providing home visiting, Prison Ministry visitations and assisting with food security program and fundraising events. Today the SSVF WECC continues its work through approximately 475 members and volunteers within 25 Conferences and 4 Particular Councils as there is no work of charity that is foreign to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul!



WECC Pres. David Leslie after the Mass

Penny Craig, Secretary, Windsor Essex Central Council

Saint Joseph Conference

Grimsby

Our conference was founded in 1959 by a group of parishioners who realized the need to help our less fortunate neighbours in the Grimsby area. Consequently, we have now been active in our community for the last 63 years. Initially that help included providing food, used clothing, furniture, and transportation



The statue of St. Joseph outside of our Church

services to those in need. They worked out of the basement of one of our members. However, as the community grew it became apparent to the members of St. Vincent de Paul that they should collaborate with other groups in Grimsby for a more community-based approach to helping the needy by creating the Grimsby Benevolent Fund (GBF). GBF is now a separate charity entity that operate a Food Bank, Thrift Store, and counseling services with the support of the local Churches, Service Clubs, and Municipality, such as the Police, Fire, and the town Social Services. Our members continue to support the GBF through their volunteer participation. Though most of those seeking help use the

GBF, there are some who require more attention and turn to our Conference for that extra assistance. Recently, a family arrived in Grimsby without a place to stay or funds for food. Our members stepped in and arranged for accommodation, food vouchers and other needs. This, then enabled the family to establish themselves in the community. We also helped them with arranging access to Government aid. Another individual, who was defaulting rent payments, as well as needing help with food and gas, requested help with these items and we assisted.

Happily, he has now started a new job and is again able to manage the bills. We are also involved with other programs such as providing winter clothing to needy students at our elementary schools. This includes Jackets, Snow pants, Mitts/Gloves, Boots, Scarves, all of which are donated to the children so that they are outfitted for the cold weather. We have assisted 10-14 children each year. We also coordinate the Parish Home Visitation Program for people(shut-ins) who rarely leave their homes (see photo at right) and would like to see a friendly face or receive the Holy Eucharist. We see



Bruce and Lee Crampton with "shut-in" Sylvia Martin

about 20 people on these bi-monthly visits. We have helped five children with the \$100 "seed" donation to their account with the "Seeds of Hope" program. We also collected 600 boxes of cereal for the "North of Sixty" container shipped to Coral Harbour this year. In addition, we are twinned with the Sainte Therese Conference in Grand'Anse, Haiti and support a Seminarian in India. Presently, we are a small group of 10 members with big hearts and passionately believe in the "Mission and Values" of our Society. We are most appreciative of the monetary support we receive from our Parish Pastoral Team and Parishioners. They definitely supply the gas for our "help the needy" engines.

Bruce Crampton, President, Saint Joseph Conference

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary/St. Ignatius Conference Ottawa

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary/St. Ignatius Conference is located in and serves people in a very low-income part of Ottawa. Our main work provides people with grocery vouchers and store vouchers. We also provide information about other programs that can help such as rent relief and we sometimes help with utilities and other programs that can make their lives better. There are a high number of new immigrants in our boundaries and during our visits, we always urge people to file income taxes so that they can get GST rebates and other benefits. Our members go out on approx. 35 visits per month. At this time, I would like to share one of our success stories with you.



Fatima came to Canada in 2018 with her five children. They fled from Nigeria because she and her husband were afraid of the increasing violence in their country. They sold everything that they had to pay for their travel out of Nigeria. There was not enough money to cover all their travel costs and so her husband stayed behind so that the children would be safe. Fatima does not know if the family will be reunited but she prays that they will. She was accepted as a refugee claimant and given Ontario Works, for the family. She receives \$844 which is the maximum shelter allowance for a family of six, \$343 for basic needs for herself and \$230 per child for transitional child benefit

(TCB) for families who are not permanent residents. TCB is about half of what other low-income families receive as Canada Child Benefit to help them care for their children. Fatima wanted to be self-supporting and trained and started working as a personal support worker in long term care facilities. Her work opportunities fell apart when the pandemic hit, and work was both precarious and dangerous to her family's health. Also, her children struggled because schools closed, and they were cooped up in a small apartment. Fatima moved her family to a town house to restore their mental health, but the rent is \$2,500 per month and she pays utilities. She has secured a rent supplement of \$500 which helps. She also works shifts in long term care homes when she can. Life is a constant struggle and sometimes she has about \$350 left for all their needs after the rent is paid. Fatima was determined to train as Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) where job prospects are better. In 2019, she enrolled in the academic upgrading program at Algonquin College and got "A" grades in language, mathematics, and preparation for health services. She received this diploma in 2021 and has since applied to the RPN program which she will start in the fall. Fatima has survived through help from SSVP which gives her grocery cards every two months, and thrift store clothing vouchers (maximum \$140 per person per year). We helped to access additional clothing outlets because her children outgrow their clothes. Fatima uses the food bank once every month. We registered the family for extras like the Christmas and back to school programs since every little bit helps. SSVP will soon initiate an application for the Ozanam fund to help her with her education costs. She applied for permanent residency (PR) in early 2020 and was approved in June 2022. However, Child Care Benefits, due to a bureaucratic hurdle, have been delayed. Social assistance rates have not increased since September of 2018 and life is increasingly difficult, because prices rise all the time. Fatima is an excellent candidate for Canadian citizenship and the path to that citizenship should not be so hard.



Corry calling before more home visits

Corry Wink, President, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary/St. Ignatius Conference



SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL TORONTO CENTRAL COUNCIL

turning concern into action

Toronto Central Council: Serving in Today's World

Toronto Central Council is very proud of its long history with the Society in Canada, starting with our inception as a Conference at St. Michael's Cathedral in 1851 followed by incorporation in 1875. From modest beginnings, TCC has grown to embrace 11 Particular Councils, 110 Conferences and some 1200 Vincentians.

These groups account for over 65,000 home visits per year. In addition to our core Home Visitation outreach, TCC has Special Works providing housing to 270 people and as many as 1600 boys and girls in two summer camps, all through the efforts of 72 full time, 162 part time and 134 seasonal employees. Our board oversees an annual budget of about \$10 Million with property holdings worth many multiples of that number. We are quite proud of the fact that our efficiency, given the size and scope of our operations, compares favourably with other charitable organizations as well as other Society Councils in Canada. The complexities involved in managing an organization of this breadth while recognizing our fiduciary responsibilities to program funders and generous donors demand our attention to the best possible governance practices.

As many readers will know, TCC has, over the past few years, undergone a sometimes painful but ultimately successful transition to a new governance model. This new model, while respecting the moral importance of the Society's Rule, has recognized the practical and legal necessity of adhering to Canadian law governing federally incorporated, not-for-profit corporations. This means, among other things, holding properly documented Annual General Meetings, preparing annual, fully audited financial statements and strict adherence to all requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency as we cannot afford to lose our charitable status with so many neighbours in need reliant on us for the housing, stores, programs, and assistance that we provide. Our new Strategic Plan reinforces our recognition of and commitment to good governance as a prime requirement of our ability to continue our mission.

Strong committee work in Spirituality, Member Recruitment, Communications, Governance and Finance together with a board comprised of knowledgeable, dedicated Vincentians and a staff whose experience and expertise are second to none, all combine to meet the heavy demands of governance in the modern age. God willing and thanks to our generous donors, Vincentians and staff who built this solid foundation are confident that we will be able to carry our mission well into the future.

*Gary Valcour,
Chair, Toronto Central Council*

"The pain of genuine humility doesn't agitate or afflict the soul; rather, this humility expands it and enables it to serve God more" - St. Teresa of Avila

"Clothing the Naked" (Store related activities)



L.-R: Fran Gouin, Conc. Jo-Ann Gignac, Vicar Robert Richeleau, Pres. David Leslie, GM Rosanne Winger

A LEAP OF FAITH: The Windsor-Essex Central Council refers to the opening of their new store as "A Leap of Faith" combined with "Divine Intervention". ***Here is their story.*** The financial picture for our Windsor-Essex Central Council which operates 6 thrift stores in our county was bleak and spiralling down fast. After much thought and prayer, we looked to sell our office building, main store and warehouse and find a location to house all three thereby cutting three overheads into one. The search for our new home started and we realized that would require some private financing. Through a little "*Divine Intervention*" (DI), we were elated when we found a local businessman that agreed to lend us the funds. I started to realize that this event could only happen with the help of God. We looked at several "not

suitable" places and began to get despondent when it felt like God said, "I have found something better for you" and we were suddenly looking at an old furniture store on the east side of the city. The building was 16,500 square feet allowing for a showroom, a warehouse, office space, a large parking lot and loading dock. It was also located in a desirable location on a busy street with both a bus stop in front and a left turn lane making for easy access to all. (*Another DI*). With the financing in place, we purchased the building. After the original contractor reneged on his promise to complete our renovations, I contacted a couple others and to my astonishment they agreed to do the work and began immediately. (*DI*). We sold off our other properties at a much higher price than expected (*DI*). This allowed us to pay off our high interest private financing. (*DI*). My son in law put us in touch with a consultant from a different bank and they approved our mortgage at a reduced interest rate. (*DI*). We came to realize that God was with us. After almost 6 months of renovating and painting, with roofing, loading dock doors, railings, HVAC system, lighting, washrooms, and a multitude of other articles all new, we were "ready to open". On Saturday, October 19, 2019, we officially opened our store. Our Episcopal Vicar for Windsor -Essex blessed the store and our City Councillor helped us cut the ribbon. The sales on that very first day were phenomenal. (*DI*). We even received an unexpected donation of almost \$20,000. (*DI*) We had taken that "Leap of Faith" and God made it all happen. I could go on and on and list all the numerous events that I considered "God Moments" that occurred in the opening of our new store but there really is just too many to mention. (***Photo above right is just before our opening, photo below shows shoppers perusing***)



Presently, our financial picture is quite good; we survived the pandemic; we have been blessed with 6 wonderful stores; we just celebrated the 125th anniversary of the presence of our Society in Windsor-Essex and our future is secure. I agree with Martin Luther King Jr. who said, "***Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.***" If you are ever in the Windsor area, please stop in and check out any or all of our six stores.

*David Leslie, Past President (recent),
Windsor-Essex Central Council*

SSVP Saint Louise de Marillac Youth Conference

Holy Family Parish, London, Ontario

Having been recently elected co-presidents of our SSVP Youth Group for this upcoming school year, we have been asked by the ONRC Communications Committee to share what this honour has meant to us. We are thrilled with the opportunity to work with our Group to provide the leadership and assistance to the many things we do as a group. We feel that we have been selected by the intercession of the Holy Spirit to work through us to help those in need. We hooked up with the youth group five years ago and enjoy volunteering with other amazing members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and have continued because of how much generosity and compassion we have experienced in helping people in need. We became more involved on being asked to join the executive team and contribute to the planning and organizing of some of the events. We are grateful for the opportunity to take on the leadership role of the executive team and look forward to not only growing closer to the vulnerable populations in our community, but also to the other Vincentians we serve alongside. We consider the years that we have



Setting up for Youth "On the Street Program"

spent helping this team to have been a true blessing. We have absorbed the "ways and means" by which our former presidents of this organization have served and led with compassion and grace, and we hope to be able to live up to their examples as we guide the other members of our SSVP group in the coming year.

We look forward to making an even bigger difference in the lives of people in need and become a bigger part of servitude in our community. By keeping the goals of the SSVP as our guide, we intend to do the best we can in connecting with and guiding our fellow volunteers as we make a difference in the lives of the people that we help. We will be ensuring that they are also

a part of making a difference and following the Vincentian values and mission. Our hope is that we can encourage our youth members to aim to adopt the traits of our early leaders Saint Vincent de Paul, Blessed Rosalie Rendu, and Blessed Frederic Ozanam in helping others. We intend to find ways to encourage such things as a shared community garden, with fresh produce for those who need it. Through the pandemic, we have had struggles as a society maintaining our work with some of the groups and organizations we used to work with. We would like to continue our varied works across London, whether that means reconnecting with old sites or starting up connections with new ones. As presidents, we would like to become more involved within both the elementary and secondary schools in the London District Catholic School Board. This could be through recruiting new members through the schools, or simply through running events in collaboration with these schools. We are honoured we have the opportunity to implement these ideas, and we look forward to the coming year!

*Katya Adkinson and Emma Moynihan, Co-Presidents,
Saint Louise de Marillac Youth Conference*

*The Holy Spirit leads us like a mother. He leads his child as a sighted
person leads a blind person. – St. John Vianney*

"The Gains from North of Sixty"

Introduction by Pegg Leroux: "We are nearing the wrap up for "North of 60" Summer of 2022! Four sea containers and a crate are being shipped at the end of September. Our Vincentimes editors suggested that our readers may wish to hear the response from our friends in the North about the container shipments that are sent to them. I contacted two of the leaders and without hesitation, they responded. Here are the responses from Sister Dorica from Chesterfield Inlet and Fr. Daniel from Naujaat".

From Sister Dorica, Chesterfield Inlet: "Peggy, I am thrilled to write a few words to express the joy and gratitude for Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the difference we have experienced since the receipt of the sea containers. Our community of Chesterfield Inlet is small with 400 people. There are eight of us



known as the "Group of Saint Vincent de Paul", who are dedicated to helping the neediest in the community. We hold meetings to discuss how to be of assistance and how to live out our Gospel commitment regarding the poor and hungry. Our anxiety level is at a fever pitch on the days before we know that the ship will come and bring the sea container full of precious cargo. We always pray when opening the doors of the container, knowing that many volunteers in the South worked tirelessly to send food to us. Our people here are extremely grateful especially over the last 2 years when there was a special situation because of COVID. In our small community of 400 everybody knows who is in need and the doors where we store the food are never locked, at any time,

someone can enter and take what is needed. This is the way our people take care of each other. In the photo, we have just unloaded the container. Thank you for your efforts and those who give so much in thinking about us by preparing food for our hungry here. We look forward to your visit here one day."

From Fr. Daniel, OMI, Naujaat: "Ours is a traditional Inuit community where many people still hunt and fish. The community is not rich, and many people struggle with basic supplies. There are many reasons for the poverty: lack of jobs, bad money management, addictions, and the like. Most times, those who suffer the most are always the youngest. The children go hungry very often and the help from Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is so important. It is true that Inuit people have access to other help, but it is also true that many resources are very often a one-time thing, addressed to a specific group or, most often coming with lots of paperwork and bureaucracy. The container help that we receive from your SSVP group gives help to all who need it. We prepare the food hampers once a month (see photo) usually on the weekend before the "Child Tax Day". It is the day when financial support is given out in the community. Before that day those families with many children struggle with food. We prepare a mix of all the items from the container. Items might vary each month based on what we receive. We use local radio announcements and Facebook to advise families of the pickup date. We pack shopping bags (hampers) and give them to each family that needs them. We help about 120 households each month. People are very thankful, especially the children when they can eat well. We always make up about 20 extra hampers which are kept for distribution when we get new requests for support. In many communities, as in Naujaat, there is no food bank so the SSVP container is practically the only source of help many people can rely on."



Sourced by: *Pegg Leroux, ONRC Director, North of Sixty Chair*

Feeding the Hungry in Peterborough

at our Food Pantry

by Peterborough Particular Council

As we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our Food Pantry this year, we heartily say "THANK YOU" to all our donors since we opened in 2012, and we say "OUR PLEASURE" to all our friends that we have helped



Sue, Guitta Sloukji, Rhys Fee, Sawyer Schiller with John Mazziotti with a donation to the Pantry

during this period. We help all people in need and once they have presented proper identification about the family members, they are then allotted points based on the size of the family and may start their "shopping". They are allowed return visits every four weeks and each visit is recorded. For years I have felt the most comfortable in the food pantry here in Peterborough. I enjoy every aspect of the one-on-one time spent with our friends in need. From the minute our friends enter the pantry they are greeted by our receptionist and an intake interviewer. This is where we get to converse and talk about anything that is occurring in their lives. Some are shy to engage, while others will talk for a great deal of time. They share so much about their lives, children, work, education, addiction, abuse and how we can support them.

We build a connection and a trust. Then a volunteer shops around the pantry with them helping them pick items for their carts to suit their family's needs. We not only help with food and clothing we are able to help in other ways. These change with every client and sometimes it is a bus ticket to a rehab facility out of town. Over the months and years, the connection is something we all cherish. When someone disappears and moves on, we are all worried and concerned what happened to them and most times we never know where they are. Recently, over the last year, my siblings and I have been taking care of my mom as she struggled with memory loss. Around February, we realized that we needed to keep her safe and it was time for a nursing home. Her first week there was filled with such sadness and anxiety as we wanted to ensure that she was okay and being cared for. One day, as I was visiting, her door opened, and a worker entered the room. He said that he had heard that I was in visiting my mom and he wanted to come to see me. I had helped him and his family at the pantry while he was going to school to be a PSW. He said he thought of me, and the pantry often and always wanted to come down and update us on his success and to say, "Thank You". This brought tears to my eyes as I said, "what goes around comes around, the only thanks needed is that you and your family are doing so well". He then said to me, "do not worry about your mom while she is here, you had my back when I needed help and now, I have your mom's back, she is in good hands."

Sue Mazziotti-Armitage, ONRC Director, Stores and Peterborough PC



Pantry Manager, Steve Woolridge

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



Indigenous Sharing Circle (ISC)

The ISC is a subcommittee that comes under our National Social Justice Committee. It consists of several SSVP members and Indigenous leaders whose goals are to develop actions that can be taken at both the national and council/conference levels which address injustices related to Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

As our part of the reconciliation process, we must recognize the importance of any such actions including a sense of sharing and listening with our Indigenous friends. There is also the challenge for SSVP of being a lay Catholic organization and the historical issues between the Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples. We have an opportunity to make a positive difference in how many Indigenous Peoples view Catholic based efforts. The strength of the SSVP is our personal relationship with people in need. This same resource in any actions towards reconciliation can be used in respecting and listening to Indigenous Peoples as we commit to establishing a successful, on-going relationship.

While we focus on various actions SSVP can take at the national level, there is a need to also work within our councils and conferences. I would recommend councils/conferences consider any of these actions: :

1. Include an Indigenous land acknowledgment at all meetings after the opening prayers. Check online to obtain the proper wording and the names of the territory you may reside in.
2. Study the Canadian Indian Act and the TRC (Truth & Reconciliation Commission Report).
3. Study Indigenous history, laws, culture, and faith traditions.
4. Contact nearby Indigenous Friendship Centres to discuss collaboration on supportive actions.
5. Contact nearby First Nations to invite guest speakers to educate members on Indigenous history, laws, culture, and faith tradition.
6. Contact nearby First Nation centres to discuss collaborative efforts.
7. Prepare a list of important Indigenous dates and recognize these at future meetings. e.g., Orange Shirt Day.
8. Conduct the Blanket exercise. Local Indigenous groups or Kairos may assist with this action.
9. Attend a Pow Wow.
10. Hold a listening circle with invited Indigenous Peoples.

If you are interested in acquiring further information regarding Indigenous contacts such as First Nations, Indigenous Friendship Centres, or Land acknowledgements, contact me at ssvpjp@gmail.com

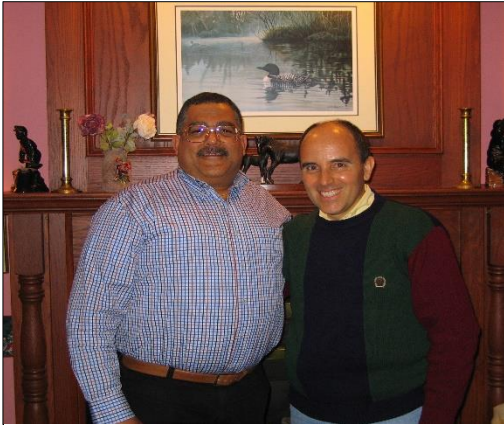
*Jim Paddon, Chair,
National Social Justice Committee
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP)*

You pay God a compliment by asking great things of Him.

- St. Teresa of Avila

“Sharing our Wealth” (TWINNING)

Our Conference decided in May 2004 that we could afford to twin. After a number of inquiries related to the process, we applied and In October 2004, we were advised that we had been awarded a twin, the Conference of the Miraculous Medallion from Lima, Peru. Since one of our members could communicate in Spanish, we mailed (snail mail at that time) our intro letter in Spanish to our new friends in October and they replied in December. We were thrilled to hear from them, and our twinning arrangement was started with an immediate transfer of funds to them. All communication between the two Conferences was in Spanish until I received a call in early March 2005, from our then National President, Mike Burke, advising me that the President (Felipe) of our twinned Conference was trying to contact me and decided to call him (Mike) to track me down. Our President Mike gave me Felipe’s phone number in Peru and advised that he spoke English. I called Felipe, who told me that he was coming to Toronto for a work seminar and would like to meet me. I then arranged a dinner meeting at my home with 11 of our 14 members present as we arrived back from Toronto on March 31st



Guido and Felipe in Hamilton in 2005

after going in to meet Felipe (see photo above) and drive back to Hamilton. A great evening was had by all present as Felipe (educated at Univ. of Michigan) updated us all with the work being done by their Conference. After this, at our next Conference meeting we voted to double the money we send to \$2000 per year. (Now at \$3000). Felipe returned to Peru to advise his Conference members about our meeting. Now they all wanted to meet us. On May 23, 2005, via “Skype”, we started and still maintain our annual joint Rosary session between the two Conferences. By using the “WhatsApp”, Felipe and myself are continuously speaking with each other about various topics including being updated on the “ups and downs” of our members. Their Conference helps in a number of areas, however, one of the main donations that they make is to the “Daughters of Charity” nuns. These nuns use the money to purchase clothing and Christmas gifts, which they trek up into the poor villages in the Andes to deliver. Each year they visit a different set of 12 villages as these are some of the poorest regions of Peru and is located up in the Central Andes at almost 3,700 meters over the sea level. The children receive thick warm jackets, boots, toques, scarves, and toys (see photo at right).



From Felipe: - *“These last two years have been the most difficult of our entire existence as we have been directly affected by Covid and the way we do the work in our Conference. Our span of work has been greatly diminished by not being able to carry out the fund raising activities that we have done annually in our parish. This influenced a decrease in our chances of helping those most in need. However, we remain united in this wonderful path of holiness by trying to follow the magnificent example left to us by Frederico Ozanam and his friends. Also, we must always highlight the valuable and dear help we continued to receive from your Conference. The great solidarity that we have built between the two Conferences makes us realize how much we contribute towards fulfilling Frederico's dream of having a great network of charity. Without your monetary help, there would have been very little we could have done. As we continue into 2022, we look forward to attending Mass and the Sacraments. Also, we continue to thank God for our twinning partnership and your generous collaboration”.*

Guido Kelly, Twinning Coordinator, Annunciation of Our Lord Conference, Hamilton

“NOT to be FORGOTTEN” and “Wrap-up”



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

John Fortier, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Conference, Windsor. **May 4, 2022**

Lawrence Fournier, St. Simon & St. Jude Conference, Windsor. **May 6, 2022**

Michelle Jenkinson, St. Kevin's Conference, Val Caron. **May 9, 2022**

Melvin Melinke, St. Dominic's Conference, Mississauga. **May 10, 2022**

Leo Maddox, St. Andrew's / St. Mary's Conference, Welland. **June 30, 2022**

UPCOMING DATES TO CIRCLE ON YOUR CALENDAR

October 15, 2022 – ONRC Webinar on “DIVERSITY” presented by the Multi-Cultural Diversity Committee. Visit our website ssvp.on.ca in early September for further details.

ONRC – SEEKING YOUR HELP

Our Regional Council is seeking your help/assistance. The position of ONRC Treasurer needs to be filled. And looking for a “webmaster-in-training”webmaster John will train you before he retires.(E-mail is below)

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 Grimsby, Hamilton, London, Nunavut, Ottawa, Peterborough, Toronto, Val Caron, and Windsor 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

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

Email us at: info@ssvp.on.ca