

# The Vincentimes

Volume 5, Issue 2

Winter 2016

## Come Visit and Be Fed

It's 8:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning in a rural church basement. The doors swing open and the aroma of coffee/tea filters through the air. Ovens on, pots boiling, two cooks bringing the contents of our cupboards to life.

It all began in 2007 with a group of nine volunteers who envisioned this space to become a refuge for many who need a hot meal. The Pembroke Council of Saint Vincent de Paul was formed. Today, along with its original founders, the volunteers have grown to 80 members.

As you look on in awe you witness various tasks taking place. Look, there's Charlie who has just picked up the bread, muffins, donuts, and baked goods gathered from our businesses. With aprons in hand, Elsie and Zita move in to sort, wrap & place the food donations on tables near the entrance for our guests to take. Mark is busy getting the glasses and cups out and filling them with milk and juice. Gisele has just brought in some homemade apple pies for dessert. Becky, Rose, Theresa and Sister Ann have almost completed setting the tables and we are just

minutes away from lunch being served. Our circle of prayer forms up and we are led by Deacon Adrien and Clare, reviewing our Mission Statement and offering prayers.

Before you know it our guests are up and smiling and bidding "farewell" and you can hear the many "THANK YOUs" as they depart from our table of plenty.



Next, the clean-up crew moves in and Anne, June, Diane, Lise, Bev and Doreen assemble for dish duties. Wait – Stop – take a breath ... Pat gathers us ALL IN and we take a few moments to reflect and give thanks for all the GOOD WORK done today – we are present to SERVE.

We repeat this work each Saturday, Sunday and Monday all year round.

Let us close with a reminder from our Founder: Frederic Ozanam who CHALLENGED CATHOLICS TO PUT THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION. The Pembroke Council will continue to do Good and Charitable work in the Pembroke Area. Come Visit us anytime.

~ Muggsie Boland,  
President, Pembroke Council

Ray glances around and shouts out ..... "Are we ready?" Yes, all stations good to go. The doors open .... we watch our guests, numbering anywhere from 25 to 50, hurry in and take a seat. Diane, Anne, Yvonne, Bev and Wendy all line up by the food warmers, ready to get the hot plates and serve our guests. Today's menu is homemade lasagna with Caesar salad and garlic bread and as the food is being delivered, Colin, Bob, Larry and Marie are serving fresh beverages.

## Allow us to introduce ourselves: The New ONRC Executive Committee!



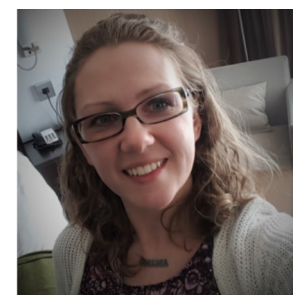
### **Denise Bondy – Spiritual Advisor.**

As the ONRC Spirituality Chair it is my hope to keep Vincentian Spirituality not just alive but growing in our conferences and councils. I believe that the best way to do this is to help every conference to have an active and well prepared Spiritual Advisor who may be a lay person or a religious. The Spirituality Committee is ready to make visits to any area of Ontario and to provide whatever support is needed. Presidents and Spiritual Advisors are encouraged to contact me about any matter via email: [denise@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:denise@ssvp.on.ca)



### **Jim Paddon – Past President.**

As past president I am very pleased to move on to the position of chair of our national social justice committee while remaining as chair of the ONRC prison ministry. My hope for social justice in the coming years is to see our membership here in Ontario and across Canada embrace and support our efforts to advocate for the changes needed if we are to ever realize a reduction and possibly an end to the poverty so many of our own citizens now live in. I invite every Vincentian to be open to a change in their thinking of our work as more than charity. It must also include social justice. Email: [jim@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:jim@ssvp.on.ca)



### **Sarah Davidson – Recording Secretary & Administrative Assistant.**

I began my Vincentian journey when past-president Jim Paddon posted an ad looking for an administrative assistant in our parish bulletin. Four and a half years later, I have immersed myself with various layers of Society life, and come to the conclusion that while I may not be an official Vincentian, not technically a member, I most certainly live by our Mission: to serve the poor with [dignity,] love, respect, justice and joy. I am happy to be of service to you all. Email: [sarah@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:sarah@ssvp.on.ca)



### **Terry Mizzen – Treasurer.**

My role is to look after all banking of deposits, preparing all cheques for expenditures and entry of all entries in Quickbooks to be able to prepare financial statements from time to time. Also, I provide support in any of the province's councils as required from time to time to support local financial issues, and I am available to answer any financial questions you may have and to provide support with the preparation of the annual financial statements. Email: [terry@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:terry@ssvp.on.ca)



**Corry Wink**

**Vice President**



**Pegg Leroux**

**Vice President**



**Phil Bondy**

**Vice President**



**Sue Mazziotti-Armitage**

**Vice President**



**Lillian Mulder & Sophia Mutuc**

**Youth Representatives**



## Serving the hungry in London

We started organizing BBQs in London 8 years ago to serve a free lunch to the hungry and our friends in need. We have 2 BBQs a year, one in May and one in September in celebration of the Feast Day of Saint Vincent de Paul. We also hand out a bag of food at our September BBQ.

When reflecting back on our first BBQ held in 2008, we served about 100 people with about 20 volunteers, and our guests stood while they ate and left shortly after finishing their meal. The BBQ has grown to the point where we now serve about 400 to 500 people with about 40 volunteers, and our guests are seated at tables with table clothes and chairs.

Our guests now line up even before the BBQ starts and we engage in prayer with our friends before we start serving the food. Our guests are extremely appreciative of the meal they receive, and they very much enjoy socializing with our volunteers and guests. They have come to look forward to the next BBQ and will ask when the next

one is. There are many familiar faces at our BBQ. When friends attend the BBQ for the first time, it is because they heard about it from a friend.



Since the BBQ is held in the parking lot of our Saint Vincent de Paul Store, some of our friends visit the store after eating to see what treasures they can find. Our store staff are always very helpful when it comes time to preparing for our BBQs. Our Youth Conference is also very involved coming out to our BBQs and sometimes preparing blessing bags filled with toiletries to hand out to our guests.

I am always touched by the many people I see at our BBQ, hearing their stories, and seeing them happy and interacting with our many guests.

There is a friend, Earl, who is a regular guest at our BBQ who always comes early to ensure he is in line when the BBQ starts. When attending our most recent BBQ, he was talking to a volunteer about how he needed another pair of running shoes as the shoes he was wearing had holes. Coincidentally, the volunteer had just dropped off a pair of shoes to the store that morning that just happened to be his shoe size. She had the shoes in her trunk for more than 2 months and kept forgetting to take them out to drop off at the store when she was there. She quickly found the pair of shoes she had dropped off to show Earl, who tried them on and they fit. He loved the shoes and had a big smile on his face. That definitely was a God incident!

~ Patty Dilling, BBQ Coordinator

## Calling All Soup Kitchens

Soup kitchens are special works within the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. St. Catharines Central Council have been operating a soup kitchen for the last 20 plus years. We are looking for other soup kitchens that are run by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to network with. We want to be able to share information, ask questions and offer a support system. Some information we are looking for are: handbook or operations manuals, what to look for when hiring a new coordinator/manager and wages for a coordi-

nator/manager ... those are just a few things. We are looking forward to getting some information and building a network to help us help others.

Please email Sarah Davidson ([sarah@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:sarah@ssvp.on.ca)) if you would like to be a part of the Soup Kitchen Leadership Network.

~ Shelley Gilbert,  
President of the St. Catharines  
Central Council



*As often as you did it for one  
of my least brothers, you did  
it for me.*

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

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**Visit us on the web**

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

**January 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)

**January 31, 2017** — Annual Reports due from Conferences. Pass report up to Particular Council.

**February 28, 2017** — Annual Reports due from Partic-

ular Councils. Pass report up to Central Council or Regional.

**March 28, 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 Meeting), St. Catharines. More information tba.

## Notice of Passings

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

January 3, 2016: Roger Seguin, St. John Vianney, Windsor

January 6, 2016: Louise Marie Smith, Holy Name of Jesus, Windsor

February 27, 2016: Elio Lori, Divine Mercy Food Bank, Windsor

March 30, 2016: Fr. Marc Barron, Prison Chaplain, Windsor

April 17, 2016: Margaret Herbert, St. John Vianney, Windsor

September 4, 2016: Virginia Friedl, Our Lady of Atonement, Windsor

September 9, 2016: Dane Parent, Windsor Youth

October 2, 2016 Caroline Annett, Divine Mercy Food Bank, Windsor

October 21, 2016: Glendon Lawrence "Glen" Lecour, St. Peter, Peterborough