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Vincenpaul
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CLICKABLE!

The entire National Council team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year 2020.

Our gratitude goes to all Vincentians for helping those most in need during this Christmas season.

"God places us in the necessity of doing things beyond our strength."

Saint Vincent de Paul

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



THE SACRAMENTALITY OF PRESENCE

This is a term that I acquired when attending at the USA SSVP annual assembly held in Denver Colorado last August. The person-to-person home visit is the Society's prime charism. In a certain sense it may be viewed, as a sacrament.

Fr Michael Himes writes: "In the Catholic tradition, we call the occasions when grace or God's love is made effectively present for us sacraments..."
<https://stpatrickslifelongfaith.weebly.com/sacramentality.html>

Matthew 18: 19-20 NRSV-CE

"Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The very nature of the home visit means that we are being invited into the sanctity of a personal or family home. We have no fundamental right to enter except by personal invitation; a sacred trust is thereby established by its very nature.

The home visiting team should always consist of two Vincentians. Prior to a home visit, the team should prepare by taking a moment to quietly reflect and to pray for guidance and for the family. Upon leaving the home, a prayer of thanksgiving is appropriate and of petition for the family, asking the Lord to provide for them and to open doors of opportunity as may be required.

We enter into their home without judgement as to the condition of the home and furnishings, its neatness and cleanliness or state of repair and maintenance. We should be fully aware of their humbleness and of any emotional stress that may result from having to call for outside help in dealing with unmanageable or unexpected day-to-day expenses.

Vincentians are always aware of the personal dignity of each person during the home visit. The Society is not simply a charitable, social or benevolent agency probing for causality as a condition for providing assistance and thereby entering personal lives by seeking all types of information, many times without justification. No, we are to be totally present in the moment with an open and attentive ear, listening to their story and allowing them to share freely without digging simply out of inquisitiveness. We are to live the Gospel and evangelize by our sheer presence and actions.

St. Francis of Assisi:

"Do all you can to preach the gospel and, if necessary, use words!"

*Joseph Claude Bédard, President
National Council*

ANNUAL NATIONAL FORMATION (ANF) 2020 - CALGARY

Our 2020 Annual National Formation assembly (ANF) and the statutory meeting will take place in Calgary on June 25-27, 2020.

This is a wonderful opportunity to increase our knowledge of various topics related to the work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

There will be workshops on Thursday, June 25, covering a variety of subjects, ranging from social justice to governance. This is an opportunity to take important information home to share with our conferences and councils, and use it to further improve the lives of those we serve.

This is also a time to recharge our batteries, meet Vincentians from across Canada, and discover and share the good work carried on daily from coast to coast and the achievements met through the implementation of different projects.

Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27, will be a time for plenary sessions and for welcoming various guests connected with the SSVP.

Further information will be posted on our website early in 2020.

www.ssvp.ca/anf-2020

PLENTY OF MONEY AVAILABLE FROM FOUNDATIONS. JUST NEED TO APPROACH THEM!

Several conferences and councils have recently reported being approached by foundation search engines. Some of the statements surfacing from the sales pitch is that *“Foundations award over 5 billion dollars annually in Canada”*, a number that can really be appealing.

However, it is actually not as simple as that. The first aspect to be recognized, based on Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) information, is that there are over 160,000 non-profits and charities in Canada. This implies that there are a lot of organizations chasing after the same money.

Father Henri J. Nouwen, in the transcript of a talk he gave in 1992, titled *“The Spirituality of Fundraising”* (page 37), points out:

“Fundraising is a confident, joyful and hope-filled expression of ministry. In ministering to each other, each from the riches that he or she possesses, we work together for the full coming of God’s Kingdom.”

Father Nouwen is telling us that raising funds to assist persons in need is part of our ministry, but it is work.

What are the underlying capabilities of foundation search engines? Their first source of information is coming directly from the data provided to CRA on a yearly basis, as part of filing to retain the Business Number (BN) / Registration status. This information is public and, as CRA points on its web page *“The CRA is not responsible for the use and manipulation by any persons of this information.”*

From that public information, foundation search engines, leveraging algorithms, are able to provide profiles and donation patterns of these organizations; a lot of information is made available from their CRA T1236 submissions.

By paying for access, these search engines provide a *“fully searchable, online database of foundations for the serious prospect researcher, containing vital information about the funding history, preferences and contacts of Canadian foundations.”*

Approaching foundations for securing funding as part of philanthropic work is very time consuming; plus, the success rate is about one in every 20 to 25 requests. This is very common in the philanthropic arena, nothing specific to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Prior to approaching a foundation, there is first a need for a well-defined project. Foundations do not like to fund the operations side of a project; this is usually the first filter out of any requests. The second filter is to determine if the well-defined project fits into the mission of the foundation; this requires an understanding of their interest and disbursement pattern. There is no point in approaching a foundation if the project is not even close to its mission. The third filter is to understand their disbursement pattern in their fiscal year; some give early in the year, while others

give later in the year. A foundation search engine would be able to assist with some of these questions to determine a probability of fit, not success. It would remove some of the guesswork out of determining which foundation to approach and also how much to ask from a foundation prospect.



We have to remember that foundations receive a lot of requests. Most foundations have a multi-step process.

The first step for any request is a well-crafted Letter of Inquiry (LOI). An LOI is like auditioning to determine if there is a good fit or not. Even if you do an excellent job researching which foundations to approach, it is hard to determine if the project, and/or our organization would be a good fit with the foundation. From the foundation’s viewpoint, an LOI allows a faster determination to make the first cut.

An LOI is a two- to three-page letter, and not a full proposal. An LOI would contain an introduction, an organizational description, a statement of need, the project itself (how to solve the need), the specific request to the foundation, and an invitation to participate. Once the foundation decides that the project may be a good fit for its goals and funding priorities, then a complete proposal may be requested.

Note that if 10% to 15% of all conferences or councils were to decide to start approaching foundations, say 100 entities, there is a high probability that duplicate requests would be made to the same foundations. The recipient foundation of these requests could easily be confused and would be more likely to reject the demand than to consider it. A coordinated effort is required and, therefore, prior to approaching foundations, please discuss the matter with your superior council.

Richard Pommerville
Executive Director

When I Serve

Is my heart in what I do?

As Vincentians our calling is to seek out and help the less fortunate in our midst. I will admit that sometimes I do not always think kind thoughts about the individuals and families that I serve. Do I feel pity or do I feel love, or have I become somewhat numb to the things that we see on a daily basis?

I sometimes feel that we do not spend enough time in group prayers. Our prayers that we say before meeting are not enough for me. I want human contact with prayer, so prayer with the people that we serve is important to me and I think it would become helpful for the children of God that we come in contact with. I want to ask and thank God for his help along with the people we serve.

My fellow Vincentians, we need the passion that we have in our love of Jesus to shine in a brighter way. We are a special group of people who have been chosen by God to carry His light, so we must always hold it high. May the love that God has for us be the source of energy that drives us to be the best that we can be.

May God help us in our work!

*Parnell Kelly, National Spirituality Committee
Atlantic Regional Council*



**It is with deep regret
that we announce the following deaths:**

Patsy LeBlanc

Immaculate Conception Conference
Sydney Mines Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
August 6, 2019

Teresa MacDonald

St. Joseph Conference
North Sydney Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
August 28, 2019

Joan Galloway

St. Alphonsus Liguiri Conference
Peterborough, Ontario, September 7, 2019

Terence McCluskey

Lady of Fatima Conference
Sydney Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
September 18, 2019

Paul M. LaFontaine

St. Raphael Conference
Burlington, Ontario, September 29, 2019

Ross Hotchkiss

St. Michael Conference
Oakville, Ontario, September 25, 2019

Arthur Higgins

St. Joseph Conference
North Sydney Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
October 7, 2019

G rard Charron

Saint-Luc Conference
Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, October 19, 2019

Luci Knudsen

Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference
Campbell River, British Columbia
October 26, 2019

Deany Walker

St. Joseph Conference
Bras d'Or Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
October 29, 2019

**They were our brothers and sisters
serving the poor.**

Let us keep them in our prayers.

**Please send your death notices to
editor@ssvp.ca**

MESSAGE FROM THE ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT



The time since our 2019 AGA has flown by. The summer months are usually calm but this year was different. The need for affordable housing is increasing and there are no answers for man-made crisis. The need is growing in all areas of Atlantic Canada.

In late August, I met with the two particular councils in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The Northside Particular Council is recovering and, under the leadership of Ann Nader, thriving. They have pulled some conferences that did not have a parish anymore into a new group and have applied for a name change. The Glace Bay Particular Council continues to struggle and needs new blood at the top in order to succeed. The World Day of Prayer was very successful in the Northside Particular Council.

Newfoundland is doing well. Judy Peddle is the new twinning rep for the Atlantic Regional Council and I am sure she will do a fine job. The president Sandra Millmore is doing a fine job and I am very happy with her. The Carbonear conference with Kerri Abbott is doing groundbreaking things with her team approach towards projects that are outside the box. Jerry Rex and Maurice MacDonald are also team leaders with an action plan and a success story in Corner Brook.

Halifax Particular Council, Nova Scotia, is the flagship of the Atlantic Regional Council. This particular council is very professional in how they operate and is a great group to work with. Ric Butler is, from my point of view, a good leader. Halifax is our biggest particular council and works with the poor in many different ways.

Dartmouth Particular Council is just across the harbour from Halifax but it is in an entirely different situation. I was invited to a meeting with the particular council president and the conferences in mid-September. The Dartmouth group is going through the changes in parishes.

There is one conference that is crime and poverty-ridden, so when I returned home, I sent over a cheque that was to be used for that conference only. In 2018, the Halifax Particular Council gave them \$30,000 and in 2019. \$10,000.

Our conference in Moncton, New Brunswick, is very active and is working with other parishes in Moncton that use the French language. They are very definitely a strong conference.

We have five conferences on little Prince Edward Island and all are healthy. The four conferences in the Charlottetown area work really well together. I am proud of what we are able to achieve in Atlantic Canada.

*Parnell Kelly, President
Atlantic Regional Council*

HOLY REDEEMER CONFERENCE, CORNER BROOK N.L.

Holy Redeemer Conference, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador is an active group in a city of about 18,000 people. It prides itself on its home visiting program that allows its members to meet the individual needs of family members. This is accomplished by finding out what groceries are needed in a specific home and then shopping for and delivering the goods. The conference has been blessed with the donation of a van by a local dealership and the availability of generous storage space by another business person, which enables it to accept donated furniture and home needs from citizens in the community and deliver them to people in need. Couple the above with an ongoing soup kitchen, Mary's Kitchen, and you have a very busy program.

The Society has become a name that resonates with most everyone within the Corner Brook area. Its work is recognized by all the churches in the community as well as the government departments that deal with people in need. The Catholic parishes have been generous with monetary support through the Poor Box collection each month. We keep our congregations informed weekly of our activity, noting the numbers of people who are visited, served meals, given furniture, etc. That way, they know their contributions are being well spent and going where they are intended.



Mary's Kitchen is our Friday evening soup kitchen. It is supported by willing volunteers from the Knights of Columbus, the CWL of Holy Redeemer Parish, the ladies of Sacred Heart Parish, the Holy Spirit Prayer Group, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, All Hallow's CWL and the Nano Nagle Alumni. These people take turns, usually a month-long period, when they serve the meals at the Kitchen and provide homemade desserts that are relished by those who attend. The Kitchen has a nucleus of weekly attending members who make it a true family gathering. Each week, others join them and often become regular users also. The variety of people served are from the senior community, the youth, the lonely, the widows and widowers, etc. They make for a wholesome and enjoyable group that we are privileged to serve.

Meanwhile, it is worth noting that the core work of visiting homes, picking up groceries, and collecting and distributing furniture is being done by about 20 dedicated members of SSVF. They are to be blessed.

*Jerry Rex, President
Holy Redeemer Conference, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador*

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS - ANF - JUNE 25-27, 2020

WORKSHOPS ARE HELD ON THURSDAY JUNE 25, 2019

The theme presented at this ANF is:

“WE ARE CALLED”

The theme has been chosen so that we as Vincentians may take time to reflect on how we interact with those we serve. Workshops may be developed around the theme.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES SPONSORED WORKSHOPS – TOPICS VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR:

1. Roles of the President and Executive - conferences/councils;
2. Succession planning - conferences/councils;
3. Policies and procedures;
4. Recruitment and orientation;
5. Train the trainers.

OTHER POTENTIAL WORKSHOP TOPICS:

1. Structural causes of poverty;
2. Collaboration with other organizations;
3. Spirituality of the work of a Vincentian;
4. Foundations of our Society;
5. Special works – the public face of our Society;
6. SSVP in North of 60;
7. Advocacy and how to advocate effectively;
8. Systemic change projects;
9. Youth in action;
10. Fundraising.

Workshops are typically 75 minutes long. Presenters must provide their own presentation materials and equipment, i.e. portable disk drives and their own pcs for connection to existing in-house-supplied AV equipment. Any handout materials are the responsibility of the presenters to produce, bring and supply to attendees.

Final date for submission of workshop forms is April 1, 2020. You may mail your forms in, or email them to exdir-digen@ssvp.ca.

Richard Pommainville, Executive Director
2463 Innes Road, Ottawa ON K1B 3K3

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE FORM](#)



Title of workshop: _____

Language presented: English ____ French ____

Description of the workshop: _____

Presenter Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Short bio - presenter: _____

How does the title/topic tie into the AGA theme?

Required room size/type: _____

Required AV materials: _____

Handout materials are the responsibility of the presenter.

Please send by April 1, 2020 to:

Richard Pommainville, Executive Director
2463 Innes Road, Ottawa ON K1B 3K3
exdir-digen@ssvp.ca

Approved by the National Training Committee

Date: _____



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

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