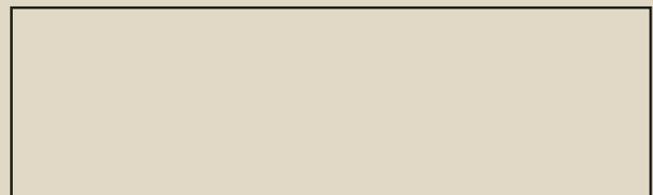




Vincenpaul-Canada

“UPON THIS ROCK...”

Return Address:
National Council of Canada
1247 Kilborn Place
Ottawa ON
K1H 6K9



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THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADA

MISSION

The Society of St. 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 St. 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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Close attention to the following recommendations would greatly help your National Council.

Name of a Conference or Council

There are nearly 1000 Conferences and Councils in Canada, and every one of them is identified as "Society of Saint Vincent de Paul". However, each one is a distinct group. It is therefore important to identify all your documents, as well as your cheques, so that they show the complete name of your Conference or Council. Whenever the National Council receives a cheque labelled as "Society of Saint Vincent de Paul", it is very difficult to credit this cheque to a specific Conference or Council.

Canada Taxation Identification Number

Conferences and Councils that are registered with Revenue Canada must always use their ID number to identify their documents and cheques. The Taxation Identification Number must be written in full, because the last four digits are the ones that identify the Council or Conference. The National Council has the first number, the one ending with 0001. Therefore, all cheques and documents sent to Revenue Canada without being clearly identified are attributed to the National Council account.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Nicole Schryburt and Roxane Brousseau
Administrative assistants
National Council

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL VINCENTIANS OF CANADA

As of January 1, 2005, all receipts issued by charitable organizations registered with the Canada Revenue Agency must mention "Canada Revenue Agency" as well as the pertaining government Web site www.craarc.gc.ca/charities. If your receipts do not show this information, you may add this information through other means than regular printing (e.g. sticker, stamp, manuscript). The Canada Revenue Agency will accept receipts that do not show this information until the end of 2005. However, the CRA expects all registered charities to add this new information starting January 1, 2006.

Germain Souigny

President's Word - Michael Burke

Dear Brother and Sister Vincentians,

As the summer starts to wind down, we still have fond memories of our days in St. John's NL for the 35th Annual General Assembly.

The AGA again presented a wonderful opportunity to meet new people from across this great country and to renew acquaintances from the past AGA's. We remember the theme "Upon this Rock" and the excellent key note address by Bishop Martin Currie, as well as the many workshops presented in both English and French, and the wonderful trip to "Flat Rock".

Above all we remember the fantastic welcoming hospitality of our Newfoundland hosts, the wonderful entertainment and great Newfoundland seafood meals. On behalf of all those who attended many thanks to all those involved in the organization and administration of this memorable event.

In a few short months we will again be receiving information for our next meeting (and my last as National President) in beautiful Kelowna BC.

The theme for next year's meeting is "COME AND WORK IN THE VINEYARD". This theme is extremely fitting for the beautiful Okanagan Valley region of BC.

"COME AND WORK IN THE VINEYARD" is an invitation and a

challenge to all Vincentians. "You too go into My Vineyard and I will give you what is just" Mt 20 vs 4. We are called as Vincentians to labour for Christ in the Vineyard of life.

WHERE IS THIS VINCENTIAN VINEYARD?

It is wherever there is poverty, disillusionment, and addiction. It is in these places that we are each called to do His work. We are called to "find the forgotten, the lonely and the deprived so that we may bring them His love"

I invite all Vincentians from across the country to "Come to the Vineyard" and celebrate with us, pray with us and enjoy yourself with fellow Vincentians from across the country.

Just a reminder too that the 2008 AGA will be in Quebec City where we will get to participate in the International Eucharistic Congress celebrating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Catholic Church in Canada. Many of you will remember Fr. Jean Picher who was our past National Spiritual Adviser, and is now the main organizer of the Congress.

The AGA in St. John's had many highlights over the three days of events. 5 of which stand out for me include:



*Michael Burke,
National Council of Canada*

1 - The ratification of the new rule is definitely my biggest highlight. This ratification capped two and a half years of hard work by the committee. The committee was chaired by Vice-President Penny Craig with members Vi Corbett (Atlantic Regional Council), Jean-Claude Bienvenue (Quebec Provincial), John Staley (Ontario Provincial Council), Don Hunter (Western Regional Council) and Barry Granary (BC Provincial Council), Vice-President Clermont Fortin and Past Presidents Bob Martineau and Ellen Schryburt.

We were very saddened with the passing of Bro. Barry Granary during the process of developing the Rule. Barry's assistance and insight were so useful and helpful during his participation. We again want to offer our thanks in absentia to Barry for his efforts during this trying time of his life, and our sincere condolences to his wife and family. He is dearly missed by all. I would be remiss however if I did not single out a member of the committee who joined the committee during the last six months. At that time we were in need of an "editor" to bring together

President's Word - Michael Burke

all the documents written by a collection of committee members into a single document. Jacquelyne Lord, a relatively new Vincentian from LaPocatiere became that person, and together with her husband Gerard did an incredible amount of work under a very demanding schedule (the goal was to be ready to present the revised draft to the Assembly in St. John's). To bring the document in on time for the most part Jacquelyne worked in obscurity in LaPocatiere for countless hours to produce first the draft which was sent out to all Councils and Members by Right, then reviewed the 120 +/- submissions sent to the committee, incorporated the submissions approved by the Rule Committee and produced the second draft which was ratified at the AGA. On behalf of all Vincentians I want to say Thank You to Jacquelyne, who is also my sister-in-law, for her fantastic contribution to the Society in Canada.

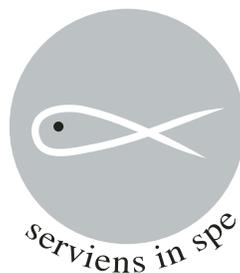
The ratified version will now be forwarded to Eduardo Gomez, Territorial Vice-President for Central and North America and David Williams, Correspondent Delegate for the Aggregations, Institutions, Rule and Statutes, International Council General, for approval. We would very much like to have the printed version of the Rule available for the 2007 AGA.

2 - Another highlight of the days at the Assembly was the presentation of

the procedure for the National Screening Program.

The National Council Executive held a "Train the Trainer" program in Ottawa this past spring to introduce the program to the new trainers. We were extremely pleased with representation from all five regions of the country. From our feedback, the program was very well received and we now look forward to having regional workshops presented across the country, in line with our proposed schedule for all Vincentians to be screened by 2010.

3 - Then the Assembly voted on the adoption of the International Logo as



the Logo for the Society in Canada, and again this motion was approved unanimously by the Members by Right. I believe that this is truly a historic moment in the life of the Society in Canada. I believe that this adoption unites the Society in Canada with the ICG in a very special and visible way; we are now visibly a member of the International Confederation of Societies of St. Vincent de Paul. I am pleased to note that a number of Councils have already started to move towards con-

verting the logos on their vehicles etc.

4 - Once again the Assembly approved the National Council Budget.

As in the past, and as we have done now for three years, we are asking all Conferences to forward (through their Councils) a voluntary contribution of \$240.00 to support the works of the National Council. Like all Councils, the National Council is for the most part dependant on the Conferences and Councils below it for financial support. Also the National Council is, and has been for a couple of years, seeking funds from the public and private sector (National Foundations etc) with increasing success.

We are very pleased with the increasing response from Conferences and Councils re the voluntary contribution. Last year about 60% of the Conferences responded to the National Council's request. This was up from about 30% the year before. As with all national organizations, there are many members who are not familiar with "what National Council does" and why it would need money. The National Council is responsible for the Society in Canada, and as such monitors the activities of the Society, processes requests for aggregations and institutions, produces the Vincenpaul magazine, develops policies and operating procedures across the country (the production of the

Rule required travel for members to meetings, translation and printing, and established a screening policy which involved a "train the trainer" workshop complete with simultaneous translation in Ottawa.

The National Council maintains an office in Ottawa which is staffed by two people (Nicole works from her home in Montreal). The National Council is also responsible for the support of the International Council General in Paris, as they, like us, look to Councils and Conferences across the world for support. Most of these Conferences and Councils are in third world countries which can not provide much by way of money. All these national activities and the support of the ICG require money and an annual operating budget of about \$200,000.00.

5 - And last but not least, the National Council has a President Elect in the person of Penny Craig.

The National Council had issued a call for nominations for president and received two names and one of the candidates withdrew his name at the general assembly. As the closing date for nominations had passed, Penny was acclaimed President Elect. Penny has been the second Vice-President for the past five years and prior to that was the President of the Windsor-Essex Central Council in Ontario. Penny will be assuming office at the AGA in Kelowna next June. I join with all Vincentians in congratulating Penny on her election

and pledge my support during her tenure.

In closing I wish to thank all Vincentians across the country for their prayers and support over the past year, as well as all Councils and Conferences for their financial support of the National Council and its activities.

Peace

Michael Burke, President, National Council of Canada



LOGO

DESCRIPTION:

The Fish is the symbol of Christianity and in this case represents the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The eye of the Fish is the vigilant eye of God seeking out to help the poor and underprivileged in our midst. The crossing at the tail or a tie-knot represents unity and oneness among members and also in union with the poor. The loop (round circle) signifies the global or worldwide stature of the SSVP, an international Society.

IMPORTANT

Please take note that the National Council has a new address:

The Society of
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National Council
of Canada

1247 Kilborn Place
Ottawa ON K1H 6K9

Tel: 613 738-1118
Fax: 613 738 4789

E-mail: ncc-
cnc.ssvp@bellnet.ca

All your correspondence with your National Council should be sent at this address.

Should it be to reach a member of your National Council, to send an article for the Vincenpaul magazine, to order an object from the Society, to pay for your Vincenpaul subscription, to send your contribution for twinning and any other topic that is under the National Council jurisdiction.

THANK YOU!

In the Second Book of Samuel, Chapter 23, verse 3 we read:
The Rock of Israel said to me

In the writer's mind God is symbolized by the rock. For the person whose horizon was the desert, that which spoke of permanence, of strength and of cohesion was a rock. The sand would shift but the traveler could find his way with reference to the rocks that serve as a guide.

For people of the sea, rocks may evoke another connotation. The very fact that they are permanent, while keeping their vocation as identification markers, also made them dangerous and the cause of shipwrecks and death.

The rock symbolism was given a very positive spin by Jesus. In Mat. 7,24 we read, the sensible man built his house on rock.

The image is indeed most logical. Jesus also used the symbolism in relationship to the Church and the authority of Peter.

HOW CAN THE SYMBOLISM SPEAK TO US IN TODAY'S SOCIETY?

There must be room for such symbolism since contemporary society is a desert of sorts. An example comes to mind: the difficulty men and women have regarding commitment. Certainly, I have marriage and divorce in mind, but staying within the realm of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, there is the difficulty in retaining members. Volunteers for specific short-term duty are available but the prospect of long-term commitment is frightening. The job mar-

ket is fraught with similar stress. Think of the many part-time employments, characterized by no social benefits.

Promises are made by politicians and events happen so fast that ensuing action bears little resemblance to the earlier vision. Leaders tend to be overwhelmed by the sheer number and variety of decisions they are asked to make. We are walking, or should I say stumbling along in a veritable desert.

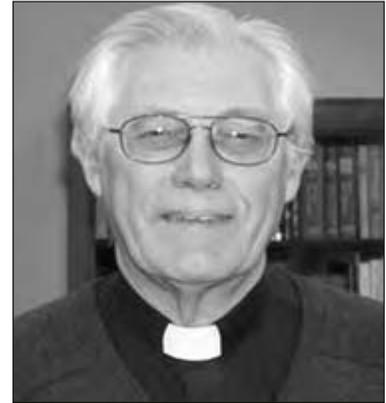
We need grounding, and herein is the great relevance of our Christian Faith. Here we find the rock on which to build.

HOW ARE WE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS ROCK OF OUR FAITH?

Being aware of its existence is a first step. But we must also have the ability to take full advantage of the said rock. We must be able to build the house in the manner of the sensible man Jesus speaks of in the Gospel.

Let us examine both aspects of the question. The first step is searching for the rock. Where are you in your journey of Faith? Have you moved from the basics that are known by school children to a greater sophistication? How comfortable are you as a Catholic? Indeed our Catholic identity is a matter of individual endeavour. Our conscience must be educated so that we may, in the words of St. Peter, give adequate answer to those who enquire about our Christian discipleship.

The comfort that we find in our relationship with God brings about the security that we may identify as the



*Mgr Peter Schonenbach,
Spiritual Advisor
National Council of Canada*

rock of Faith.

One way of establishing an adult Catholic identity is to make use of the recently published, Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The easiest way to get a copy is to go on line. The WEB site is very easy to remember: www.cccbpublications.com. The Compendium includes an Appendix that provides all the common prayers and all the major formulas of Catholic doctrine.

A realistic understanding of human life enables us to grasp that practicing our Faith by being ready to follow the rules of the Church is the best way to keep our relationship with God, as it should be. We no longer see Sunday Mass as an obligation, but a very necessary time to renew our relationship with God. We understand that the sacraments are encounters with the living Lord. When we are equipped with grace, the rock of Faith is very evident and compelling.

WHAT ABOUT BUILDING THE HOUSE?

The manner of building is very important. One may have excellent intentions and wonderful vision but our efforts may be futile if our manner of doing things is not at the same

time attractive and competent

I know a very successful CEO of a large computer enterprise. He has a four-part program that he claims has brought him great success. It is very simple:

- 1-Be on time
- 2-Do what you promise
- 3-Give more than is expected
- 4-Have a positive attitude

This seems to be ultimate common sense but it is far from what we readily encounter where deadlines are not respected, promises broken, cheating and cheapness the rule of the day and attitudes sullen and negative.

However you have to know how to build the house. The process will no doubt involve others. Teamwork is a word often bandied about. It is very important but often merely talked about. Teamwork means respecting each other, listening to each other, learning from each other. Good teams produce synergy where output is greater than the sum of those involved.

Our mode must be one of continuous learning. It does not do to simply be satisfied with what we know. We are always interfacing with the new and we must develop the talents to digest the new. Jesus himself tells us about the wise man, who takes both the new and the old out of his bag.

We have to take ownership of our life. Blaming others diminishes us. If we have been ill treated, we should move on. Harping on the past distracts from the challenges of the present. Owning the moment helps us stay focused. These brave words only make sense in a context of liv-

ing Faith.

Being strategic with our time should be one of our qualities. Choices must be made and priorities established. Let me insert a bit of my story. Some of you know that before entering the seminary I spent close to 10 years with the Federal Government. It was work that I enjoyed and I was quite successful. However choices had to be made. To the fellow workers who were surprised about my decision to study for the priesthood, I replied that I had but one life. Were it different and I had two lives, I would have kept doing what I was doing, marry and have a family. The second life would be the priesthood. But I have but one life and the decision to enter the priesthood has never been regretted.

The house we build would be very flawed if we do not practice what we preach. According to an article in the June 9 Globe & Mail, to use the headline, Do as I say, not as I do doesn't cut it anymore. The article demonstrates that many enterprises stagnate because managers simply do not model what they say. Credible people are builders of society.

Building the house requires planning. We must learn to step back so as to step forward.

How can we apply these ideas to the everyday operations of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society? In general it is up to each Vincentian to develop himself/herself along the full extent of their talents. It is through energetic, fully alive members that Conferences work well.

Speaking about what I just mentioned, planning, it seems to me that

very little is done in many of the Conferences. Bringing together members of the Society, the Pastor, members of the Pastoral and Temporal Councils of the parish for a Saturday morning planning session followed by lunch is a great way to keep people in the picture, remain relevant as well as sketching out the year ahead. Taking the initiative for such an event places the Society in a very positive light.

We can develop all sorts of great themes. The one we have at hand is ever so rich but its impact depends on healthy membership. It must be remembered that the more people you have in a Conference, the greater the ease of recruitment. Competent people are busy and will more readily become Vincentians if they know they are part of a team and are not expected to be a lone ranger.

One aspect of the society should be highlighted: the leadership positions required throughout the structure. Many Vincentians are quite properly members because they want front-line service opportunities with the poor. No doubt that is our *raison d'être*. However the Society is not merely a bunch of do-gooders. It has a structure that requires leadership. If we approach life along the lines I have suggested I am positive that the Society will continue to have excellent leaders at all levels of authority.

In conclusion, may you always be aware of the Rock of your Faith. May you find solid grounding in your relationship with God. May your Catholic identity give you joy and may you take pride in your discipleship, following the Lord faithfully wherever He leads you.

Paris, June 30, 2006

CIRCULAR TO MY DEAR
FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE
CONFERENCES OF
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
WORLDWIDE

Dear friends and fellow members:

To begin with: some reflection

For the Society, like for the very Holy Church, the consideration and importance of suffering, any kind of it, is endorsed by the unique and unrepeatable condition of every human being that endures it, all of them made at the image and resemblance of the God Creator himself. In the Conferences, the devotion to poverty, to fighting against it has always been presided by the singular vision of it. This is: by the individual suffering that, for each man, is produced by a state of lacking the essential. This has always been the main concern of the Conferences: to help personally, to the extent of our means, every man that suffers. In the Conferences, it could not be otherwise, since they were born deeply Christian.

Born in the first third of the 19th century, the Conferences appear as an answer to the problems caused by the closest and most pressing material poverty. We personally look after

people in whom the material scarcity they endure is quite easily spotted. Thus, the Conferences spread all over the world with the same characteristics: to assist in the material poverty and most of the time, an urgent poverty.

The world witnessing the Society of Saint Vincent's birth has little to do with the one in which we are living at present. If we set up a kind of "poverty yardstick" between both centuries, we would see that the difference between two persons lacking the essential in the 19th century on two opposite sides of the world was practically zero. Poverty was felt the same in the north or in the south of the planet. Only sometimes, the environmental conditions made survival easier on one side or other of the world. But, all in all, both were extraordinarily close in their manifestations and in the suffering they brought.

At the beginning of the 21st century, what has been put forward in the previous paragraph has dramatically changed. Indeed, the economic change appeared in and with the development of the so-called first world, comparing it with the rest of the world, has enormously increased the differences between the poor of one place or the other of the Planet.

Regarding all this, I wonder sometimes if we Vincentians will be aware of these deep changes when it comes



José Ramón Díaz-Torremocha
XIV Président Général
i.n.e.D

to considering our personal apostolate for and with those who suffer. I wonder if our personal devotion to them, foundation of our activity, is or not conditioned and influenced by all this facts. Without the slightest doubt, all these changes should be kept in mind when it comes to preparing our activities, when it comes to practising our vocation of service.

Therefore, allow me to review, in the intimacy of this contact with each of my fellow members worldwide, three aspects that, although dealt with in previous Circulars, will be worth remembering and trying to open new questions for our dear Conferences, in order to encourage us to carry on developing our service to those who suffer.

ATTENTION TO THE
MATERIAL POVERTY.
THE NEW REQUIREMENTS

Let's start by insisting on the fact that today it is not at all the same to be poor (poverty understood in its material sense), in the north of the planet than in the south. Nowadays, it does

exist a huge difference between the poor of north and south. The advances of the social security systems of the so-called “welfare state”, although at present they could seem to be unfortunately going backwards, have caused that we cannot, nor should, attend the poor in the same way depending on what part of the world they are. Our attention as members of the Conferences in many places, essentially in the so-called “first world”, should undoubtedly change and be adapted to the new forms that poverty has taken.

This will not mean to abandon material poverty where the slightest rest of it remains. No doubt, although we should carry on paying a very special attention to the so-called basic needs, as civilization progresses and whole areas of the world reach a certain “welfare state”, we could feel the temptation of thinking that our field is only the attention to the material needs and that the charity work of the Conferences gets to an end with the arrival of that, on the other hand, slight improvement of the poor’s situation. But it is obvious that the Conferences’ modest resources could not be easy to use in certain areas of the world and through the personal contact we are used to. This is maybe one of the challenges of our century for the Conferences. Indeed, some Conferences in the developed countries should enlarge the assistance scope of the unused resources, to other places of the world where other

Vincentians have real shortages they cannot cope with for not having the means. In other words: the Vincentians of the oft-repeated “first world” should get used to sharing with other fellow members of the poor world, resources that are nearly not necessary for the first ones. To feel this need of sharing with those who are far away, is a challenge that we have to include in the daily life of our Conferences.

But there is even more. If we carry on using the ways and customs that are so dear to us since our foundation: essentially the personal meeting with the one who suffers, today this way of behaving that is still very good and absolutely indispensable to be kept and encouraged, it is not however enough, considering the magnitude with which the Good God has blessed our Organisation. So far, the Society of Saint Vincent has been using in a really poor way its extraordinary extent all over the world and the huge strength to do good of the nearly seven hundred fifty thousand members. It is necessary to take on the collective challenges that could be felt in each of our basic units, as accepted and their own. The blessing of our scope which I mentioned above, should materialize in a better service to the poor, otherwise we will be doing a bad use of it; a bad use of a good that the Lord has granted us not for our pride, but to better serve those who suffer.

In conclusion, we cannot forget the huge change that we have experienced along the last decades and which has opened to us the way to a globalized world where the needs and the ones in need, should not be considered only according to their closeness. On the contrary, this open and perpetually changing world demands that we also “globalize” our vision ; a transformation that should not imply the loss of the personal contact with the one who suffers, indeed, but that we assume that sometimes we will have to delegate this contact to the Vincentians close to this suffering person.

I will devote the second half of this Circular to these new kinds of poverty and to try to identify some of them.

THE CHALLENGE OF NEW SORTS OF POVERTY

The Conferences’ attention to all who suffer, our Rule’s nearly sonorous assertion that “no work of charity is outside the Society”, should take us to examine with real interest what is happening around us and what new kinds of destitution and suffering we should attend ; to do so with special interest when the work of assistance to the material poverty, (basically in the first world as I have already pointed out) decreases in many places and so does the intensity of our devotion. For it, we should be extraordinarily aware of what is hap-

pening around us .

And to understand clearly, for example, that nothing is more impoverishing for men than the absence, intended or not, of the concept of God in our lives . Morally, man needs references beyond himself and beyond what he can discover with his own capacity , which he will not unless he encounters the infinitely merciful image of God. The situation being so, how many around us even boast today about their lack of faith in something superior to man? This is a field appropriate for the Conferences, because it is a kind of deep poverty that causes suffering and that we, with our company, with our life example, with our words , with our joy of trying to live in the presence of God even if it is with the obvious human limitations, can help to overcome . Our founders, the founders of the Conferences of Saint Vincent de Paul, are the best example to follow. They knew how to use the apologetics as a weapon to defend faith . The faith today is being forgotten in the whole western civilization, it is tried to live with one's back to it, but if we are consistent with and aware of our charisma, we have to prioritize the struggle against this doctrinal poverty, this absence of God, which impoverishes so much the human nature.

Because if food, clothes, the access to education are fortunately guaranteed in large areas of the world, how

many destroyed families do we know in the same areas? The attack to the very concept of family that we often see in many of the societies we live in, create another field of work for the Vincentians: to tell and highlight the people's need of having an education and development in suitable environments that provide the total development to which every human being is entitled.

As for the very concept of single-parent family, definition that originally indicated the unwanted absence of one of the parents, there are today who even claims it as a desired solution. It is a clear example of cowardice before life, of lack of hope in the human being's capacity of socializing and an obvious desire of not sharing with the other one the huge responsibility of the children's education and the very conjugal life in marriage . Children, so often understood and conceived more as a right of the would-be parents than as subjects themselves –the children- to the rights of growing up, receiving an education and developing in an environment which makes them free; children that are to be protected.

Loneliness increases, the radical loneliness that stems from the selfish and perverse individualism in which many live, precisely in the most affluent part of the world. Family, as a supporting group, goes through a crisis in an important part of the world. We have being going from the

traditional family in which everybody was involved, aunts and uncles, cousins, grand-parents, within which many of their members' problems were solved and, above all, where everyone felt sheltered in times of misfortune, to the nuclear family consisting exclusively of parents and children and which is giving way to the wrongly called single-parent family that I have already mentioned. The human being is gradually left without supports, in a society without God, without family, without authority. The elder, the parents, have lost their "autoritas" in a society that only values money and the capacity to spend it. What to say of the elderly people, so often abandoned and lacking the appropriate care!

We have to say it aloud, with the huge strength of the personal contact, of the capacity of the volunteers, of the lay, which the Council points out when it defines our mission of helping to regenerate the world. We have to get used to taking the hope in the capacity of good and of men, in order to improve the world that God himself has entrusted us. The Conferences cannot be indifferent to these kinds of poverty that are spreading among us. We cannot be tempted to believe, as I pointed out above, that "there aren't poor any more". They exist and with a degree of suffering and perpetuation much more obvious and even dangerous than the mere material poverty.

We are witnessing, dear fellow members, how any rule is being emptied of its moral and ethical content, emptied of the pure natural morality and not only of the Christian one. An emptying of which it will be very difficult to come out for whom has fallen in it. Whereas food, clothing, all the basic needs are easy to identify by any person by means of feeling cold, hunger, etc., moral lacks are very difficult to accept that they are missing if they are not known. If the world around us does not appreciate them for their true worth and teach them to each of the persons that join it, it will be very difficult for them to get to feel their lack. These values, are basically learned in the family, and in the fundamental family and desirably made of a couple of a man and a woman that, duly trained, feel in turn the need of conveying this knowledge, these feelings, these values to their children .

The young today, lacking so often the necessary voice and a close example that teach them to live together with a series of values that could allow them to grow and to get to be really “free men”, to reach the real condition of freedom, frequently so lacking in hope, are a good example of service on the part of the Conferences.

We Vincentians, dear fellow members, have the serious obligation of feeling in each of our Conferences these needs and of giving, within our

limited resources, the answer of our hope and the strength of our faith. We have to share with them, not the vision of a decadent world to which all of us have to get used for not fighting against the absence of values of the prevailing “unculture”. On the contrary, we have to assure that another world is possible and we have to do so with the joy and the trust in the future that have always characterised the followers of that Nazarene that gave himself for all of us.

We have to devote whole sessions in each of our Conferences to examine the world in which we develop our activity and then take on its “ailments”, get ready to collaborate with the Good God, to carry out the “role” that He has assigned to us, in the improvement of the world since the Creation.

We are – the Vincentians – specially called and more committed to action than others . Indeed, if for any Christian there is the call to keep the baptismal promises, for us, the fellow members of the Conferences, there is also the obligation of the Vincentian commitment, of that “certain vocation” about which my predecessor the President Pierre Chouard spoke and is today included in our Rule . A vocation of service to the poor in whom we try to see the suffering Christ that chose them as his real image.

WE ARE NOT ALONE

We cannot rely only on our own strength . We will not be able to achieve anything really useful, if we try to rely only on our own knowledge or even on our own merits. It is in Christ’s devotion, his abandonment “freely accepted” by and for men, where we shall find the strength to carry on serving our friends in need .

On this difficult road of swimming against the tide, of accepting that we are not able of everything, that on the contrary: so many things are left out of the reach of our strength! Only in the prayer we will find the capacity both to accept our limitations without being discouraged, and to overcome the barriers imposed by our fallen humanity .

If it has always been essential among us, in the Conferences, the individual and community prayer of the group of friends that make up each of them, today it becomes indispensable to increase our insistence on the prayer; a prayer taking us to a better knowledge of our God, the Good God that receives us. This prayer has to encourage us to deepen our formation and to accept that we are in an ongoing process of learning, regardless of our age or our life experience.

A prayer that should make us feel the close and always evocative presence of the Spirit that is to show us , to

International

lead us through the new paths that the world is claiming in order to better serve it. To serve the world better and to adapt it to God's plan.

We are not alone. Not. It is Christ who walks with the world, although we do not see him; although it is sometimes difficult for us to identify His presence when it seems that we are surrounded by so much evil. He is still close to us, waiting for us to call Him, to rely on Him. We should not try to do everything on our own. To feel Christ's presence through the prayer is an always present task for the Conferences.

Dear friends: on finishing this annual letter to all of you, a letter that causes me so much joy, both for sending it and for your beautiful answers, I want to do it as usual, recalling and appealing to Mary .

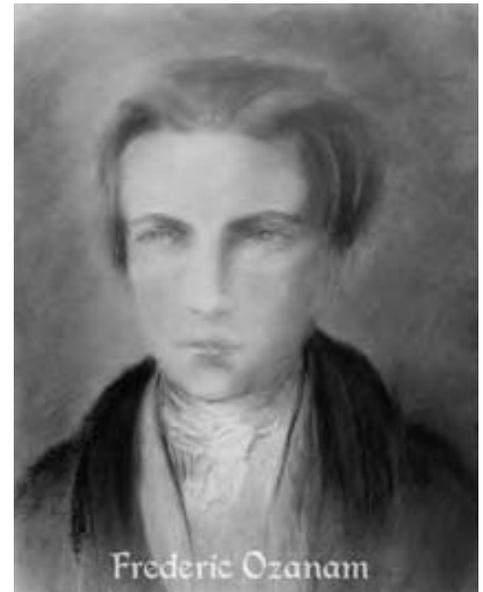
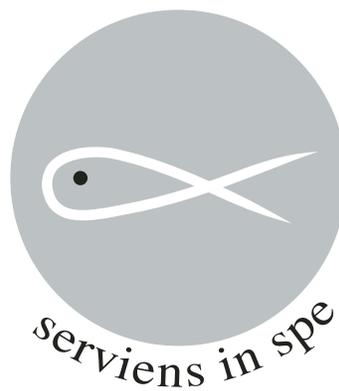
Her life was a complete example of prayer and acceptance of the Father's will. May she, together with Vincent de Paul and our founders, together with Frederick Ozanam, lead us to serve better and better the men whom God loves and at the service of whom we want to be.

With my prayer and affection
José Ramón Díaz-Torremocha
XIV General President
i.n.e.D

PS1.- Finally, let me recommend to all my dear fellow members, a care-

ful reading of the recent Encyclical Letter "Deus caritas est", by our Holy Father, the Pope Benedict XVI. If a calm reading is necessary for every Christian, I deem it particularly useful for our fellow members and Conferences all over the world. For those who have any problem getting it, they can find it in the Society's website www.ozanet.org

PS2.- I advise you to pay attention to the international campaign of the General Council for Africa. We try to set up a very important and committed action of the Conferences worldwide towards the African continent that in principle will last until the year 2.009, under the motto "The Conferences of Saint Vincent for Africa". To this end, you can send your donations to the bank account: CIC-Paris – 10041.00010581201 indicating in the remittance the Campaign motto, and those fellow members wishing to collaborate personally in the Campaign, can address to the General Council asking for further information.



In May 1833, Frederic Ozanam, only 20 years old, founds the first Saint Vincent de Paul Conference. In 1834, he is admitted as a lawyer. He marries in 1841, becomes a father and, barely 30 years old, he starts a brilliant career as history professor at the Sorbonne. He dedicated his life to serving the poor through the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Pope John Paul II beatified him at Notre-Dame de Paris on August 22, 1997.

QUOTES BY FREDERIC OZANAM

"The way of charity is to always look forward, because after all, what has been accomplished is so little compared with today's miseries, and future ones."

[Frederic Ozanam]

"Man could not look at the order of creation without experiencing some of the joy felt by a son who would find his father's trail."

[Frederic Ozanam]

SCREENING AND THE GRANTING OF A PARDON

A formalized screening procedure has been initiated for all members of the Society in Canada. All Vincentians are now asked to complete the required steps of the screening process, starting this fall. The National Council has already prepared and conducted a train-the-trainer session for all regional trainers in March of 2006.

A couple of questions from Vincentians have arisen related to Police Record Check Reports. We will try to address these concerns in this article.

The first question concerns the submission of police report requests when involvement with multiple other organizations are requiring the same report.

If a person has a recent report, that is within five years of the date of the current request, this report is acceptable. It should be noted that some organizations will only accept "original" police check reports. Copies of such reports are generally kept by the person that is concerned. However, for the Society's purpose, it is acceptable to indicate on the report that this report is a "Certified True Copy".

Second question relates to adverse police check reports.

As part of the screening process,

current or potential full members need to submit a Police Records Check Report (PRC). While a number of potential and current members may have already requested and obtained a PRC as required for their involvement in other charitable, religious or sports organizations, for others, it represents a new and somewhat sensitive screening step. This sensitivity is particularly true if a person has been convicted of a charge that may date back several years.

It should be noted that a Police Record Check Report containing such adverse information could prevent a person from becoming a member or continuing to be a volunteer or an employee of the Society. However, the granting of a Pardon for past offences may eliminate such a concern and provide a clean record report.

The Government of Canada National Parole Board (NPB) has the authority to grant pardons in Canada under the Criminal Records Act. An individual can apply for a pardon if he/she has served the sentence imposed (including fines, restitution, term of imprisonment or probation) and completed a waiting period of three years for summary convictions or five years for indictable convictions (criminal offences).

The effect of a pardon is that your criminal record will be kept separate and apart from other criminal

records, and will be taken out of the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC). Under the Criminal Records Act, only the Solicitor General of Canada¹ has the authority to disclose, upon request and in exceptional circumstances, information from a pardoned record.

However, it should be noted that a pardon does not erase a conviction. It does not allow a person to say that he/she does not have a criminal record. The NPC suggest a correct response is "I have been convicted of a criminal offence for which I received a pardon".

The procedure to apply for a pardon is explained on the National Parole Board's web site, see:
<http://www.npb-cn1c.gc.ca>
or telephone 1-800-874-2652.

Vincentians involved in the screening process are encouraged to visit the NPB site to become acquainted with the pardoning process, and with the application requirements.

Clermont Fortin
1st Vice President
National Council of Canada

¹ *The Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Department has responsibility for the NPB since its creation in 2003.*

Election National Council 2006

Dear Brother and Sister Vincentians,

I am so very pleased to communicate with all of you as President Elect of the National Council of Canada because each of you has meaning as to why I am here.

Since joining the Society in 1982, the experiences associated with being a Vincentian have indeed been vast and somewhat surprising at times! As it has been said so many times and in so many ways, if one leaves oneself open to the work of the Holy Spirit many blessings may be realized. How true! It never ceases to amaze me.

The experiences I bring to the position will hopefully empower the administrative team as well as, each one of you as Vincentians to continue in your work as we move forward together in so many different ways. I will highlight some of these experiences for you.

Of significance over the last six years has been the service I have provided as the 2nd vice president of the National Council. Utilizing my experiences as a teacher, administrator and planner etc. I have been able to assist in bringing a measure of administrative structure to the Council. To be sure, such areas as the development of a process and format for National Council Policies and Procedures, and formalizing a By Law Review and Approval process will assist each of us to work more effectively as a

team for the needs of all that we serve.

The experience gained as chair of Canada's Rule Revision Committee – provided an excellent opportunity for all members of the committee to gain a greater understanding of the Rule of the Society and its mission across the world, as well as, in Canada. The process in itself was so very worthwhile and provided an immeasurable amount of learning for all. It provided the forum for all of us to examine who we are and what we do.

Assisting with the development of the Membership Screening and Guidelines procedures and structuring its train-the-trainer workshop provided the mechanism to reinforce the main focus of what Vincentian work is really all about. Assisting others to understand it as necessary procedure for the protection of the vulnerable persons that we serve, as well as ourselves, however foreign to the Society and its work. It will always be a work in progress as needs and environments change.

Particularly useful has been the time taken in developing the National Council Annual General Assembly Planning Guidelines. The guidelines provide assistance to the hosting group when planning for the AGA in their community.

I am especially proud of the Strategic Planning Process and Mission and Values statement that



*Mme Penny Craig,
Vice-president, National Council*

were produced for the National Council of Canada. This Mission and Values statement assists in providing a sense of Vincentian community that allows us to speak with one voice. It is the “Rock” that serves as the foundation upon which we rely and work more effectively as a team for the needs of all that we serve. From a spiritual dimension, the Mission and Values provides the framework that also allows each of us to be connected as part of Christ’s “vine and branches” and to be like Him, true servants as “People of the Water and the Towel”!

In my role as National President I would like to continue to live out the Vincentian vocation in greater depth and assist others to do the same. This position is one of the most humbling experiences one may entertain. I will need all of you to pray for wisdom, understanding and strength so that we can make real and concrete what it means to be true Seekers and Stewards and all that implies in our mission of charity. If there is a challenge to “see Christ in all who suffer”, this would indeed be considered a prime responsibility.

It is not about whether we can “carry” bags of groceries, go shopping or climb steps. It is about who we are as a “gift” and about inclusiveness of those Vincentians who are less physically able and who have chosen the work of the Society as a way of living out their spirituality. It is providing these Vincentians with meaningful opportunities that will assist them to continue to live out their Vincentian life and help them never to say “I can’t do it any more...I am too old”. We need their prayers, and I dare say, the prayers of the entire parish community! We need their help to contact others that are shut-in and lonely. We need them to make those phone calls we do not have time to make to those lonely persons, or send cards to brighten the days of the sick and less able. We all need to remember that who we are is a “gift”, and it is our gift that is needed in so many ways and on so many levels, most especially from a spiritual dimension.

As well as continuing the good work started by Presidents before me, we will focus on what I consider some of the current and salient areas of need that were identified by members during the National Council Strategic Planning process. These include:

Spirituality – continue to make “Spirituality” a truly visible sign of who we truly are. Often the lack of maintaining the Gospel message at the front of what we do leads us away from our true mission and

spirituality. We need to “walk the talk” and truly “live out” the Gospel message.

Administrative Structure – continue to develop a functional and efficient structure for members and the public. By developing clear processes that help members achieve organizational and personal goals in a clear and simple manner. When processes are not clear, this invites manipulation and decisions are arrived at for the wrong reasons, and often these reasons are self-serving.

Training and Development - ensure the establishment of approved training programs and trainer development that will enhance the abilities of others to recruit and retain dedicated members.

Public Relations – this segment of the Society’s work needs attention. This was identified as a strength that is yet to come for the Society. We must be able to be found, we must be visible, and we must identify ourselves with a respectable measure of pride to the church, each other and the public.

I believe that the other elements of our Special Work such as Twinning, Advocacy, Jail Ministry etc. will each in their own way become enhanced if the administrative and educative underpinnings are in place to support these endeavors.

In summary, the decision to serve as president has not been an easy

one to make and I know that success will be ensured only if I made the decision for the right reasons. As evidenced by my objectives and vitae, I am not a “stand-alone” nor a “stand-around” type of person. I like results!! You like results!! I also realize that responsibility and accountability must be two of the most salient features that any president at any level must be ready to live out in all of his or her activities. That I promise, to be the code word of my administration.

I would like to comment at this time regarding Mr. Yvon Bussieres from Quebec City, who was the other candidate in this election. What a very delightful and special individual he is! His spirituality really shines forth! His commitment to the Society is very real and we are definitely looking at a very good candidate for President for the National Council in subsequent years. His evaluation of his experience and time commitment to both his family and community obligations speaks volumes for his ability to discern balance and justice. A truly impressive leader! I am so pleased to know him. The council will of course be including him, in some way, into the activities at the national level.

Finally, my overall vision for the Society in Canada is that “We may all be one in truth and charity!”

Penny Craig

Election National Council 2006

CURRICULUM VITAE

Pierrette J. Craig (Penny)
1610 Birchwood Cr. RR #3
Belle River ON N0R 1A0

pcraig@hospicewindsorsex.com

I was born in Ottawa on the 19th of July, 1943. I attended primary and high school in Ottawa. French was a second language learned in the home and with friends.

I married Bill in 1962 and we moved to Windsor in 1967, where I pursued my studies and obtained a Bachelor of Science in nursing. I have two sons and four grandchildren; 2 boys and twin girls.

I have been a member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul since 1982 and am presently Second Vice-President of the National Council of Canada.

PRESENT POSITION:

Assistant Executive Director, The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County Inc.

FORMAL EDUCATION

University of Windsor
Master of Arts – Religious Studies – Major: Ethics - 1999
Bachelor of Arts – 1991
Bachelor of Science – Major: Nursing – 1978
Clinical Pastoral Education Program– Level 1 – 1991/2
Therapeutic Touch – Therapeutic Touch Practitioner

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCES

1993 – Present	The Hospice of Windsor And Essex County Inc. Assistant Executive Director
1990 – 1993	The Hospice of Windsor And Essex County Inc. Clinical Director
1980 – 1990	The Metropolitan General Hospital - Windsor Staff Educator
1978 – 1980	The Metropolitan General Hospital - Windsor Staff Nurse – Operating Room
1971 – 1978	The Metropolitan General Hospital - Windsor Operating Room Technician
1967 – 1978	The Metropolitan General Hospital - Windsor Registered Nursing Assistant
1961 – 1967	The Ottawa Civic Hospital – Ottawa Certified Nursing Assistant - Psychiatry

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1972 – present	Scouts Canada - Cub Master; Service Scouter; President of District and Regional Councils; President of Ladies Auxiliary Scouts Canada – 93rd Forest Glade, Windsor Level III – Trainer Accreditation Group Commissioner – Scouts Canada - Belle River Scouting
1980 – 1988	President of the Ontario Nurses Association – Local 44
1982 – present	Member of The Society of St. Vincent De Paul

Election National Council 2006

2001 – present	National Council 2ND Vice President
1987 – present	Windsor Essex Central Council – Secretary
1984 – 1987	Parish of Atonement Conference President
1971 – present	Parish of Atonement – Founding Member
1978 – present	Guitarist for choir
1988 – 1994	Baptismal Ministry
1993 – present	Member of Catholic Women’s League

CURRENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES

The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County Inc
- Nursing/Social Work Student/Staff Orientation
- Board of Directors Orientation

The Society of St Vincent De Paul – Windsor Essex Central Council
- Orientation/Renewal Program – developed and taught
- Co Ordinator for two National AGA – 1996 and 2004
- Coordinate the AGA of the Central Council annually

Scouts Canada
- Strategic Planning – District Council and Regional Council
- Board of Directors Orientation – District and Regional Council
- Various training programs – including advanced.

PREVIOUS TEACHING ACTIVITIES

The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County Inc
- Volunteer Training Program

The Metropolitan General Hospital
- Staff In-service Education
- Staff Orientation Program
- Research and Development of new Medication Delivery System
- Development and teaching: Operating Room Technique Program.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
National Board of Directors – 2nd Vice President
Main Tasks Accomplished:

- Developed National Strategic Planning Process
- Developed, with the Board of Directors, the Mission and Values statement for Canada Council
- Developed a standardized process and format for National Council policies and procedures
- Assisted with the development of Member Screening format and training program
- Chaired the National Council Rule Revision Committee
- Chair of the By Law Review Committee
- Developed the AGA Planning Manual

MEMBERSHIPS

- College of Nurses of Ontario
- Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Windsor Family Forum
- Ontario Palliative Care Association
- Canadian Palliative Care Association
- Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario

AWARDS

December 2002 – Queen’s Jubilee Medal

Election National Council 2006

Excerpts from the speech delivered by Mr. Yvon Bussièrès, President of the Notre-Dame de Québec Particular Council, during the presentation to AGA members of candidates to the presidency of the National Council of Canada in St John's, Newfoundland, last June 24.

Dear members of the 2006 St. Vincent de Paul Society of Canada Annual General Assembly,

I am Yvon Bussièrès, member of the Saint-Sacrement de Québec Conference since 1987, and President of the Notre-Dame de Québec Particular Council, married to Lucie Bussièrès in 1977, and father of four young adults, aged 20 to 27. I am presently President of the Quebec City Council, and alderman in the electoral district of Saint-Sacrement since 1993. I received a Bachelor of Education degree and a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in theology. I initially worked as Managing Director of a recreation centre and summer camp for 10 years, from 1976 to 1986, and then 13 years, from 1988 to 2001, within the Quebec Catholic Church. I have been Lay Pastoral Associate since 1988. I am presently a member of the 2008 International Eucharistic Congress Central Organization Committee, of the Quebec Archdiocese Paris Councils Assistance Fund Management Committee, and of the Quebec Centraide (United Way) Fundraising Committee.

I accepted to stand as a candidate in the election of the Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council President upon the invitation of my brother J.C. Grant Regalbuto from the Quebec Sainte-Foy Particular Council. First, I wish to thank him, as well as my colleagues from various Particular Councils and Conferences in the Quebec area, for their trust and endorsement of my candidacy to the function of National Council of Canada President. After consulting several people around me and praying to see clearly through this call to serve our Society of St Vincent de Paul through its National Council, I agreed to stand as candidate, with the grace of God.

Why I became involved in the Society of St Vincent de Paul

About 20 years ago, I left my job as Managing Director of a community recreation centre and a family outdoor centre to go back to school and complete a Masters in Theology, while being married with four children, and without a salary for a period of two years. During these two years, my wife and I knew poverty. And it is the Society of St Vincent de Paul in my parish community who phoned to offer help for our kids and ourselves. Such a gesture of solidarity was more than vacation help for our sons, or food help for our family; it was a testimony to a living Christian commu-



*M. Yvon Bussièrès,
President, Notre-Dame de Québec
Particular Council*

nity, an ever present God who never abandons us. In that time of need, we experienced the loyalty of God and His providence. God always acts on our behalf, but through others, and the Saint-Sacrement de Québec Conference typified that presence of Christ near our family, the testimony of God among us. Therefore, after the experience I had of meeting Christ, present and living in the heart of my community, through the Saint-Sacrement Conference, I became involved in the Conference.

In addition to that, my father has been member of that Conference for several years, and finding the time, in spite of responsibilities entailed by his eight children, to be, with other brothers, this presence of Christ for needy families. My father was for me a model of faith, hope and charity.

My experience in the St. Vincent de Paul Conference

In this Conference, I experienced the brotherly love that is essential before going out to serve the poor,

in order for others to say, "See how they love each other." This brotherly love among Vincentians is a testimony to the love of Christ for all of us. It is the awareness that we are all members of one body and one community, and that no one is excluded. And we meet someone who is needy; we recognize that this person is a full member of our community, part of one body. For me, home visits are a way to get in touch with my own poverty, and the wealth I received from the needy person. It is a great privilege to tie my apron and to serve, to go two by two meeting the poor to serve, as Christ, in the home of the needy. When needy people open their door to us, they grant us the privilege to penetrate their intimacy; it is as if the Lord convenes us to a personal meeting.

My main motivation within the Society of St Vincent de Paul is precisely this experience of serving the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Church among the poorest in our society and that, to live this brotherly charity and together, meet God in the other and within myself. Therefore, it is first and foremost a spiritual experience embodied in forgiveness and sharing, it is to live, daily, a relationship of love through meeting the other and access the true love of God, a relation of Trinity love.

My thoughts on the national
presidency

This is only my second participation in the Canadian SSVP Annual General Assembly. The first time I participated in the AGA was several years ago, in Ottawa, when Robert Martineau was National President. Last year, on our Conference's 75th anniversary, we sent two of our members to Calgary for the AGA, but I did not take part in that trip.

The first thing I noticed when I arrived in St. John's is the quality welcome offered by Newfoundland people, and the personalized hospitality provided by the organizing committee members. Later on, I had the opportunity to meet our National President, Michael Burke, and the Chairwoman of the National Council Election Committee, Ellen Schryburt, as well as other members of the National Council. I also realized how good the work accomplished by the National Council members as a whole is, and I recognized in that team the loving serving spirit, the heart of the Canadian Society of St Vincent de Paul. I therefore realized that it is in good hands and that its spiritual and temporal health is excellent.

Yes, our great Vincentian family is a team with Christian values, meticulousness in its work on behalf of the poor and with great accomplishments in every region of Canada. Frederic Ozanam's vision was summarized in these words, "I would

like to enfold the entire world in a network of charity". It is so important to continue developing that network of charity in the entire country, and to support it across the world through twinning of our Conferences and Councils. The National Council must be supported by all its members to achieve its mission. As for myself, I will continue pursuing these goals in the Quebec Society of St Vincent de Paul. These are my thoughts.

I therefore withdraw from the election, in favour of Penny Craig, an exceptional person who has all the skills and availability to do a good job managing the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Canada, leading it to success. So, I will abstain this time, but I remain dressed for service, and I say, "I'll see you."

Furthermore, I will recommend to the Quebec Central Council to contribute financially to the National Council, and I will also ask the members of the Notre-Dame de Québec Particular Council to send the amount of \$240 per Conference to assist and support the excellent work accomplished by the National Council.

Thank you for your attention and let us remain united in our service to the network of charity!

Yvon Bussières

PRESS RELEASE

Québec (Sainte-Foy)

May 21, 2006

For immediate release

MR. YVES-THOMAS GAUDET, WINNER OF THE 2006 GINGRAS-LABERGE-ARTEAU VINCENTIAN MERIT AWARD

Mr. Grant Regalbuto, President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Sainte-Foy Particular Council, announced today that Mr. Yves-Thomas Gaudet has received the 2006 Gingras-Laberge-Arteau Vincentian Merit Award.

This merit award is intended to honour, in a meaningful way, remarkable contributions to the fight against poverty and social exclusion by volunteer members of the Society, in the western districts and communities of the metropolitan Québec area. "Recognition of volunteer contribution is, according to Mr. Regalbuto, a way to express thanks to particular volunteers, and to volunteers as a whole, for their continuous support on behalf of the hundreds of needy people helped by the Society. Volunteer work is extremely important; it allows the community to answer the needs of the community. It is one of the three pillars of modern society, at par with public and private sectors."

Mr. Gaudet, a retired businessman, has been active in his community

for several years; he joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1997, after participating in various Society events in the Sainte-Ursule district of Sainte-Foy for about 10 years. In Québec City, the Society has approximately 1000 active members working in 96 District Conferences and Special Works.

Mr. Gaudet has contributed significantly to the creation of youth Conferences, especially in private schools, and helped immigrants and refugees recently established in the area. He is an active member of the *Consumation-Partage* (Consuming and Sharing) program that extends interest-free loans to low-income citizens. According to Mr. Gaudet, "It is a type of sponsorship that encourages responsibility." Mr. Gaudet represents the Society to the Fonds d'entraide Desjardins (Mutual Aid Fund), intended to provide assistance to budget management, support people who struggle financially, and make a relief fund available when the ability to repay has been established during a budget consultation.

The merit award commemorates the exemplary contribution of the founders of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on the territory of the former municipality of Sainte-Foy. Indeed, Mr. Omer Gingras, President, Louis-Victor Laberge, Vice-President, and Odina Arteau, Secretary-Treasurer, all of them now deceased, created the first Vincentian Conference, the Notre-Dame-de-Foy Conference, in

December 1941.

The merit award comes with a \$500 prize that will be given, on behalf of Mr. Gaudet, to the Jean-Michel Anctil scholarship fund. The humorist has been spokesperson for the Québec City Society of St. Vincent de Paul de Québec since 1993.

QUEBEC CITY SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Summary presentation of youth works

Since 1993, the humorist Jean-Michel Anctil has been the spokesperson for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul de Québec (Québec City), particularly on behalf of the following youth works:

Service d'aide aux jeunes étudiants (Young students Aid Service) (SAJE): This program intends to help primary and secondary school students to buy school supplies, thus supporting equal opportunity.

Caravans: The Le Marginal and La Bohème caravans maintain a day and evening presence for youths in specifically selected areas: d'Youville Square and Caron Street in the Saint-Roch district, aiming to promote their development and social integration. In addition, caravan teams visit primary and secondary schools and, via special animations, work at preventing school drop-out and help youths facing

various social problems (drug addiction, bullying, rejection, etc.).

Jean-Michel Anctil Academic Scholarships: The scholarships recognize remarkable achievements by students, often from needy families, whose have shown particular perseverance during the school year. Approximately 300 scholarships are distributed every year. Primary school scholarships (5th or 6th grade) are \$250, while secondary school scholarships (1st and 2nd grade) are \$500. Normally, winners come from the area's four school boards.

Jean-Michel-Anctil Home: The home welcomes secondary level students who are on the verge of dropping out of school, or face specific difficulties (lack of self-esteem, drug addiction, aggressiveness, rejection, hyperactivity, learn-

ing difficulties, attention deficit, school dismissal or suspension, parental divorce, violence of all types, etc.). The youths visit the Jean-Michel-Anctil Home after school, and receive various services according to their needs: snacks, homework assistance, group dinners, workshops, sports, professional counselling (personal, academic and professional orientation), intended to help them solve their personal and family problems. Every year, a \$500 "Student Project" scholarship is also available to a youth who frequents the Jean-Michel-Anctil Home and works assiduously during the school year. The scholarship is intended to help young people reach a specific sport, culture or arts-related goal.



M. Yves-Thomas Gaudet 2006 winner of the Gingras-Laberge-Arteau Vincentian Merit.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

At the 2004 AGA, Members by Right approved a motion that Councils and Conferences would make an annual contribution of \$240 to the National Council. The National Council needs your support to be able to implement services and programs such as twinning, translation, preparation of the New National Rule, Vincenpaul Magazine as well as to provide printed materials, medals etc..., administer aggregation request to Paris, provide training material and support you in your expansion effort. The National Council also works with Revenue Canada to facilitate the issuing of Business numbers to allow issuing of Tax receipts as a nationally recognized charity. We recommend that you follow the normal channels to send your contribution, i.e. Conferences send their money to their Particular Councils, Particular Councils to their Central/Regional / Provincial etc.

Sincerely,

Michael Burke
President, National Council of
Canada

Council in Action

St. Justin's Conference from London Ontario participated in a Ministry Fair conducted by the Stewardship Committee within the parish in June.

Our Conference elected to approach the fair as an opportunity to enhance the awareness of St. Justin's parishioners to the outreach service provided by the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and to the social/economic needs that exists within our community.

We designed a display to be informative and to encourage parishioners to inquire further about the Society.

We also wanted to set ourselves apart from the many other ministries participating. We succeeded on every objective. Attached are pictures of our display. If any parishioners elected to join the Conference, we considered this a bonus. (8 new members joined.)

We focused on 3 themes;

HOME VISITATIONS

30 to 45 families request support monthly. Assistance provided includes food, clothing and furniture vouchers. Additional limited support is considered for education, transportation, immigration, medical and residence expenditures.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Over 4000 meals served in the current school year at 3 elementary schools within St. Justin's parish boundary. Teachers, principals, students and a team of 20 volunteers actively interact with one focus in mind - to feed a hungry child, creating the opportunity for an improved learning environment.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM

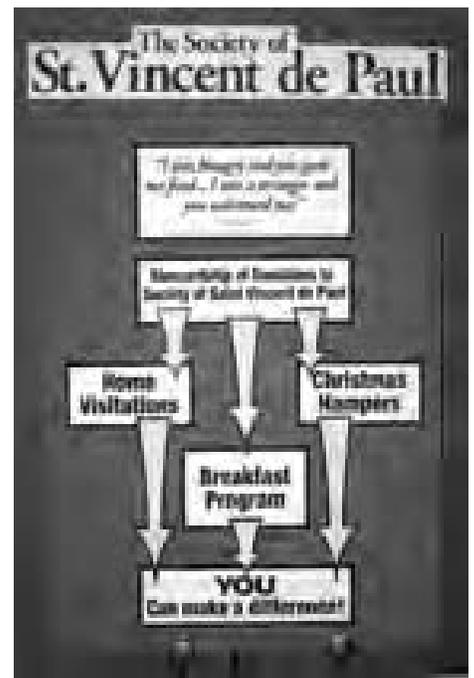
This annual program provides Christmas food and gift hampers for over 200 families. The program partners with the local Catholic high school, Women's Second Stage Shelter housing, corporate and private sponsorships. In addition the church community is invited to become actively involved.

I am very proud of my Conference members. They always deliver on any challenge I present them. They demonstrate the Spirit of the SSVP daily.

Sincerely,

Phil Bondy, President
St. Justin's Conference

PICTURES OF OUR DISPLAY PRESENTED AT THE MINISTRY FAIR IN LONDON, ONTARIO



GREETINGS TO ALL

After much worry and fear that we would not be able to host an AGA that would send delegates home both delighted and enriched with their experience in Newfoundland, it seems that AGA 2006 was a tremendous success. I guess every host city has had this fear when organizing an AGA (trying to be as good as the last one), but each place has its own uniqueness in what it has to offer to visitors.

We had all sorts of issues to deal with....communication & correspondence (enticing Vincentians to make the long trip to our island), accessible accommodations, weather (prayed for no rain, especially at the Grotto Mass), transportation, interesting workshops, as well as meals and entertainment (wanting to uphold our reputation for hospitality).

Well, it seems that although we had a few minor issues, for the most part everything worked out perfectly. The University Conference Staff were a great group of students. Accessibility issues were handled promptly and efficiently to the best of their ability. The catering staff at the university were very accommodating in all of our last minute changes and requests. Our entertainers did us proud with their exceptional talents. Workshops proved very interesting and were well attended.

Although we got off to a slow start, our committees pulled together in the end and made this AGA the success it was. You are all to be commended for your year-long commitment.

Locally, I have met many other Vincentians over the past few years,

but this was my first involvement on a national level and I met so many more great people. I especially enjoyed my mini city tour after mass on Sunday with Sister Lucille and her companion. She's so full of life and such a pleasant person. Also most enjoyable was listening to Thomas O'Flynn's stories. Don't know if they're all true - 'cause' he has a certain sparkle in his eyes when he tells them...a true Irish man with a most pleasant personality. I observed how many lasting friendships have been formed through the AGA and look forward to seeing all of you next year in Kelowna. Take care.

Regards

Judy Peddle
(Registrations
& Accommodations Chair)
25 Cowan Avenue
St. John's, NL A1E 3N6



Vincentians in front of the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, flatrock NL where the rosary was said



A great view of the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Flatrock, Newfoundland