

The Vincentimes

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Spring 2013

Camp Vincent

Camp Vincent, also known as St. Vincent de Paul Camp, is a residential summer camp for children ages 6-15 yrs old. We accommodate over 700 children each summer from all walks of life, regardless of social, financial, or faith backgrounds. We strive to provide an outdoor program that helps children grow in mind, body, and spirit through positive mentorship, education, and outdoor activities! Contributions from the community play a critical role in the continuing experience of our campers.

The camp was established by the St. Vincent de Paul Society in 1974, approximately 4 miles east of Thamesville, Ontario. The camp is located in one of the largest and most significant forested areas in southwestern Ontario for size, diversity, forest cover and rare species. Known as Bothwell Forest or "Skunk's



2012 Camp Vincent Staff Team

Misery", the area contains many unique opportunities for the observation of wildlife that is seldom found anywhere else!

Camp Vincent consists of approximately 69 acres, over half of which is forested. Some of our many activities include swimming, hiking, canoeing,

archery, arts (crafts, art, dance, music, and drama), nature discovery, campouts, sporting activities, wagon rides, and camp-wide games.

One of the most significant aspects of our camp, and the driving force behind all of our activities is the weekly theme and programming.

Each week, campers embark on a themed adventure through the use of games, characters, story lines, and props. Our various activities revolve around a particular theme and encourage campers to become

characters in a unique story!

For more information, visit us at www.campvincent.com or contact us at 519-354-1885.

~ Collin Girard, Camp Director/
Administrator, Camp Vincent

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Ontario Meeting in Cambridge

It's time to start preparing for the ONRC Spring Meeting, hosted by the Cambridge Particular Council, April 19-21, 2013.

We're trying something new this year and inviting you to come out for a little social the night before the meeting (Friday, April 19th). We can meet and mingle in the Hospitality Room of the Best Western Plus, starting at 7:30pm.

Our morning mass (8am, Saturday, April 20th) will be at St Clements Church, followed by our meeting in the Parish Hall. After the meeting, all delegates will be tak-

en by bus to visit the Cambridge Thrift Store, located at 75 Dundas St S.

You will have the option of attending the Saturday 7pm Mass or Sunday 8:30am.

We will also have a National Education Modules workshop between 9-12noon Sunday morning (April 21st) in the Hospitality Room back at the hotel.

To confirm your attendance, or for more information, please email our secretary, Geraldine Campbell at secretary.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca

National Annual General Assembly

2013 promises to be very important for the Vincentian Family. It was in April 1813, that our founder, Frédéric Ozanam was born. He was still young when he took the decision to help the poor and founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Today, the Society is present in 148 countries. For us, members from Canada, it will be at the National Council Annual General Assembly which will take place from June 26 to 30 2013, in Ottawa/Gatineau that we will celebrate this anniversary (see the National Council web site at: www.ssvp.ca and in the spring 2013 edition of the Vincenpaul magazine for more information). Because many Vincentians will be present, this will be a unique opportunity, to take the time to celebrate, meditate, and thank God and our founder Blessed Frederic Ozanam for the chance they are giving us to live our faith with joy.

~ Jean-Noël Cormier, President, Ottawa Central Council

L'année 2013 s'annonce très importante pour la famille Vincentiennes. En effet, c'est en avril 1813 que naquit notre fondateur, Frédéric Ozanam. C'est alors qu'il était encore très jeune qu'il a pris la décision d'aller vers les pauvres et fonder la Société Saint-Vincent de Paul. Aujourd'hui, la Société est présente dans 148 pays. Pour nous, du Canada, ce sera lors de l'Assemblée générale annuelle, qui se déroulera du 26 au 30 juin 2013, à Ottawa/Gatineau que nous célébrerons cet anniversaire. (Pour plus d'information consultez le site web du Conseil national au : www.ssvp.ca, ou la revue Vincenpaul printemps 2013). Ce sera une occasion unique car beaucoup de Vincentiennes et Vincentiens seront présents et ensemble nous prendrons le temps de célébrer, nous recueillir et remercier Dieu et notre fondateur le Bienheureux Frédéric Ozanam pour la chance qu'ils nous donnent de vivre notre foi dans la joie.

~ Jean-Noël Cormier, Président, Conseil central d'Ottawa

Advocacy Committee — Voice of the Poor!

The Advocacy Committee of Toronto Central Council has assumed the role as the Voice of the Poor Committee for the Ontario Regional Council. Recognizing the similar issues at the local and provincial levels, Regional President Jim Paddon asked us to expand our scope to serve all of Ontario's Vincentians and neighbours in need.

We know that advocacy works. Recently the City of Toronto proposed to sell off their stock of stand-alone affordable housing units. Eleven of

these properties were leased by Toronto Central Council to house people who are in addiction recovery. The media attention as well as letters, telephone calls and emails from Vincentians all played an important role in persuading the City to reverse its decision and allowed us to continue this important special work project. We look forward to similar results regionally.

We must educate our parishioners and communities about the challenges faced by the people we serve. We must

fight for social justice in specific areas such as affordable housing and social assistance reform. Our efforts will help to improve the quality of life for our neighbours in need in both the short and the long term. See the Advocacy page on the Regional website for further information.

~ Danny Bourne, past president, Toronto Central Council

President's Pen

I'd like to wish everyone the best for the coming year. In addition to being the Year of Faith, we've also designated 2013 as the Year of the Young Vincentian. An important part of our efforts in attracting more youth to the Society will be the support and collaboration of our adult conferences. We have made contact with all Catholic school boards and will inform the lo-

cal councils when there has been any positive communication. We also have our first annual Sleep Out for Poverty on May 24th and you're encouraged to support this event. The Ontario office can also provide resource material regarding youth recruitment.



Jim Paddon, ONRC President

Partnership with Muslim Community for Christmas Hamper Program

In a partnership built on the true spirit of giving, members of the London Muslim Mosque helped a Roman Catholic Church drive gather enough food to help nourish more than 100 families this Christmas season.

Moe Lacerte, President of the St. John the Divine Conference, reached out to the Muslim community after making a home visit to a Muslim family where language was a barrier. He made a number of inquiries to see how our Catholic organization and the Muslim community could work together

to help our friends in need. The result is a beautiful partnership was formed.

Moe was extremely pleased and grateful when he saw the many boxes of food that had been collected to help families in need. Most of the 30 boxes were collected by children at the Is-

lamic School. Donations were also made by members of the Western University's Muslim Student Association.

This was the first year Moe had reached out to the Muslim community. He said, "We all want the same things: peace and respect."



Mike Brannan, a Vincentian with St John the Divine, loads food onto a cart donated by the London Muslim Mosque and Islamic School

Mosque members welcomed the request with joy, said Ali D. Chahbar, who helped organize the drive with Zeba

Hashmi, head of the Outreach Committee.

"To us, the spirit of Christmas is the spirit of brotherly love, why wouldn't we want to be a part of it?" Chahbar said he noticed the spirit in December as he left a shop with items for his daughter to make a ginger-

bread house. "It is so nice. People are really different. They are nicer and you notice it," he said. "I wanted to get a megaphone and shout 'Can we keep this going all year, people?'."

"We are not Christians and don't celebrate Christmas but we are engulfed by the spirit and any time there's a jubilant harmonious feeling, whatever creed it is under, we thrive on it," he said.

It is interesting to note that the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue issued a Vatican messages for the end of Ramadan in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The Muslim community who helped collect food donations were very aware of this Vatican message; however, many Catholics do not seem to be. The 2012 message was entitled "Educating young Christians and Muslims for justice and peace". The message can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/9k7r9ys>.

This story is truly an inspiration for how we can all reach out to different faith communities to see how we can partner and work together to help the poor.

~ St John the Divine, London

Notice of Passings

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

Jerome Bernard, St John Vienney, Windsor
Roland Breault, Most Precious Blood, Windsor
Wyn Burgess, St John the Evangelist, Whitby
Phil Charette, St Michael, Leamington
Debbie Frimer, Our Lady of Attonement, Windsor
Don Harvey, St Mary's, Collingwood
Claude Hubert, Conference Trinite, Ottawa
Frank Maisenville, St John the Baptist, Amherstburg
Messias Pavao, St Michael, Leamington
Andre Roy, St Jerome, Windsor
Gerry St Pierre, St John the Baptist, Amherstburg
Andrew Tygat, Holy Name of Jesus, Essex
Barb Young, Store Manager, London

The Spirit of Giving at St Raphael's

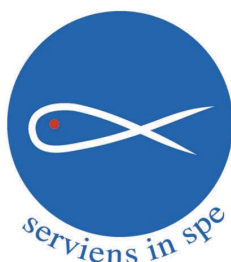


Members of St Raphael's in Burlington help pack and deliver Christmas hampers for 32 families in need.

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

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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.

Accomplishments

Joan Randall, long time Vincentian and executive director of the SSVP Store in Bowmanville, has been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her outstanding service to the community.

St Thomas More Conference, Niagara Falls celebrated 25 years of service.

Anita Reansbury has been elected as the new president for Brant Particular Council.

Brian Smith has been elected as the new president for Simcoe County North Particular Council

The following have received their letters of Aggregation:

Conference Trinite, Ottawa
St John the Divine, London
St Louise de Marillac (Youth), London
St Paul the Apostle, Burlington

Is your council or conference celebrating an anniversary? Do you know a Vincentian who has been awarded or recognized for their dedication (or should be)? Let us know and we will mention your accomplishments in the next issue.

Email: administrativeasst.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca or
secretary.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca

Upcoming Dates

January 31, 2013 – Conferences to submit annual reports to Particular Council or Affiliated Contact (If you have yet to send in your report, please do it as soon as possible)

February 28, 2013 – PCs and ACs to submit annual reports to ONRC (or Central Council if applicable)

March 20, 2013 – CCs submit annual reports to ONRC

March 31, 2013 – ONRC submit annual report to National

April 15, 2013 – 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)

April 19-21, 2013 - ONRC GM in Cambridge

May 24, 2013 — Sleep Out for Poverty

June 26-30, 2013 - National AGA in Ottawa

September 14, 2013 – ONRC AGM in Val Caron/Sudbury