



# Society of St. Vincent de Paul Scotland

## Annual Report 2016/2017



*Serving in Hope*

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James Mc Kendrick,  
SSVP Scotland  
National President

## Putting Love of the poor into action



**This year**, the whole Vincentian Family, worldwide, is celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Vincentian Spirituality and our Charism. For 400 years the followers of Vincent de Paul, the members of the Vincentian Family, have dedicated themselves to service on behalf of the less fortunate members of society, taking to heart Vincent's exhortation to see the face of Christ in the poor. Since 1833, our Society has followed this example of service to the poor. "the blessing of the poor is the blessing of God. Let us do what Our Lord Jesus Christ did in the Gospels: *let us go to the poor*".

Since the earliest times, the poor; the sick; the weak and the vulnerable have been side-lined to the peripheries of our communities. Their voices go unheard and their presence is unwelcome. Yet, the Gospel is very clear how we should treat these marginalised. Jesus tells us that we should feed, clothe, visit, love and welcome those pushed to the edges and forgotten. There is much scope for enrichment in our Vincentian work; sharing our food, clothes, furniture, friendship and financial resources can become an encounter in which both parties benefit. The poor receive friendship and practical help and we receive the blessing of the poor. In this way, we can fulfil Pope Francis' intention and be **"evangelised by the poor."** The poor have much to teach us and we have much to learn from them.

Our Catholic Social Teaching lays great emphasis on the dignity of the human person, and we, Vincentians, above all people should be mindful of this. In our encounters with the poor, there must be a sense of friendship, family, community, respect, mutual solidarity and involvement. As Nelson Mandela said, "What you do **for** me, without **me**, you do against **me**".

The work done by the Society, here in Scotland over the last year, is truly impressive and inspirational. Thank you! However, the future challenges we face will most certainly increase, and we must be prepared to address them. As Frederic reminds us; ***"Charity should never look behind but always in front, because the number of good deeds which we have done in the past is very small, while the present needs and future needs, which must be relieved, are always endless...."*** We must never be the priest or Levite, passing by on the other side, but always the good Samaritan, acting quickly and selflessly. In this 400th Anniversary year, let us be a Society of Hope, looking eagerly forward to the future and the service of the poor.

## How do you measure a year?

**Every day**, members of the SSVP give their time, energy and love to help people who are vulnerable and in need. They may need practical support in the form of food, clothing or furniture, or they may need help to attend Mass or access social opportunities, perhaps due to disability. However, and equally as important, people may simply welcome the hand of friendship and have someone spend time with them. These people are visited wherever they are— in their homes, hospitals or in prison for example. In fact, members regularly visit prisoners in Shotts, Barlinnie and Perth working closely with chaplaincies and visitors centres.

In this year celebrating the 400th anniversary year of the Vincentian ethos, the theme for the Vincentian Family is 'Welcome the Stranger'. Conferences have continued and developed their work in reaching out to people who have come to our country in search of safety from places such as Syria.

Working together in 'Conferences', members respond to peoples' needs in the best way that they can. This translates to tons of food being given out and thousands of hours being spent in companionship with people in need.

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

**Matthew 25: 35**

**1,833 members**  
**272 Conferences**  
**8 Dioceses**

**48,870**

Home Visits

**14,026**

Hospital Visits

**5,242**

Families Assisted Financially

**2,338**

Families Assisted with Furniture etc.

**36,151**

People transported to Mass

**887**

Outings/Socials

**12**

Caravans available for holidays

**43**

Mini Vinnies Groups

**25**

Youth SSVP Groups

**106,627**

**Total individuals/families  
assisted**

## Council of Scotland News

The National Council of Scotland is made up of Arch/Diocesan Presidents from across 7 Dioceses. They are elected by members from their Diocese. The National President leads the Council and is elected by its members. The National President then appoints a secretary, treasurer, Vice President and Twinning Officer. They meet 6 times per year.

*“When two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them”*

### Changes in representation

The Council of Scotland are pleased to welcome Danny Collins of St John's parish in Barrhead as a member of the National Council after his election as Paisley Diocesan President earlier this year. He succeeds Michael Dowds, to whom the Council wish to extend their thanks and good wishes.

### Reaching out to potential members

After a successful recruitment campaign in the Diocese of Paisley, representatives from Glasgow, Motherwell and St Andrew's & Edinburgh have now begun working on replicating the process in their respective Dioceses.

### Sharing Spiritually

The spiritual life of the SSVP and its members is always at the heart of everything that they do. As well as saying Society prayers at all meetings, members regularly come together to celebrate Masses as part of their meetings (Festival Masses) or to mark special feast days and celebrations, such as our patron, St Vincent de Paul's feast day in September. In 2017, Dioceses are also organising special Masses to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Vincentian spirituality and charism.

Members from across the country came together for the 2nd annual Mass, in Consecration to the Sacred Heart. The Mass, which was celebrated in the beautiful surroundings of the Gillis Centre in Edinburgh, was celebrated once again by Archbishop Leo Cushley.



Pictured l-r. Back row: Richard Steinbach (St Andrew's & Edinburgh), Michael Dowds (Paisley, now retired), Joe Mac Eachen (Motherwell), John Joyce (Dunkeld)  
Front row : Christine Gray (Glasgow), Sr Agnes Mc Garvie (Spiritual Director -Daughter of Charity), Brian O'Reilly (2016 Keynote speaker), Jim Mc Kendrick (National President) & Elizabeth Herlihy (Aberdeen)



Home Visits	11,466
Hospital Visits	2,151
Outings / Socials	80
Families Assisted	
Financially	948
Families Assisted -	
Furniture etc.	582
People Transported to	
Mass	2,952

## Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh

### Making a house a home

The Furniture Project continues to thrive under the stewardship of David Hunter and Moira McCrae. They now have a new storage facility from Fife Council. Donations are warmly accepted, in order that they can continue to help people in great need.



Pictured left to right are Sam Gill (SSVP), Kathleen Semple (FareShare), Moira McCrae (SSVP), Stuart Miller (Tesco) and David Hunter (SSVP).

### Working in partnership with business

The SSVP Conferences from Dunfermline and Rosyth have this year been working with the 'FareShare' scheme, which is organised by Tesco. The FareShare Foodcloud scheme provides unsold items from Tesco stores to fight food poverty and reduce food waste. It has proven a success in Rosyth with the SSVP receiving bread and bakery items to provide goods to around 30 families in the area.

### Caught on camera!

The Archdiocesan Council are delighted to have produced a video showcasing the work of the SSVP in the Fife group. Parish Conference members, along with Mini Vinnies and Youth SSVP members spent a day capturing their work with "Sancta Familia Media" in and around Dunfermline. The video is now available on [ssvpscotland.com](http://ssvpscotland.com) and on YouTube.

### A worldwide network!

Archdiocesan President Richard Steinbach & his wife Elaine recently welcomed SVDP Arizona members Jay & Doris Kilroy while they were on holiday in Scotland. They visited a project of the Missionaries of Charity in Edinburgh; Conferences in the Archdiocese continue to help the project, financially, and physically, with many of them helping to provide food for the people who seek the assistance from the project.



# Archdiocese of Glasgow

## Annual Ozanam Talk



Former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, Sir Harry Burns animated the 2017 Ozanam talk, which was held in Bl. John Duns Scotus Church, Glasgow. Sir Harry, who is renowned for his work on poverty and in particular, the 'Glasgow Effect', spoke about the many practical ways that the SSVP help people in need –

by responding to their individual situations. Sir Harry is a parishioner of St John's Parish, Barrhead.

Home Visits	7,088
Hospital Visits	3,426
Families Assisted	
Financially	1,166
Families Assisted	
Furniture etc.	213
People Transported to	
Mass	11,024
Outings / Socials	341



## A wet & windy Flag Day!

SSVP Conference and school members from across the archdiocese braved the Scottish summer to rattle their buckets and raise funds. As well as at shopping centres across the city, groups also collected at Celtic Park.

## Mini Vinnies Assemble!

For the first time, members of Mini Vinnies groups came together in prayer and friendship. 12 groups from across the Archdiocese were represented and enjoyed spending the day at 'The Space'; a fitting venue given that the theme of the day was 'Welcome the Stranger'.

As well as being a positive opportunity for the children, the teachers took the chance to share with one another and SSVP members.





Home Visits	4,387
Hospital Visits	2,025
Families Assisted	
Financially	382
Families Assisted	
Furniture etc.	124
People Transported	
to Mass	4,396
Outings / Socials	105

### St Vincent's Hospice SWC "Patient Care"

The SWC has agreed to provide financial support for a replacement hospice nurse call system in order to ensure that patient care is not at risk. The Nurse Call System enables the nursing staff to quickly recognise which patient is in need of assistance.

### Dementia Project

Inspired by Luke 14:1. 12-14, St. Mirin's Conference resolved to offer regular social lunches for parishioners living with dementia together with family members or carers. St. Charles' parish started the project off and more parishes will be invited. The lunches, made up of fish teas and held on the first Monday of the month are publicised in posters in various locations. They also provide live music and singing, a quiz and bingo. Between 25 & 35 people attend.

## Diocese of Paisley

### Holy Spirit SWC

#### Jericho Rehabilitation Units "Anything is possible"

Facing up to addiction problems can be a tough and frightening decision to make however it is also a very brave and courageous step to take. When girls come into Jericho House they are mostly in poor physical, emotional and spiritual condition; most have caused great damage to their bodies and family relations have broken down.

The Jericho Program offers group work, one to one sessions, family support groups and practical support to address these issues. It also offers fun activities to encourage girls to start having fun again. Drama plays a huge part in the recovery process of Jericho, girls participate in weekly drama rehearsals which lead onto a production performed on stage in front of a huge audience including family, friends and the public.



'Another Habit'. Jericho Project Girls

As well as the plays being fun it also enables the girls to work through self-esteem, confidence and lack of belief in themselves.

*"I love taking part in drama, the feeling I get on the night of the performance is better than any drug I have ever taken".* Service User

Jericho girls have thus far put on two full productions and taken part in a joint X Factor Christmas show with the boy's house.

*"After my first performance on stage I felt really emotional and proud that I had finally done something my family were proud of, my children loved seeing their mummy on stage".*

There are no pre-written scripts for the plays; the girls draw on their own personal experience of addiction to come up with the characters and scenes, humour and fun are added. However they also have a very strong, emotional and powerful positive message showing that you can overcome addiction and become whatever your heart desires.... Anything is possible.

## Sister Rosalie Rendu SWC (Ozanam Club) "Working in Partnership"

Renfrewshire Council's Autism Connections Team made contact through the national office and delivered an hour long session. A member of the council's team provided a brief insight into some of the ways autism can affect people and we found ourselves able to identify the traits displayed by some of our members. The team went on to explain how we could help to increase our friend's enjoyment of the Club by just being more aware of what might adversely affect them and to minimise the effect. We continue to be blessed with the gift of enthusiastic young people, each year we get between 15 and 20 new volunteers from S5/S6 in Trinity High and St. Andrew's Academy and many continue to volunteer long after they have left school.

## Diocese of Galloway

St Joseph's Conference, Kilmarnock have initiated a Mini Vinnie Group, one of only two parish based groups in Scotland. The group works closely with Alistair Thomson, Conference President, and other Conference members, helping those in their local community who are in need. Recently, in July, the group organised a food collection which received over 1400 items of food and raised £260. The food was distributed by Conference members. Conference Spiritual Adviser, Fr. Stephen McGrattan said "the Mini Vinnies are a way to encourage young people to think about the mission of St Vincent de Paul, to look for needs in the community, and to come up with their own ideas to reach out and help others."



President Pat Snee and Jim Corbett from St Margaret's Conference, Ayr joined forces with members of Queen Margaret Academy youth group to wrap Christmas presents for distribution to elderly and sick parishioners and other needy cases. St Teresa's, Dumfries Mass for the Sick, celebrated by Spiritual Adviser, Fr Jim Hayes, was well attended. The sick were transported to and from Mass. Soup, sandwiches and a chance to chat were provided in the hall afterwards.

Home Visits	4,747
Hospital Visits	485
Families Assisted	
Financially	295
Families Assisted -	
Furniture etc.	295
People Transported	
to Mass	1,242
Outings / Socials	11



*Youth SSVP members from Queen Margaret Academy in Ayr with members of St Margaret's Cathedral conference.*





*Members of St Joseph's Academy Kilmarnock Youth SSVP group on one of their nursing home visits.*

## Diocese of Motherwell

### Welcoming the Stranger

Holy Family, Mossend & Sacred Heart, Bellshill Conferences are involved with a befriending Group for Syrian Refugees which is organised by North Lanarkshire Council.

### Reaching out to senior citizens

Sacred Heart Conference Bellshill also held a successful Christmas Party for Senior Citizens as did other Conferences throughout the Diocese. St Gabriel's Conference, Viewpark gave out over 100 gift vouchers to Senior Citizens at Christmas.

### A busy year in Rutherglen

As well as their regular visits and distribution of food through a food bank, St Columbkille's also organises a Gift Tree at Christmas when donations from Parishioners are given out to families in the deanery. Their Christmas Party for Senior Citizens and clients from the foodbank is well attended. These projects are well supported by Youth SSVP and Mini Vinnies groups at Trinity High School and St Columbkille's Primary schools. Pupils at all schools also benefit from a fund which has been set up to provide uniforms and fund pupils in need attending school trips.

●	Home Visits	16,283
●	Hospital Visits	4,206
●	Families Assisted	
●	Financially	1,847
●	Families Assisted	
●	Furniture etc.	963
●	People Transported	
●	to Mass	14,105
●	Outings / Socials	318
●		
●		



### Furniture ready for those in need!

The Diocesan Furniture Project continues to provide furniture for anyone in need thanks to the donations of parishioners and others.

Conference members from St Bernadette's, Motherwell worked hard to clear out the furniture unit in Netherton, Wishaw. With all health & safety issues resolved, the project has now moved back to the unit after being based in a generously rent free unit in High Blantyre temporarily.

I want to embrace the world in a network of charity.” Frederic Ozanam , SSVP Principal Founder

## Diocese of Dunkeld

### At the heart of the community

In partnership with St Pius Parish, the Conference at Dundee University have been very active this year, by no means least in setting up a community café, which runs every Saturday afternoon. Over the course of the year, the café welcomed 2,070 people through it's doors, who not only received food, but can also access newspapers and games, as well as a warm welcome provided by those volunteering at the café.

This café joins the existing café at the parish of the Immaculate Conception, who give their time to providing food, advice and friendship.

Home Visits	3,441
Hospital Visits	1,033
Families Assisted	
Financially	142
Families Assisted	
Furniture etc.	51
People Transported	
to Mass	1,611
Outings / Socials	21

## Diocese of Argyll & the Isles

Although small in number, the two Conferences in the Diocese work hard to do 'what they can, when they can'. In Oban, 5 of the 6 members work full time and have families, but make sure that they provide food to people who need it in their community. In a similar way, the Conference in Campbeltown help the local food bank and visit people when they can.

Home Visits	12
Families Assisted	
Financially	40

# Diocese of Aberdeen

## Keeping spirituality at the centre

Conference members from Aberdeen East and West enjoyed a day of Spiritual Reflection with Fr. George Hutcheon at Pluscarden on Saturday, 8th October 2016.



Home Visits	1,446
Hospital Visits	703
Families Assisted	
Financially	30
Families Assisted	
Furniture etc.	110
People Transported to Mass	821

## St Peter's, Aberdeen

Before Masses on the weekend of 8th and 9th July 2017 the 400th Anniversary cards for the charism of St Vincent de Paul were given to every one as they arrived at church. After Mass Conference member Maureen Sinclair, gave a presentation about the work that was taking place in the parish. The collection that week was really generous and has remained slightly higher than before.



**Our Lady & St John the Baptist, Ellon  
Senior Citizens Lunch**



Guests at the national caravan have easy access to the beautiful beach.

As well as **Diocesan caravans** throughout the country, the Diocese of Aberdeen plays host to the national caravan at Nairn on the Moray coast. Diocesan President Elizabeth Herlihy reports that in 2016/17, despite a slow start the caravan was well used. She extended her thanks to St Mary's Conference, Nairn for the provision of welcome food packs for the visitors. In particular, thanks to Emily and Marites for the maintenance of the caravan.

## St. Ninian's, Inverness

Conference members regularly visit patients in the local hospice. The Conference donated many books for the library.







## Youth News



Young people are involved in the SSVP in a number of ways. They may be part of the parish Conference or give their time at a 'Special Works' Conference such as an Ozanam Club. They may also be involved in Mini Vinnies group in their primary school (of which there are 43 groups) or a Youth SSVP groups in secondary (25 groups).

Young adults are also involved in a number of ways in addition to working with parish Conferences – at University Conferences (Glasgow & Dundee) and through assisting with the National Youth Development Programme, organising events for example.



### National Youth Day

65 young people from Youth SSVP groups from across the country were led in a programme on the theme of 'Welcome the Stranger' by a group of young adult volunteers. Speakers from the Maryhill Integration Network and Justice & Peace Scotland brought to life many issues facing refugees and asylum seekers.

Young adult volunteers with guest speakers at the National Youth Day.

The '**Voice of the Poor**' overnight conferences were once again held in October 2016, welcoming third year pupils from 16 schools to learn about the SSVP, poverty and how they can help people who are vulnerable and in need.



## Vincentians in Partnership

One of the main focuses this year has been the Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism throughout the country with national celebrations taking place in Southwark Cathedral in February; Liverpool in June and Carfin in September. All parts of the Vincentian Family gathered to celebrate Mass on each occasion and attracted large congregations.

## Twinning News

### Ian Tierney, National Twinning & Projects Officer

Over the last two years, the number of twins we have in India and South Africa has slightly been reduced. This is mainly due to the fact that several of our Scottish parishes have been linked together and as a result several of our twins have disappeared. As a result I would be delighted if any of our Conferences were able to take on a new twin. I would like to thank all our

conferences for their generosity and help throughout the year in the various aspects of twinning and humbly ask for your continued support as twinning is such an important part of our Vincentian work.



Twinning Income	India 281 Conferences	South Africa 106 Conferences	Total Amount Received
Twins and Special Donations	£36,531	£13,040	£49,571
India (student twinning)	£13,770		£13,770
	£50,301	£13,040	£63,341

### The Project Fund

**Project Income received 2016/2017 : £6,170.00**

Generous donations have allowed for many projects to be funded.

No. of Projects Funded	India 9 Projects	South Africa 1 Project	Hungary 1 Project	Total 11 Projects
Amount (includes funds from previous year)	£ 8,472.92	£ 800.00	£ 2,000	£ 11,272.92

We have been able to provide funding for all the projects requested over the last two years although your continual financial support is always required to carry on the good work as each project costs on average between £700 - £800 Among the projects funded were Fish Vending, Computer Projects, Goat Banks, House Repairs and Self Help.

### Student Sponsorship: Total no. of Students 278

Amount	No. of Student Years	Amount Received
Vocational £20 - 1 yr.	113	£2,260.00
Technical £35 x 3yrs £105	119	£4,165.00
Vidya Jothi £20 - 1 yr. (sponsoring of school child).	95	£1,900.00
Higher Ed £55 x 5 yrs. £275	99	£5,445.00
	<b>426</b>	<b>£13,770.00</b>

As education is so crucial to young people in India offering them opportunities for employment in future life our Sponsorship of students is much appreciated.



## International News

### Vincentian Family Global Initiative on Homelessness

June 28, 2017 marked the official announcement of the Famvin Homeless Alliance, an initiative of the Worldwide Vincentian Family to reduce and wherever possible, eliminate homelessness in its multiple forms. This ceremony took place at the European Parliament, by invitation of its president, Antonio Tajani, who wished to honour the work of the followers of St. Vincent de Paul with the people living in poverty, especially with the homeless.

In harmony with the global definition of homeless developed by the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), the attitude and actions of welcoming the homeless include action with and in favour of people living in the streets, refugees and internally displaced people and slum-dwellers. The urgency of this issue is evident: The most recent UN reports on this topic suggests that, of the 7 billion people on this planet, more than 1.2 billion fall within this IGH three-tiered definition of global homelessness. It is one of the great social ills of our time.

<http://en.ssvpglobal.org/News/CGI-news/the-Famvin-Homeless-Alliance-a-new-initiative-of-the-Vincentian-Family-Worldwide>



16th International President General Renato Lima de Oliveira (pictured while addressing young people at a parish in Chile) visited 7 countries across Europe, Asia and Central America in March, Canada in July, with plans to visit Africa in February 2018.

### The Vincentian Family at the UN

Representatives of the Vincentian Family at the United Nations in Geneva (Daughters of Charity and Society of Saint Vincent de Paul) took part in the 34th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2017. The session focused particularly on the situation in Syria, and renewed the mandate of the international commission of enquiry on fighting impunity. The main task of the representatives of the Vincentian Family in these international bodies is to attend meetings, providing a link and working closely with United Nations representatives. As we know, through its work the Vincentian Family endeavours to respond to many of the objectives it shares with the United Nations: to eradicate poverty throughout the world, protect the dignity of suffering people, promote peace and justice in the world and make the voice of the poor heard at an international level. Through its presence at the United Nations, the Vincentian Family tries to achieve these objectives.

<http://en.ssvpglobal.org/Newsletters2>





# Financial Report 2017

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Scotland)

### Summary Accounts 2016-2017

#### INCOME

##### Donations

£158,475.00

##### Legacies

£144,915.00

##### Box Collections

£1,196,026.00

##### Secret Collection

£48,040.00

##### Total Income

**£1,547,456.00**

#### EXPENDITURE

##### Charitable Activities

£1,354,476.00

##### Support costs

£135,310.00

##### Governance costs

£11,968.00

##### Total Expenditure

**£1,501,754.00**

#### Expenditure Items

##### Relief

£943,163.00

##### Conference Expenses

£102,359.00

##### Twinning

£74,614.00

##### Donations

£126,425.00

##### Youth Development

£7,147.00

##### Staff Costs

£96,663.00

##### Office Buildings

£24,702.00

##### Auditors remuneration

£11,500.00

# Vincentians Working Together In Scotland



Daughters of Charity  
of St Vincent de Paul



**Society of  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Scotland**

