

# The Vincentimes

Volume 2, issue 1

Fall 2013

## Halloween for Hunger

Each year at Halloween, children take to the streets to Trick or Treat for candy -- but a new movement is taking over. Young people are now giving up their sweets in order to help those in need by going door-to-door collecting non-perishables for local food banks.

The concept was developed by Free the Children and its co-founder, Craig Kielburger; however, each community is free to create their own way of helping out. Christina Morrison began a Halloween for Hunger to benefit the SSVF Food Bank at St Pius X when she was the Youth Minister, and has kept the project going since moving to Assumption College as their chaplain.

Some students volunteer to collect donations on Halloween night, while others go the night before. The Parish District High School Student Council even held a Trick to Eat one lunch hour to help with the cause. The St Pius X food bank received 1.5

tonnes of food donations back in 2009. The next year was even more successful with 8 tonnes of food collected. Amounts like that can keep the shelves stocked for months, helping our friends in need throughout the winter.

Maybe your conference can organize a Halloween for Hunger this year.



Literally tonnes of food collected during Halloween for Hunger to benefit SSVF food bank



**Let's  
SCARE AWAY HUNGER  
Together**

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## Prison Ministry

Although the Prison Apostolate ministry's primary role is to visit and befriend individuals incarcerated in local jails, provincial detention centres and federal penitentiaries, there are a number of other areas where our Vincentian volunteers may serve with the jail. These tasks may include leading a music program (instrumental and/or vocal), acting as a Minister of Communion, assisting and serving at Mass and performing other duties as specifically assigned by the Chaplain.

Another very important aspect of our work occurs outside the jail when the inmate is released into the community and encounters various problems such as housing, employment or access to government benefits. Some of our members have developed expertise in these areas and are able, if necessary, to direct the individual to the appropriate source.

Any Vincentian interested in this Special Work may contact us for further information.

Frank Boscarior, Chair

## Ridgetown Fundraiser

This spring when we presented our annual report to the parish, one of the parishioners noticed that we were running short of funds so she volunteered to organize a fundraiser. On Saturday April 27th there was a "scrapbooking/card making day" including snacks, lunch, dinner and drinks.

Over \$500 profit was made which is enough to send an additional two children to summer camp. Side benefits included a great time being had by all as well as raising our profile in our church community. I don't believe it is entirely a coincidence that we have been approached by two people considering joining us since having the fundraiser.

~ Barb Cooper, St Michael's, Ridgetown (Kent Deanery)



*Participants at the Scrapbooking/Card making event*

## Saint Vincent de Paul Home, Barrie

On a quiet residential Street, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Huronia Central Council operates a post treatment group home for men recovering from substance abuse. Statistically, individuals coming out of any substance recovery treatment have a mere 2% chance to remain "clean" after one year as opposed to a 80% success rate of those who reside for a maximum of six months at the HCC Saint Vincent de Paul group home. A house-

rep oversees the day to day operation of the home. Residents are required to abide by strict but sensible house rules and are assigned a Vincentian "mentor" who meets residents on a spiritual level, seeking to rescue them from the dark night of the soul to full redemption, namely a sense that their lives have meaning. This is achieved through a connectedness to the wider community as residents befriend neighbours, who in turn greatly value

the residents' helpfulness with chores etc. Some residents further their education, others have part-time jobs, all have a desire to overcome their demons with the help of a supportive community. The home is financially self sufficient and a tribute to the home's founder, the late Ron Sass.

~ Heidi Minuti, Secretary, Huronia CC

## SSVP Thrift Stores – Are they worth the effort?

In every town & city you will find multiple competing thrift stores. Goodwill, Mission for Bibles, Salvation Army and Value Village to name a few. Is the market oversaturated with thrift stores? What do we have to offer that the other thrift stores cannot provide? This is valid question that arises from time to time. In a recent ONRC report conferences visited over 68,000 families in 2012. This is commendable. Home visits pro-

vide us to the best intimate opportunity to serve witness to our mission and values. But our Thrift Stores offer extensive additional opportunities to further our outreach. Consider that over 1,000,000 people in Ontario visited our Thrift Stores last year. That is 3,200 DAILY contacts. Unlike other thrift stores, we are Faith based. Our stores display and promote the SSVP Mission and Values statement. If you ask a person on

the street if they have heard about the SSVP, they will tell you about the SSVP Thrift store....***the store truly is the Face of the SSVP in many communities.*** So, are they worth the effort to preserve or even expand in a very competitive thrift store market.....visit any SSVP Store Manager and the answer will be a resounding.....ABSOLUTELY!

~ Phil Bondy, Stores Chair

## They Came to Participate and Built a Community!

Members of St. Kevin's Church Confirmation team, students preparing to receive Confirmation, and two Grade 10 students from Bishop Alexander High School in Hanmer took part in the Sleep Out for Poverty project and raised \$750 for the St. Kevin's Conference food bank.

They arrived Friday evening and built their shelter from large cardboard boxes. Some homes were prefabricated and included insulated walls, some came with messages and others cut out windows to be close to friends. As the full moon rose into the cold night sky one

could hear the warm singing of friendly tunes in front of a warm camp fire. In the true spirit of the North, the five adults and seven youth tucked themselves in their shelter for the night to be woken to the early morning frost. The St Kevin's Conference members thanked the participants by preparing a warm breakfast of pancakes, sausages and juice. We gathered in HIS name, to support those in need in our community 'in the North'.

~ Maria Harte, Youth Advisor

Photos by Amanda Harte



## Notice of Passings

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

Jan 5, 2013: Robert Paquette, St Vincent de Paul, Windsor

April 9, 2013: Andy Laliberte, St Simon & St Jude, Belle River

April 18, 2013: Ron Sass, Huronia Central Council

April 22, 2013: Beatrice Boutette, St Anthony of Padua, Harrow

April 25, 2013: Audrey Quinn, founding president of St Raphael, Burlington

May 20, 2013: Vincent Sobocan, Former St Thomas, Windsor

June 5, 2013: [Allen Graves](#), Our Lady of Mercy, Sarnia

July 4, 2013: Andre Gras, St Joseph, Stratford



## Spring Meeting in Cambridge

It was a meeting very well organized and was an excellent way for the various conferences to discuss their achievements and their problems together.

We were especially interested in the Christmas Socks for the Meals on Wheels program. In fact we have started this program ourselves. The Youth Movement looks like another fine program. Further information on the Youth Movement program and also the Pop-Up Stores would be appreciated.

The tour through the Cambridge store was very interesting, particularly the wide range of services they provide. Their store sales are impressive; however, sales comparison with our store will be very difficult if not impossible given the different demographics and economic situations. Though, it would have been interesting for us to compare the expenditure on Food Vouchers in Cambridge and Elliot Lake.

The four of us, Mary, Dorothy, Thea, and myself, Marie, enjoyed the visit very much and thank the Cambridge Particular Council for their warm hospitality.

~ Marie Hachey, President, Elliot Lake

*Bernie Legault (Cambridge PC President), Penny Craig (National Past President), Jean-Noel Cormier (National President), and Jim Paddon (ONRC President) cutting the cake at the Cambridge meeting*



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

We would like to recognize the following volunteers for their great dedication and service:

Many thanks to the outgoing National President, **Penny Craig** (Windsor), and a big congratulations to the new National President **Jean-Noel Cormier** (Ottawa CC). **Pierre Hubert** is the new president for Ottawa CC.

Also, **Greg Blick** is the new Lakeshore PC president.

The **Ozanam Fund** has just awarded 4 new awards, helping those furthering their educational and work goals.

A special thanks to John Ketelaars for promptly putting WYD blog on the website. Thanks to Neil, Maria, Amanda, Christina, and Jason for great articles and photos from WYD in Brazil.

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.

## **Upcoming Dates**

**September 1, 2013** - Please make sure to send in any changes in contact information, especially if anyone in your council/conference changed office/positions

**September 13-14, 2013** - ONRC AGM in Val Caron/ Sudbury

**September 23-29, 2013** Saint Vincent de Paul Week! What is your conference/council doing?

**September 30, 2013** - Deadline to submit your CRA number to ONRC ([secretary.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:secretary.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca))

**October 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) Email:

[administrativeasst.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:administrativeasst.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca) or  
[secretary.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca](mailto:secretary.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca)

**November 15-16, 2013** — BAM! 2 at Church of Our Lady in Guelph, ON

**May 2-3, 2014** - ONRC Spring Meeting in London