

The Vincentimes

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Leo's Linens

Strathroy-Caradoc and Adelaide-Metcalf municipalities lie west of London, Ontario. It is the largest population in Middlesex County, about 25,000 people.

Our community has a high population of seniors requiring care that is either not offered or not affordable at facilities in the area. The pension they live on is often not sufficient for their daily needs due to high cost of medications and medical intervention services.



A modest but inviting display to introduce Leo's Linens

Research has proven that people who struggle to purchase diapers for children often leave them in dirty and wet diapers for prolonged periods of

time. The child becomes irritable and inconsolable which in turn causes the parents to become frustrated and possibly react physically.

There is the same scenario for poverty-level adults, often the disabled and elderly who require hygiene products on a continuous basis.

Strathroy All Saints Conference feels that providing hygiene products to the home will keep babies/toddlers more content; adult disabled will feel more confident about attending work and social activities; seniors will be less agitated due to physical discomfort.

Our volunteers meet clients at Strathroy SSVP Economy Shop, a retail outlet well known in the community. The Shop contributes to Strathroy's central food bank, run by the Salvation Army.

In June 2014, we did a community press release and appeal for donations. On June 24th, we launched the program which will be active the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Clients may receive product bi-monthly.

After two sessions, product was pro-



Mary Ann Hendrikx, All Saints President and George Weisz, Sarnia Particular Council President

vided to five families with seven children, plus three adults. Another client has been identified as a result of a home visit.

And for those wondering, we have named the project in honor of one of our long-term volunteers Leo Verberne; he has been active with the Society for 37 years and counting.

~ Mary Ann Hendrikx, President, All Saints Conference

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Common Acronyms

SSVP = Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. This is our Society and is used internationally. This is the shortened form that National is encouraging all to use.

SVDP = Saint Vincent de Paul, an older acronym referring to the Society. It is still used in the USA.

IC = Isolated Conferences (those who do not belong to a Particular Council)

PC = Particular Council (a group of Conferences within an area)

CC = Central Councils (a group of Particular Councils)

ONRC = Ontario Regional Council

CRA Number = Canada Revenue Agency Number, the number you use for tax receipts

CCPR = Conference and Council Procedures Review

A Lasting Effect

To whom it may concern:

My mother immigrated in 1953 and brought my sister who was 1 ½ years old from Italy. Like most immigrants, they did not have very much money. When my brother and I (twins) were born in 1954 it was even more of a burden on them financially. New in the country, with little money and no English it was a hard life for my parents.

Someone from SSVP came to my mother and offered to send my brother and I (we were maybe 6 or 7 years old at the time) to camp.

I enjoyed my time at camp very much and mostly I remember holding my breath underwater which was the beginning of my swimming

lessons. Because of that I had no fear of water and learned how to swim later in life.

I remember greatly the fond memories I had of camping at SSVP and loving it since. The experience that I had as a child at camp has remained with me and will forever.

I am so grateful for that time I had spent and will never forget your kindness.

May God Bless SSVP and all that they do.

Sincerely,

Marsia Leo



Our Summer Camps give children opportunities they may not otherwise have. Sponsoring a child to attend not only gives that child a fun and exciting summer, but also an experience they will never forget. Please keep this in mind when fundraising or donation now or in the future.

President's Pen

I would like to discuss some news about our prison ministry and some related topics.

First I am pleased to say that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul along with the Conference of Canadian Catholic Bishops is an active founding member of the Catholic Connections in Restorative Justice (www.ccinrj.ca). There are many issues related to this long overlooked issue that we must address as true Vincentians.

dress as true Vincentians.

The second news item is the formation of the St. Dismas project, which will be a systemic change project whose goal will be the formation of a special works conference in any council that is near a federal or provincial prison. Please be open and supportive of these two new options to serve our friends in need.

While actual prison visitations are not for everyone, there is also a huge need to assist former inmates during their re-entry into the community. In addition, the families of both current and former inmates often suffer many hardships not of their own doing.

We must also realize how important forgiveness and reconciliation is to the prison ministry.

~ Jim Paddon,

Ex Corde Donation

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Hamilton West Particular Council is very appreciative and thankful for a donation of \$27,000 from the Ex Corde Foundation, which was set up by Bishop Douglas Crosby to "provide significant financial support for parish projects and programs in our Diocese".

The donation was requested to assist with the renovations of the roof and a reconfiguration of the entrance at our St. Vincent de Paul store at 696 King St. E. in Hamilton.

The profits from the store along with the monthly donations from the parishioners of Canadian Martyrs, Christ the King, St. Ann's, Ancaster, St. Augustine, St. Patrick and St. Lawrence help the Society

to assist the needy families within our parish boundaries with food, clothing and furniture.

~ Dorothy Tapajna,

President, Canadian Martyrs,
Hamilton West Particular Council

Communicating ... About the Presidents Site

We are in the dog days of summer and gearing up for our September activities. One of the ways to get your mental gears shifting might be to look at what is new and what is changed on our regional website (www.ssvp.on.ca).

Something I would like to share with all the presidents in ONRC is the addition of the newly created Presidents Resources website, located under Members Info, Presidents Site.

This password-protected site was built at the request of council and conference Presidents who were asking for a site similar to the Help site for Stores Managers. The basic framework and layout of the Stores site was used, and we populated it with some basic, common procedures

and guidelines to give you an idea of what might be carried there.

If you want to get access to this site, send an email to secretary@ssvp.on.ca (this will reach Geraldine's mailbox) and send her your name, your position, your council or conference name and location, and your email address. You will get an email back giving you a sign in name and password. Then go to Members Info, Presidents Site, open up the signup page, and sign in.

This website is just getting started; we talked about its possibility at the April Regional meeting, and introduced the basic look in Edmonton during the Ontario Regional meeting. At the September meeting in Barrie, we will look at the site (live and

online) again, and gather more information from you for future changes and adaptations.

But we need your help to build up this site, so send us your ideas to help grow and populate this site with material helpful to all presidents. John Ketelaars and I want this site to be as fluid and flexible as possible, and reflect what you want, not what we think should be there.

If you have any questions or comments on this site, please send me an email at mroseggrad@rogers.com.

~ Mary Grad, Communications Chair, and Conference and Council Procedure Review Head

Vincentian Activities: A Comparison Look 2013 (to 2012 in brackets)

Members aged 36 and up: 4071 (4050)
Members aged 18-35: 136 (91)
Youth members under 18: 130 (70)
Auxiliary Members: 739 (532)
Spiritual Advisors: 189 (168)
Conferences who reported: 291 of 316 (275 of 317)

External Twinning (outside Canada): 65 (70)
Internal Twinning (inside Canada): 3 (17)

Receipts: \$19,576,996 (\$10,001,915)
Expenditures: \$18,456,925 (\$9,112,382)

Homes Visited: 55,753 (35,853)
Adults Served: 98,008 (82,271)
Children Served: 73,989 (61,723)

Number of ...
Children attending Summer Camp: 2454 (2474)
Stores: 27 (30)
Outlets: 25 (26)
Soup Kitchens: 12 (11)
Food Banks: 46 (62)
Drop in Centres: 1 (2)

While in some ways this shows that we are increasing our work, in other ways it appears like we are decreasing our work. This is largely due to incomplete reporting; either forms are not completed in full, or they are not submitted at all. We miss a lot when, for example, Councils do not submit forms CD in full, or when a special works project (like a store or multiservice project) does not report at all.

We can only report what has been sent in. Please keep this in mind during our next reporting season.

~ Geraldine Campbell, Secretary, ONRC

ONRC AGA Meeting in Barrie

The key note speaker Kerrie Abbott, from Newfoundland, will inspire you on how she turned an almost dead Conference in to a vibrant Conference. See our website, www.ssvp.on.ca under Events, for details, but you must register to attend. All Vincentians are welcome.

**SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT
DE PAUL - ONTARIO
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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.

Notice of Passings

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

Jan 6, 2014: **Theresa Carrier**, St Jerome, Windsor

June 14, 2014: **Albert Moore**, Sacred Heart, LaSalle

Jan 10, 2014 **Donna McNight**, Holy Name of Mary,
Windsor

June 25, 2014: **Catharine Mahony**, Church of Our Lady,
Guelph

March 30, 2014: **Lily Chiro**, Holy Name of Mary, Windsor

July 4, 2014: **Alban Babin**, St John, Guelph

March 30, 2014: **Gerald St Amour**, St Alphonsus,
Windsor

July 5, 2014: **Betty Lewis**, Holy Family, London

April 7, 2014: **Rev. Leslie Horvath**, Our Lady of Mount
Carmel, Windsor

Upcoming Dates

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

January 31, 2015 — Annual Reporting Begins
(Conference reports due)

October 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)

April 10-11, 2015 — Ontario Regional Council Spring Meeting in Windsor

June 24-28, 2015 — National AGA in Hamilton, ON