

The Vincentimes

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Fall 2015

It's That Time Again ...

It is time for all Ontario Vincentians to send in their nominations for our next Ontario Regional President. The term of our current President, Jim Paddon, ends on July 1, 2016. We would like to have our next president-elect in place by January 2016, so that he or she can be mentored by Jim in the intricacies of Ontario operations from then until they take office officially on July 1.

Every Vincentian who is a full member in good standing is eligible to either accept the nominations of their peers, or to nominate another Vincentian, for the role of President. This means every one of us is eligible to take on this role. So don't think this nomination and election stuff does not concern you, it does. And it is vital that you think about what qualifications you want in your president. Then decide – is there anyone in your area or elsewhere in Ontario that you believe would make a good president.

You have seen the Call for Nominations notice and its accompanying documents on the Home page of our Ontario website. You have, hopefully, had emails and copies of the nomination form 9.27 forwarded to you by your PC presidents. These are your How-To-Do guides so please have a look at these notices and documents again.

The Nominations portion closes on October 17, 2015. All completed nomination forms must be mailed or emailed to the committee by then. We will be talking further about the nomination and election steps at our Regional meetings on September 18 and 19 in Guelph, and we will have copies of the appropriate forms available then too. So be prepared and be there if you have questions about this nomination process, and how you can get involved.

After the October 17 date, and depending on the number of nomi-

nees, we will be sending the voting members documentation on the nominees and listing the next steps for voting.

We, your Ontario Election committee, Mary Grad, Jason Hunt and Phil Bondy, urge you to take this obligation seriously.

Any questions before then, ask any one of us. We need and want you to be involved in making an informed nomination. You can reach anyone of us through Sarah's email address administrativeasst.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca. She will forward your concerns to us for reply.

Thanks and enjoy the end of summer – cooler nights and colorful days.

~ Mary Grad

Touchdown Hamilton!

It was wonderful to see so many Vincentians come out to the 44th National AGA in Hamilton this year ... not even the rain could dampen our spirits. While Ontario did appear to have the largest delegation present, we were also honored by some international Vincentians.



National has posted some pictures from the events.

Visit www.ssvp.ca/Vincentian-Life/Vincentian-Photo-Album and see who you can see.

Becoming President of a Particular Council...

I am now two weeks into this role and of the questions I was asking myself back in January, few have been answered!

Am I the right person for the job? Am I experienced enough? Will I have time? Nevertheless, I am excited to be embarking on this new challenge.

Earlier in the year I felt the need to do more in the Ministry and I knew the role of Particular Council President was opening up, but those nagging questions persisted and I fought them with prayer.

I sought advice from SSVP peers, family and the rulebook. I sat down with the outgoing president to learn about the role. I attended regional meetings and enjoyed conversations with members of the Vincentian family who shared their experienc-

es, highlights and challenges. The succession-planning open forum in Windsor brought to the surface a surge of encouraging support, which addressed the concerns that were in my mind. By the end of the day I had decided to step forward into the unknown and seek nomination. The rest would be in God's hands ...

Now I find myself in the preparation phase, which is one of learning, organization and communication, as we get ready for the start of the year in September.

I see the PC President role as one of bringing people together in collaboration, of sharing best practices and not re-inventing the wheel. There are challenges being faced by many of our conferences and we will address these as a group, build awareness in our communities and move forward together to better serve the

families that we love.

I am passionate about the Ministry and I will embrace this opportunity to lead our Particular Council with these words always in my mind:

*"Do not be afraid of new beginnings.
Be creative. Be inventive.
Organise new works of love in the
service of the poor.
You who have energy;
who have enthusiasm;
who want to do something of value
for the future;
be inventive, launch out; do not
wait."*

Blessed Frederic Ozanam

~ Judith Nunn, President,
Halton Particular Council



St. Dismas Prison Ministry

One of the committees that we place under our social justice

heading is our prison ministry. While we have 3 or 4 current conferences doing visits to prisons, it is certainly evident this work is not for everyone. I must thank all Vincentians who are currently part of any prison visitation program.

There are other needs related to prisons that I believe can be attractive to many more Vincentians. This work could include a home visit to the family of an inmate which we can arrange through our network of charity across Ontario. An inmate could be in prison in one city but

with family in another. We can contact a member conference where this family lives and ask them to conduct a home visit. This type of visit can give both the family and inmate some satisfaction that someone does care.

The other area we are very capable of helping is with former inmates who are trying to adapt to society upon their release from prison. They may need help finding accommodations, clothing, furniture and food as well as the support we can give. We like to title this work as our St. Dismas project. St. Dismas is the name given to the criminal who was crucified beside Jesus and asked Jesus if he too could find paradise. We all know what Jesus told him.

Our St. Dismas project could mean forming a local conference or committee in your area that would focus on helping former inmates. There is no doubt a former inmate faces many challenges finding the basic material needs, perhaps a job and especially friends who don't judge him or her. We are certainly capable of this type of work, and in fact, do we not have an obligation to do more.

If anyone has an interest in learning more about the St. Dismas project, please contact myself at jpsvvp@hotmail.ca or 519-397-9391.

Sincerely,

Jim Paddon

Supporting the 'Garden Project' in Arusha, Tanzania

Fr Prosper Lyimo, a priest of the Archdiocese of Arusha, Tanzania, obtained his doctorate in Canon Law at St. Paul University, Ottawa. During his 4 year stay in Ottawa,

he resided mainly at St. George Parish and was exposed to the activities of Vincentians in that parish. In November 2014, he was ordained bishop.



From left to right: James Strate, Executive Director of the Ottawa Store; Pierre Hubert, president of Ottawa Central Council; Bishop Prosper Lyimo of Arusha, Tanzania; Bryan de Pape, v. p. of Ottawa Central Council.

The Ottawa Store of SSVp is supporting the three orphanages of the Archdiocese by contributing financially to the "garden project". These gardens will provide a good supply of food for the children.

Bishop Lyimo reported that the archdiocese has 500,000 Catholics. "I feel certain that our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will be important in the evangelisation of our country." The gardens

will be named Saint Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and Blessed Rosalie Rendu. "The children will know that their lives have been touched by the generosity of Saint Vincent de Paul Store Ottawa."

Pierre Hubert, president of Ottawa Central Council, presented the \$7,000 cheque to Bishop Lyimo on June 16th. Bishop Lyimo was returning to his home country on June 18th.

~ Pierre Hubert, President, Ottawa Central Council

Send It To Sarah

Ontario Region wants to share events, happenings, pictures, success stories, and maybe trials and tribulations, with each other across our vast province. Since we started the Vincentimes newsletter, and since we have room on our Home web page, we have been fortunate that many of you have chosen to share your stories with us and each other.

However we seem to have hit a dry patch recently – not much coming in from our members and associates.

So we invite you to send your articles in and we will spread them

around the newsletter and post them on our website. Articles should be about 300 to 500 words, and maybe with 2 or 3 pictures. However we reserve the right to edit or amend depending on space or content.

We invite you to send your news to our capable admin assistant and Vincentimes editor, Sarah Davidson, by email preferably, to administrativeasst.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca

So please – Send it to Sarah – and we will share these around, space permitting.

*"Whoever
oppresses a poor
man insults his
Maker, but he
who is
generous to the
needy honors
him."*

Proverbs 14:31

**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.

Upcoming Dates

September 18-19, 2015 — Ontario Regional Council
AGA Meeting, Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph.

October 15, 2015 — Deadline for newsletter submissions
(please note: we cannot guarantee all submissions will
make the next issue, but will do our best to include in up-
coming issues)

October 17, 2015 — Nominations close for next Ontario
Regional Council President

January 31, 2016 — Annual Reporting Begins. Confer-
ence reports due.

Notice of Passings

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

May 26, 2015: Trish Yates, Brant Particular Council

July 15, 2015: Lorraine Muise, Brant Particular Council

July 17, 2015: Patricia Zahrybelny, Brant Particular Council

July 29, 2015: Joe Johns, founder (Chatham) Kent Deanery