

The Vincentimes

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Winter 2013

Lac- Megantic

The tragedy in Lac Megantic put a hole in the center of the town and through the hearts of so many people. So many people hurt by this tragedy is almost un-imaginable. It was also unimaginable that we not respond. As Vincentians and Christians we show people that we care, by our actions and not just words and prayers. We showed them that our thoughts and prayers were with them in this time of sorrow by bringing gifts of goods and money. However, our most important reason for coming was to tell them that we share their grief.

Speaking at the masses on the weekend in Saint John of The Cross Parish in Mississauga brought out this response:

Donations of \$2,400.00, bedding, clothing, water, food and supplies
720 of our parishioners signed a
8.5 X 14" sympathy card

The Peterborough Vincentians lent us a 14' truck, serviced and filled with gas for the week. All clothes and food were checked for cleanliness, damage and stale date.

Eight hundred kilometers later in Lac-Megantic we were met by Louise Lari-vière who acted as interpreter. The truck was unloaded by off-duty fire-man, the same individuals that fought the horrific inferno.

Father Lemay took us to the church. He was tired and surprised that so many people were aware of their tragedy and cared. And he assured us that the sympathy card would be read at each of the Sunday masses. There were memorial boards around the church for each lost person.

~ Bill Graham, Peel North PC President



Candles arranged in an 'M' for Lac Megantic



Bill Graham, Father Lemay, and Shirley Graham

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Disasters Happen Anywhere Anytime

No service to those in need is foreign to the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

In order to be better prepared, ONRC has established a Disaster Relief Committee, chaired by Bill Graham.

This committee will establish Area Co-ordinators and suggest ways every Vincentian, Conference or Council can help immediately when a Disaster occurs.



We bring water & supplies when disasters strike

Our stores can immediately offer help, however many Community First Responders do not know anything about the services we can provide. It is up to all Vincentians to pass on how we can help in any Disaster, small or large.

Parsons Store, Goderich



New SSVP Store in Goderich dedicated to furniture and major appliances, located at 417 Parsons Court

On 2 July 2013, the Goderich community welcomed a second SSVP store! Located at 417 Parsons Court, this store is dedicated to the resale of gently used furniture and major appliances.

The previous store, on MacEwan, is still open, and is now able to focus on clothing and other smaller treasures leaving the bigger items to the new (and bigger) store. Smaller stores often cannot accept a lot of furniture donations simply because of space limitations. However, with 8,000 square feet, the Parsons store is able to display furniture in room like settings (much like other furni-

ture stores) in a more spacious and attractive way.

The Parsons store is able to deliver purchases within Goderich for \$10, and between \$20-30 for the outlying areas. Of course, they are always looking for volunteers to help with these deliveries. If you would like to help out, or for more information, please call 519-612-1387.

Moores: Clothing for Men stepped up as a good corporate citizen this June

The mothers that we serve struggle to make ends meet each month. When events such as graduation happen they are totally at a loss for what to do. For mothers with children in grade 12, it is particularly expensive with graduation, prom, parties, clothes, class pictures and other events. As Vincentians we strive to put these children on as level a playing field as we can. In

this case, the graduate stood out proudly in a new dark suit, white shirt, new shoes, tie and pocket handkerchief, all courtesy of Moores Clothing for Men. Moores made him, his mother and brother happy and proud. Thank you, Moores.

~ Bill Graham, Peel North PC



Fazeela Raghbir, Operations Manager, Argentina Rd. Store Manager Steven receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Bill Graham

Summer Camp Recap

Marygrove Camp and Camp Ozanam operated at full capacity over the summer months offering a 100% subsidized residential camping experience to 1,800 children. Over 120 young adults were employed and proudly fulfilled



A Happy Summer for Happy Kids

the Vincentian mandate of bringing hope and joy to the children and their families.

Likewise, Camp Vincent also had a successful summer and welcomed 697 campers. Through

various organizations, 334 children received subsidy in some way, with many more being helped directly. Forty youth staff welcomed these campers, and helped make their summer that much brighter.

Celebrating Frederic Ozanam and Dedicated Vincentians in Hamilton

Hamilton Particular Council kicked off Vincent/Ozanam week in style with its third annual Vincent/Ozanam Dinner for Vincentians, families and friends. The event was hosted by the St. Francis Xavier Conference in East Hamilton on Saturday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m.

The event was attended by Penny Craig, our National Past President; Paul LaFontaine, Halton Particular Council President; several

members of the clergy; several Conference Presidents; numerous Vincentians and friends with 115 people in attendance.



John Woolcott receiving his 40 years of service award from Penny Craig and Guido Kelly

We had a large birthday cake to honour the 200th birthday of Frederic Ozanam with all attendees belting out the "Happy Birthday" song.

During the evening, Peter Burns, a 40 year Vincentian, gave a short address on "Who was

Frederic Ozanam?" and this was followed by Fr. Martin who advised us on "Emulating Vincent and his love for God".

The highlight of the evening was the "surprise" awards for long service with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. These were presented by Penny Craig and ranged from 10 year awards in 5 year increments up to 40 year awards which were handed out to two deserving Vincentians, John Woolcott and Peter Burns, both of whom started at Regina Mundi Conference and are now members of Annunciation of Our Lord Conference. A total of 35 awards were presented.

~ Guido Kelly, Hamilton PC President

Announcing the Birth of the ONRC Spirituality Committee

Thanks be to God, the ONRC Spirituality Committee is ready to soar! It held its first meeting in conjunction with the ONRC meeting in Val Caron, September 13-14. The committee consists of Sister Janine Rocheleau, snjm as Chair, Father Joe Quinn, csb as Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Gord Jenkinson, Deacon John Girolami, and Denise Bondy.

Inspired by the Spirit, the Spirituality Committee sees its function as:

- Encouraging each conference to have an active Spiritual advisor
- Developing the spirituality of all members by using techniques such as days of reflection, workshops, annual retreats, etc.
- Acting as a resource to all ONRC committees to ensure that the spirituality of the Society is maintained in all communications and materials, and

- Preparing an annual report

We were all energized by our meeting and look forward to getting down to work. The committee would like to hear from you if you have any suggestions or concerns. You will be hearing more from us soon.

~ Joe Quinn csb, for the ONRC Spirituality Committee

To Dominican Republic With Love: Another Successful Project by our Youth

Donations of used school supplies, paper, backpacks, pencil cases, lunch boxes, arts & crafts, toys, sports items, clothing, and shoes from various elementary schools and SSVP conference members was the largest to date.

The container weighing 2,576 KG (5,667 LBS) was picked up in Waterloo, Ontario on July 22nd and

arrived at Port Rio Haina, Dominican Republic on August 11th.

Thank you to the schools, volunteers, youth/adult members from the London, Hamilton, Cambridge, Toronto, Waterloo, and Kitchener areas for participating. You all did a great job!

Our prayers are with the National

Council and members of the Dominican Republic for their task of distributing the collection to the youth and schools in their country.

Peace and wellness to all.

For more information or to be a part of next year's project, contact Carmela Addante at carm199@hotmail.com

**SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT
DE PAUL - ONTARIO
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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.

Notice of Passings

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

June 2013: Doreen Lisle, St Mary's, Campbellford (Lakeshore PC)
Tony Unholzer, Holy Name of Jesus, Essex
July 30, 2013: Louis Gouin, St Ann, Tecumseh
July 31, 2013: Mike Clifford, London PC treasurer
Aug 23, 2013: Ken Cross, Peterborough
Aug 23, 2013: Angus Lafford, President St Patrick, Caledonia

Aug 31, 2013: Hubert Riekenbrauck, Kincardine
Sept 1, 2013: Gerry McDonnell, Holy Rosary, Burlington
Sept 19, 2013: Jim Bissonette, St Mary, Grafton (Lakeshore PC)
Sept 23, 2013: Bev Honsberger, Holy Rosary (Halton PC)
Oct 5, 2013: Gary Pellitier, St Agnes, Thunder Bay

Upcoming Dates

November 15-17, 2013 – BAM! 2 at Church of Our Lady, Guelph, ON. Register by email: sarah.ssvp@bell.net

January 15, 2014 — 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 30, 2014 - Conferences to submit annual reports to Particular Council or Affiliated Contact

February 28, 2014 – Particular Councils and Affiliated Councils to submit annual reports to Regional Council (or Central Council if applicable)

March 20, 2014 – Central Councils submit annual reports to Regional Council

March 31, 2014 – Regional Councils submit annual report to National

April 11-12, 2014 — Ontario Regional Council Spring Meeting at Holy Family Parish in London, ON