

The Vincentimes

Volume 5, Issue 3

Spring 2017

Feast Days

"Feast Days are important dates for the Society and Vincentians should make a special effort to meet and demonstrate the spiritual nature of the Society." 5.6 The Rule and Statutes of S S V P C a n a d a

Mindful of these words Vincentians of Brantford/Brant have established a tradition of meeting in early November of each year. The Saturday morning session includes prayer and formation activities designed to strengthen conference members and Store volunteers for our work with our neighbours in need, followed by lunch where we "come together as family"

In a divine coincidence (perhaps a "God-incidence") the date for our



2016 event was November 12, the actual day of the 170th anniversary of the Society in Canada.

This year's theme was "Welcoming our neighbours in need 'into the arms of Saint Vincent'". Denise Bondy, Spiritual Advisor for SSVP

Ontario Region, nurtured in us "The Strength to Serve". Participants then worked together discussing "Serving Christ in the Poor" with a view to improving our service - both what we do and the spirit in which we do it.

In recognition of the auspicious anniversary the morning culminated in the Eucharist celebrated by Father Tim Hingston, Dean of Brant and pastor of St. Pius X Parish followed by lunch and ceremonial cutting of the cake.

*~ Pat Lenz, President,
Brant Particular Council*

ONRC Spring Meeting: St. Catharines, ON Friday, March 31st to Saturday, April 1st

Please mark your calendars and join us for our Spring General Members Meeting in St. Catharines!

Our weekend will start at 1pm with store tours, followed by a Presidents' Roundtable at St. Alfred's parish hall. We will wrap up that evening with our traditional Friday night Social Networking time.

Our Saturday will begin with Mass at 8:30am, again at St. Alfred's Parish, followed by our General Members Meeting in the hall. We have a few workshops to select from (topics include Social Justice, Conference-level Information Management, and interactive Web-Resources). Guest speakers from Chez Marie and Ozanam Centre will also be joining us.

The meeting will conclude by 4pm.

Please check your email for more information; we will be sending meeting materials and more detailed information about the workshops in the following weeks. If you are not on our email list, please contact sarah@ssvp.on.ca.

Peterborough Celebrates 170 Years of SSVP



We had a wonderful day of celebration. We had about 40 members gather together. We had welcoming letters from Jean Noel Cormier our National President, Linda Dollard our ONRC President and Fred O'Donnell our PC President. We learned where and how SSVP first started here in Canada 170 years ago. This time was used to have some guest speakers from ONRC to educate us.

Guido Kelly brought us all up to date about Twinning and how easy it has been made to find a twin. Linda Alexander talked about Seeds of Hope and how to promote this program.

We all enjoyed lunch and reconnecting with all of our Vincentians. It was truly a wonderful day of gathering as a family and celebrating

such a great Milestone in SSVP history.

~ Sue Mazziotti-Armitage,
Past-President,
Peterborough Particular Council

St. Michael's Dunnville Celebrates 170 Years of SSVP

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul St. Michael's Dunnville Conference celebrated the 170th Anniversary of the Society in Canada by having a Mass on that day, holding an Open House at our store with cake, refreshments and door prizes.



Photo at left is Mary Mater President, and Mary Stevenson Vice-President.

The photo below shows our 'Garden of Hope' that we have created and is a work in progress. This 'garden' is made with items that have been donated to our store, and represents

our hope for the people that we assist, that they may find a way to overcome their financial struggles. The children are students from St. Michael's School grades JK and SK who came to visit our store and donate items. The school provides us with a continuous supply of food for our food bank.



~ Mary Mater,
St. Michael's,
Dunnville

President's Pen

After being introduced to our new Executive team in the last 2 editions, I would like to share that Anita Reansbury, Vice-President, decided to step down from the Executive team in the fall.

It was very important for me to understand the challenges and accomplishments within our vast Council network in Ontario. To achieve this, I have connected by phone with Particular and Central Council Presidents. This has helped the Executive set priorities based on information gathered from you, which includes Conference and Council Rejuvenation, member and youth recruitment, and communication. We will also focus on spirituality, social justice and advocacy, stores, North of 60 and conducting business professionally.

I attended a National meeting in November and would like to share

the following highlights on National's projects:

- Developing a 3-year Communication Strategy Plan with the help of a consultant to be presented at the National AGA in June in Quebec City.
- Finalizing Branding document to ensure proper and consistent use of our SSVP logo.
- Developing North of 60 video to be produced by Salt & Light, which is now located on our website.
- Finalizing book written by Louise Lariviere capturing history of our Society in Canada in celebration of Canada's 170th anniversary.
- Fort McMurray assistance – National has funding to assist Conferences / Councils across Canada for families who had

to move away from Fort McMurray due to last year's fire.

- Haiti disaster relief – National is sending quarterly payments to Haiti Councils to assist following last year's hurricane.

I hope to see you at our next ONRC meeting in St. Catharines March 31 / April 1. These meetings are open for all Vincentians to attend, and are not intended for Presidents only. We encourage you to send as many Vincentians as possible to participate in the very informative workshops that are being offered.

Please feel free to contact me at linda@ssvp.on.ca should you have questions.

~ Linda Dollard,
President

Annual Reports Now Due

By now, all Conferences should have their annual report completed and should have passed their report onto their Particular Council. This stage is always to be done by January 31st. If you have not completed your report yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Particular Councils need to submit their report to the next higher council no later than February 28th. Please remember to include all your special works programs and to consolidate all the information your conferences have reported to you.

Central Councils, your report is due to ONRC no later than March 20th. Again, please include all your special works programs and consolidate all the information your Conferences/Particular Council have reported to you.

All Councils must list exactly which Conferences are included in their report and include a list of those who have not reported. Not only is this important for us to know should a conference send their report directly to us (as we would not want their information counted twice), but this information is asked for on Form C-D. While we have improved over the years, we still have some Councils who do not complete Form C-D. We ask that you complete each section of the annual report as fully and accurately as possible.

Regional Council reports are due on March 31st. That means ONRC has a mere 11 days to complete our report; this year we will be particularly tight on time as our Spring Meeting in St. Catharines is on March 31-April 1st – the same time that our report is

due to National. Therefore, this year especially, we ask that you submit your reports on time. Your annual report is important and the higher councils rely on your information.

As always, Annual Reporting Forms are available online at www.ssvp.ca/annual-reports. A link to the forms will also be on the ONRC website.

ONRC will prepare a summary from all reports to be distributed to all presidents by the end of May.

~ Sarah Davidson,
Administrative Assistant

*Reports coming to ONRC should be emailed to terry@ssvp.on.ca and copy sarah@ssvp.on.ca

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

38-1502 Warbler Woods Walk
London, ON
N6K 0A7

Email: secretary.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca



Visit us on the web

www.ssvp.on.ca

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 Events

February 28, 2017 — Annual Reports due from Particular Councils. Pass report up to Central Council or Regional.

March 20, 2017 — Annual Reports due from Central Councils. Pass report up to Regional.

March 31—April 1, 2017 — Ontario Regional Council's General Members Meeting (aka the Spring Meet-

ing), St. Alfred's, St. Catharines. For more information, please check your email and visit www.ssvp.on.ca

April 15, 2017 — 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)

Notice of Passings

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

November 24, 2016: Robert "Bob" Martineau, St. Ann, Penetanguishene

December 8, 2016: Mike Matteis, President St. Joseph-St. Ursula, Kent

December 29, 2016: Gail French, President, Simcoe County Particular Council

January 19, 2017: Keith Foster, St. Alphonsus, Peterborough