

The Vincentimes

Volume 2, Issue 3

Spring 2014

Peel North Helps with Philippines Relief

In November 2013, tragedy struck the Philippines. The world's hardest hitting typhoon on record destroyed much of the nation, claimed the lives of over 6,000 and displaced over 16 million people. Those who survived had no food, water, shelter, or clothing other than what they were wearing.

Our Particular Council wanted to do our part to help; having done this before in 2010, we knew exactly what to do.

An e-mail request was all it took. Shipping boxes were ordered and materials started coming in. Our shipper sends the boxes directly to families in the Philippines.

A Philippine friend of ours, Mary Ann, provided the names and addresses of those in need. Mary Ann even made phone contact and got their input as we filled the boxes. With help from Mary Teng from St. Leonard Confer-

ence as well as Tom Reilly, John Fitzgerald, Henderson Veira, Jackie Maisoneuve, Shirley and myself in less than one weekend, there were 12 boxes ready for shipment and eight more waiting for addresses. More empty boxes were ordered for the Monday.

Knowing many were without homes, we purchased 33-10' X 12' tarpaulins. St Leonard's Conference donated a lot of food, and Shirley purchased about 20-8kg bags of rice, powdered milk, coffee and peanut butter as well as small first aid kits. There were donated school supplies and backpacks. One of our local schools brought a large amount of summer clothes and shoes. A generous donation came from a bordering conference.

We got great support from our Vincen-tians, congregation and the Ontario Regional Council, without whom we could do very little.



Shirley, Bill and Mary Ann working to help families in need after the devastation in the Philippines

~ Bill Graham

At the time of printing, \$20,000 was sent directly to National for the Philippines from Toronto Central Council and \$61,236.20 from Ontario Regional Council (including amounts from other Councils/Conferences/Individuals).

My Christmas Story

It was the last Saturday before Christmas and as usual I was volunteering at the Chatham St. Vincent de Paul Store. A family (grandmother, mother, and grandchildren) had just arrived for their weekly shopping and coffee gathering at Vinnies Cafe.

I was just going back there to have my lunch when I spotted a large glass jar with a spigot.

The little grandson, about five years old, came to stand by me. I asked him if he liked the glass jar and he said he did. I also asked him what I

could put in it. He said grape juice or lemonade.

I told him I really liked it too. It would look nice on my patio filled with ice tea. I asked him if I should buy it and he said that I should. Then off I went to eat my lunch.

After washing my dishes in the kitchen I turned around to see the little boy's mother standing behind me. She asked if I was coming back to the Cafe area and when I told her I wasn't she said I had to because her son had bought the jar for the Lady.

I returned to the Cafe and there he was waiting for me to return standing beside the glass jar.

"I bought this for you Lady." Well I was overwhelmed to think that he would buy this jar for me! He really has nothing in the way of material things.

I thanked him and promised to fill it with grape juice for the Saturday after the holidays. He proceeded to ask me if he could have orange punch instead.

~ Pat Harding, St Joseph, Chatham

President's Pen

I would like to review the topic of the term of office for all presidents.

I realize there are a variety of reasons why presidential terms can exceed the limits, but we must also understand the importance of adhering to the rule and the opportunity to renew and energize a conference that is presented to us.

Some of these reasons for presidential terms exceeding the limit are not enough members, the inability to find candidates, and perhaps, the reluctance to give up the position. I believe most conferences presidents who have a problem finding the next president also have a need for more members.

Additionally, it is important for presidents to focus on succession planning. An active, well informed and engaged conference will likely provide future presidential candidates. While the Ontario Regional Council has resource material for recruitment, we are actively working to gather and develop a more complete information package.

I also believe we need to focus on what the role of the president should be. The president should not look upon this position as a burden but rather as a gift and honour to serve Christ, our friends in need, and our own members.

There is a spiritual connection with Christ in being a president. If we can keep this in mind, and can promote this to our members, I believe there will be more who are interested and capable of the position.

~ Jim Paddon



BAM! 2013 Recap

For three days/two nights in November, 26 youth and youth leaders came to Church of Our Lady in Guelph for BAM 2013. BAM is a weekend retreat for our youth to foster a sense of community between our youth conferences, to deepen our sense of Vincentian spirituality, and to just have fun.

Amandine Faivre, one of our youth from Port Colborne, offers this reflection:

"This year's BAM retreat was great! This was my first experience with SSVP Youth and I like how everyone was nice and wasn't shy. The activities were great, especially making Christmas cards for the Philippines, handing out bagged lunches in the downtown, and to see how we were all linked in one way of thinking. I also liked how we talked about how we got involved with SSVP and that we all gave each other some ideas to do in our

own parish. I also like the songs we sang as prayers (since I got back home they are all stuck in my head). We were also really lucky to have the CWL cook an amazing dinner for us after our mass and commissioning ceremony. I definitely want to come back again!"

~ Jason Hunt

Halton Youth Think *Inside* the Box

Students at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School in Oakville, ON took a unique idea, added some youth-driven planning and ended up huddling together to support the clients of the Mary Mother of God Conference.

Almost 100 students participated in the second annual 'BYOB', Bring Your Own Box, awareness and fundraiser event. This group of hardy youth spent a cold day in November

living outdoors, with only boxes for shelter and warmth, in their effort to raise awareness of the issues surrounding poverty. Their participation in social justice activities throughout the day, including participating in a 'soup line' provided by St. Vincent de Paul volunteers, was a true example of young people living their faith. The early winter weather, (including a brisk wind!), certainly

helped drive the point home that homelessness and poverty are both issues our society urgently needs to address.

The funds personally raised by the students, in excess of \$2740, were donated to the Mary Mother of God Conference in recognition that everyone deserves to live in dignity. Thank you Holy Trinity students for thinking INSIDE the box!

www.ssvp.on.ca 2013 Website Usage

The updated website was made available in March 2013, and the visitors and usage have steadily increased since then, from both the public and our members.

Usage by our Vincentians continues to increase as they access the website for various types of news and events, reports, forms and other information.

There has been an increase in the numbers of people offering to volunteer; over 60 offers of help to date, which were then passed along to the appropriate people for further followup.

There has also been a growth in the number of donations made through Canada Helps and PayPal, for which we are most grateful.

A sample chart of the most popular pages for November is shown here.

To view the complete report on website statistics for 2013, including a full set of charts and explanations, please go to our website and click on the word "Committees" in the titles listed at the bottom of the Home page, then click on "Communications" and click on the title January 2014 Web Statistics.

~ John Ketelaars and Mary Grad

Pages-URL (Top 10) - Full list		
499 different pages-url	Viewed	Average size
/rc/index.php	4095	18.53 KB
/	2213	1.36 KB
/rc/stores2.php	767	12.47 KB
/rc/spirituality.php	575	16.39 KB
/rc/stores.php	572	16.77 KB
/rc/reflections/2013/20131110.pdf	415	189.39 KB
/rc/donations.php	382	13.32 KB
/rc/newsletters/current.pdf	382	81.43 KB
/rc/assistance.php	298	13.61 KB
/rc/forms.php	240	15.91 KB
Others	6567	70.26 KB

The most frequented page is the home page: ssvp.on.ca/rc/index.php and ssvp.on.ca/

Stores2.php is the page you get when you select one individual store

Spirituality.php is the page that handles individual reflections

Stores.php is the page listing all the store names

Reflections/2013.20131110.pdf is the specific reflection for 10 Nov 2013

Donations.php is the page that offers visitors 5 options on how to donate

Newsletters/current.pdf is the current newsletter

Assistance.php is the webpage that invites people to ask for help

Forms.php is the page that comes up whenever you select any one of the forms under members.

Date of Aggregation

After sending out the Conference Profile forms there were several questions about the date each Conference became aggregated. That is the certificate they receive from the Counsel General in Paris.

"Who are the oldest Conferences in Ontario that are still active?"

According to research we have come up with the following list: St Michael's Cathedral Conference, Toronto 1851; St Paul's Conference, Toronto 1853; St Patrick's Conference, Peel South 1859; St Basil's Conference, Toronto West 1859; St Peter's Cathedral Conference, London 1863; St

Joseph's Conference, Ottawa 1864; St Basil's Conference, Brantford 1866; Our Lady Immaculate Conference, Guelph 1872. And a special mention of the oldest Isolated Conference: St Joseph's Conference, Stratford 1879.

Three Conferences have their information into become aggregated. Also a special welcome to St Theresa Courtice and Frances Xavier Brockville who will send in their aggregation papers as soon as they have been going for a year.

We still have 8 Conferences who have been active for several years and have not yet applied to become aggregated. We hope they join the Vincentian as full members soon.

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

PO Box 20069
Chatham, ON
N7L 5K6

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

Notice of Passings

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

Sept 30, 2013: Gene Minard, St John Baptist
(Amherstburg)

2013: Ron Bates, St Joseph (Bowmanville)

2013: Ruth Johann, St Joseph (Bowmanville)

Nov 2013: Margaret Kelly, St John of the Cross
(Mississauga)

Dec 9, 2013: Jack Garbutt, Huronia Central Council

Jan 4, 2014: Alphonse Charron, St Paul's, Thamesville
(Kent Deanery)

Jan 4, 2014: Glen Peltier, Blessed Sacrament
(Kent Deanery)

Jan 23, 2014: Dave Walker, St Ursula (Kent Deanery)

Upcoming Dates

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 12, 2014 — Ontario Regional Council Spring Meet-

ing at St Justin's in London, ON

April 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)

September 12-13, 2014 — Ontario Regional Council Annual General Assembly in Barrie, Ontario