

September 2019

Ozanam

News



Society of
St. Vincent de Paul
Scotland

P members of all ages
get together in prayer
and friendship
to provide moral
and spiritual
support to all



Backing Shelter to end homelessness

Mini Vinnies
Afternoon Tea Party

SSVP National
Conference

#AyeWeCan



Letter from National President

Dear brothers, sisters, friends and volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP),

I would like to take this opportunity, through the publication of the Ozanam News, to provide a progress report.

I was elected as National President just over six months ago. So far, I have had a very pleasant, encouraging and memorable experience and some highlights include the following events.

Earlier in the year, I was invited to speak at the Easter Festival at St Margaret's in Fife. In June, I joined other Vincentians at the National Mass celebrated at St. Margaret's Chapel in the Gillis Centre, Edinburgh and most recently I was involved in the Galloway Festival meeting held at St John the Evangelist Church, Cumnock.

On each of these occasions, I have had the privilege of meeting and talking with a large number of Members and others. This level of communication has enabled me to work towards fulfilling the priorities referred to in the Easter Edition of the Ozanam News.

I am grateful to the National Council, SSVP Members, and many active friends and volunteers for their commitment, contributions and continued support and of course, our dedicated staff at the National Office.

This edition of the Ozanam News, along with the Annual National Report, highlights the many ongoing works of charity we collectively provide. The future of the Society is in our hands.

Thank you all

Danny Collins
National President

Council of Scotland

Sr Agnes McGarvie

National Spiritual Adviser

Daniel Collins

National President Trustee

James Heneaghan

National Treasurer Trustee

Richard Steinbach

Trustee - St Andrews & Edinburgh

Joe Maguire

Trustee - Glasgow

Joe Hendry

Trustee - Paisley

John Joyce

Trustee - Dunkeld

Elizabeth Herlihy

Trustee - Aberdeen

Pat Carr

Trustee - Motherwell

Pat Snee

Trustee - Galloway

Kate Kelley

Twinning Projects

Patricia McCartney

Social Justice Coordinator



**Next submission deadline is
Thursday 7th November 2019!**

Publishing Policy

1. The objective is to publish a new Ozanam News, which will be issued three times per year, May, September and November. To facilitate this, a publications committee has been formed and a member of the National Council has been made responsible for its operation. The publications committee will normally meet two months before going to the printer. As at present, the actual putting together of the magazine will be the responsibility of the National Office staff, who will select the printer and liaise and coordinate with all preproduction functions. 2. In accordance with National Council requirements, the intention will be not to feature 'editorial' pieces. Any material deemed to detract from the Society's broader aims will be approved by the National Council prior to publication. Hopefully these arrangements will help the new Ozanam News develop into a more humorous, educational and spiritual publication which will concentrate on bringing the Society, its Members and Associates closer together. With this Togetherness in mind, National Council Agenda business could well become a regular feature in the magazine. In the main, letters for publication will normally be from twinning parties- regarded as reports. Other letters will be accepted for publication with an added footnote or returned for discussion by the respective council and/or president if thought to be more appropriate.



Understanding the Vincentian Family

Sisters and Brothers together worldwide



International Association of Charities:

The International Association of Charities is a worldwide association of volunteers – mainly women – founded by Saint Vincent de Paul in 1617 to combat poverty. The Confraternities of lay volunteers help the disadvantaged in society. At grassroots level, individuals and volunteers respond to situations of poverty and suffering in a way that matches need with members' availability, skills and resources. AIC projects mainly focus on education, health and social inclusion. More information is available at www.aic-uk.org.uk and www.aic-international.org



Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul:

The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul (DC), reach out to those who are poor wherever they may be. The forms of service the Daughters of Charity are engaged in at any given time, depends upon needs of those who live in poverty and their ability to respond. More information is available at www.daughtersofcharity.org.uk



Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services:

DCSVP Services inspires voluntary sector organisations to be innovative, sustainable and effective in their response to poverty in the UK. A key driver for the creation of DCSVP Services was identifying a need for change in the delivery of services due to the declining number of Daughters of Charity. Today, none of the subsidiaries are led by Daughters of Charity, although each have a minimum of two Daughters on their Board of Trustees. More information is available at www.dcsvpservices.org



The Louise Project:

A subsidiary of DCSVP Services is The Louise Project. The vision of The Louise Project is to enable individuals and families to transform their lives and their community and to intervene and change structures to take people out of poverty. To enable this to become a reality, their mission is to work with the poorest people in Scotland across five streams of activity; community drop in, building better futures, building for social justice, community integration and building community. The Space is the first initiative of The Louise Project and it serves dominant migrant ethnic groups in Govanhill, Glasgow, in particular the European Roma. More information is available at www.thelouiseproject.org.uk



Congregation of the Mission:

The purpose of the Congregation of the Mission is to preach missions to the poor, especially to the poor living in the rural areas who at the time of St Vincent, were abandoned by the Church. At present, the Congregation, often referred to as Vincentian Fathers, has 3,106 members living in 507 local communities in 95 countries on five continents. The Congregation is composed of priests and brothers, consecrated by vows to the mission of evangelising the poor. Their primary work is popular missions and lay formation. These missions might be short-term (3 to 5 weeks) or long term (six to ten years). Confrères are also involved in parish administration and higher education. More information is available at www.cmglobal.org



Famvin:

Famvin is a global network of people, supported and connected by websites, for news, reference materials, formation materials and a variety of social networks. Famvin connects a community of more than 2 million people who seek to follow Christ, the evangeliser of the poor in the model presented by the life of Vincent de Paul and his collaborator, Louise de Marillac. More information is available at www.famvin.org

Speaking earlier in the year, the President General International stated the following: "The Council General gives its full support to Vincentian children, teenagers and young people, because we do believe that they are a source of renewal for our Society. Today's young people will become tomorrow's Vincentian leaders." SSVP Scotland is eager to continue to show its commitment to young Vincentians and educational resources are part of this promise.

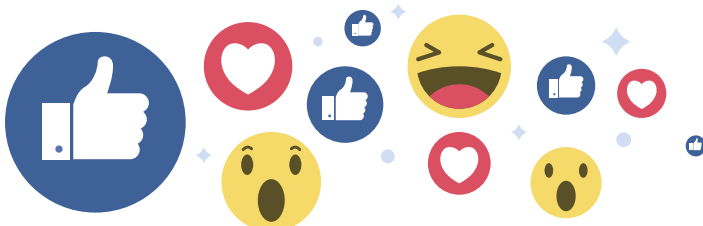
Following discussions with teachers at our annual Mini Vinnies Assemble and SSVP Youth days, the need for updated resources for Mini Vinnies and Youth SSVP meetings became clear.

New and revised resources are now available online at www.ssvpscotland.com including starter pack information, PowerPoints, discussion activities, prayers and reflections.

These resources will provide young people with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as meeting the experiences and outcomes outlined in the Curriculum for Excellence. In addition, they directly link to the 'This Is Our Faith' syllabus for Catholic religious education in Scotland, which is published by the Scottish Catholic Education Service on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Scotland.

Community Spirit

St Anne's Primary School, Glasgow (pictured below) have taken on the Vincentian spirit in their first year of formation. Just before the summer holidays, the Mini Vinnies organised an Afternoon Tea Party for the older members of the community. The school choir and musicians provided some entertainment at the event.



Mini Vinnies Poem

Mini Vinnies are
Individuals who are
Nice and loving, who are
Incredibly focused on our parish,
Very, very focused!
Individuals who
Never stop, and
Never quit, who help to prevent poverty,
and help the
Ill and sick, never mind help people prepare
for sacraments and go to almost
Every special event and Mass, not just in St
Stephen's but in wider areas like Glasgow,
So let's continue to do all of these things and
all the other things Mini Vinnies do because
every penny we raise, and every meeting we
have, helps somebody.

*By a Mini Vinnie at
St Stephen's Primary, Dalmuir*

An insight into being a Mini Vinnie

In May, SSVP Scotland received a request for information from Brother Julio César Marques de Lima, Territorial Vice President for South America who is writing an article for the General Council website regarding Mini Vinnies internationally. Rosaleen Steele (Mini Vinnies representative on Motherwell Diocesan Council) and Lucy Mason (Youth Development Co-ordinator) spent time talking to Mini Vinnies from St Athanasius Primary School, Carluke (pictured below) to find out more!

"During Lent we organised 40 challenges'. We all did something nice for somebody everyday but didn't tell anyone, it was between us and God."

"I joined because I want to help people..."

"I wanted to join because my Grandpa was the president and I want to continue the good work he did..."

"As the President, I have learnt it is important to put others before yourself."



"I have learnt to help other people and pray for them and to believe more in God."

"It has been interesting to learn about the different charities and societies and the good work they do."

"We made up a song about Mini Vinnies and the work that we do. We performed this in front of the whole school, our parents and the local community..."

"During advent we took part in a reverse advent calendar and collected for a foodbank. We also took boxes around the classrooms and collected food from other pupils..."

Faith in Action

Youth volunteers continue to volunteer at Paisley Ozanam Club at both club nights and special events. On Saturday 22nd June, they assisted with taking 36 club Members and carers to Blair Drummond Safari Park. President Caroline O'Neil expressed that 'an enjoyable day was had by all'. Lucy Mason (Youth Development Co-ordinator) had the opportunity to visit the club on a club night in May and meet with the S5 and S6 pupils who volunteer, she said 'It was a joy to see the relationships they had developed with the Members'.



(SSVP Youth Members who volunteer at Paisley Ozanam Club on a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park in June 2019.)

SSVP Scotland Annual National Meeting 2019

"Housing is a human right"



'Be instruments of charity'

Bishop John Keenan of Paisley Diocese was chaplain at Glasgow University when he became the spiritual director of an SSVP conference started by students.

He said the students were helped to be more attached to their faith and that "through the joy of living out discipleship and socialising together, the students and I felt part of the SSVP family".



Joe Maguire, Diocesan President of the Archdiocese of Glasgow, signed for our Deaf Conference. Members' faithful attendance and participation at all our national events is always appreciated.



Speaking to SSVP members while drawing on the readings of the day, Bishop Keenan said: "You have learnt to love from God and you have become instruments of charity - with no fanfare".

Bishop Keenan is known across the UK for being an engaging speaker and is often asked by the mainstream media his opinion on the topics of current affairs.

One member said: "Mass was joyful - Bishop Keenan gave a most apt and enlightening sermon, which was a wonderful start to the National Meeting".

Backing Shelter to end homelessness

Lisa Borthwick and Cathy Steeghs of homeless charity Shelter spoke movingly about their campaign to see the right to a home enshrined in Scottish Law – see full report.

An SSVP member said: "Shelter were fantastic. This was a great opportunity to widen knowledge and understanding of housing rights and what we as conferences can do."



New resources to boost our youth

Always a high point of the meeting is the participation of young Vincentians.

Staff and pupils represented Mini Vinnies from **St Anne's Primary School, Glasgow** with youth being represented by pupils and staff from **St Ninian's High School, Kirkintilloch**.

Lucy Mason Youth Development Co-ordinator, speaking on her last day in her role, gave members an overview of the new and revised resources, which are all available online (see the Youth News section). Our thanks and appreciation to Lucy, for the outstanding

contribution, which she has made to our Youth work. We wish her well in her future career!



Photo's from the National Meeting



The Annual meeting would not be complete without including representation of our wider "Vincentians Working Together in Scotland". A well-known face, Margo Uprichard, of the Space Project and The Louise Project returned to the annual conference to thank members for their generous support and give an update.



Displays included: SSVP Scotland; Social Justice - Shelter Resources & SSVP Resources; Mini Vinnies and Youth SSVP; Vincentians Working Together in Scotland, including The Space, an initiative of The Louise Project, a subsidiary of The Daughters of Charity.



Bishop John, with Members of SSVP National Council.

Backing Shelter to end homelessness

- Report from SSVP Annual National Meeting 31st August 2019 -

"Housing is a human right"

Key Note Address from Shelter Scotland, Lisa Borthwick, Senior Campaigns & Policy Officer and Cathy Steeghs, Adviser (Glasgow).

I was very kindly invited along to speak at the 2019 SSVP Scotland Annual Conference in August on housing rights in Scotland. Timing-wise this worked perfectly as Shelter Scotland had just launched a new campaign the week prior, which received a warm reception at the conference.

Shelter Scotland helps over half a million people every year struggling with bad housing or homelessness through our advice, support and legal services. And we campaign to make sure that, one day, no one will have to turn to us for help. We're here so no one has to fight bad housing or homelessness on their own.

Scotland has some of the most progressive housing legislation in the world, and over time people should be finding it easier to secure the safe home that is so vital to a fulfilling life. People don't know what their rights are and public bodies, struggling under the weight of cuts in services and increases in demand, are unable to enforce them. For thousands, a safe, secure and affordable home is still out of reach.



There is lots you can do.

Shelter
Scotland

We have lots of advice online at shelterscotland.org/getadvice or a **free helpline** for individuals in need of housing advice on **0808 800 4444**.

Alternatively, if you are supporting someone in housing need we have a service offering free advice to frontline support and advice staff and volunteers throughout Scotland available on **0344 515 1310**.

Use your voice to support our campaign! Find out more and sign the petition today to make housing rights, human rights at shelterscotland.org/areyouwithus

Social Justice Update

As the Social Justice Coordinator for SSVP Scotland, I have signed up for a variety of electronic bulletins, from different organisations on Social Justice topics. These bulletins contain a lot of interesting information, which I share with you on Twitter (@SocJustSSVPScot). However, as many of you do not use Twitter, by the time I get this information, filter out what is relevant and then arrange to disseminate it through our usual communication channels the event / news is often out of date!

To support those Members who do not use social media, a regular bulletin will be distributed to all Conferences and available on the SSVP website (www.ssvpscotland.com). To supplement this, I would like to make direct contact by email, with Members who are interested in and want to support Social Justice issues. This would enable me to share not only general Social Justice topics with you but also information that is relevant by geographic area at a Diocesan, Group and Conference level.

If interested please email me indicating the Diocese, Group and Conference of which you are Member and then we can take it from there!

Thank you,

Patricia McCartney

socialjustice@ssvpScotland.com

KEY DATES

7th-13th October 2019:
Challenge Poverty Week

4th November 2019:
Community Food and Health (Scotland) annual networking event.

4th November 2019
Priceless Community Food and Health (Scotland) annual networking event, Edinburgh.



Priceless is an annual networking event organised by Community Food and Health (Scotland) for everyone who values the contribution of low income communities in addressing food insecurity, health inequalities and social exclusion.

For further details:
www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk/2019/priceless/

#AyeWeCan

Challenge Poverty Week, 7th - 13th October 2019

Challenge Poverty Week is coordinated by the Poverty Alliance and designed to highlight the growing problem of poverty in Scotland and solutions we can all get behind. It is also an opportunity to commit to more action in the future. Last year nearly 200 events were organised by organisations, individuals and elected representatives as part of Challenge Poverty Week. This including some of our own SSVP Conferences / Groups.

Challenge Poverty Week is a real, practical opportunity to build a stronger movement against poverty and demonstrate our values of justice and compassion. At a time when life is becoming tougher for many people, it is vital that we build support for solving poverty. This

initiative should be regarded as a personal call to all of us as Members of SSVP.

For an Activity Toolkit to give you some ideas of how to get involved, and examples of activities that have happened or that are planned for October 2019 or for more information, please email Campaigns Officer Irene at irene.tortajada@povertyalliance.org, or check on their website www.challengepoverty.net.



Conference News:

“Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another.” St. Vincent de Paul

George Lavery, President SSVP Nairn

Our conference in Nairn is very active with an enthusiastic membership, albeit small in number, who are reaching out to the needs of various community projects. We receive great support from the Parish Community and our new Spiritual Director – Fr Damian Martell. The conference has provided funds for some local school projects – breakfast club/ outdoor activities. The national caravan is located at a beautiful site in Nairn and some of our members look after it.

Our latest project involves visiting care homes in the town of Nairn to provide an afternoon of music. We have enlisted the help of 2 musicians – Andy & Jeannie, brother and sister – who play songs well loved by the care home residents on keyboard and guitar.

Our photograph below shows Andy and Jeannie with George Lavery, President, and Sandy Grant, Member, together with some residents, staff and parishioner at a recent visit to one of these homes.



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF KINDNESS IN KILMARNOCK by Amélie Davidson

St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, Conference celebrated their 150th Anniversary on Sunday 9th June. In order to mark their work in Kilmarnock over the years, Bishop William Nolan of Galloway Diocese and parish priest Fr Stephen McGrattan celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph's Church. The Church was packed with parishioners, service users, supporters and representatives of SSVP from the town and from other divisions in Scotland, including Mr Daniel Collins (National SSVP President) and Mr James Heneaghan (National SSVP Treasurer).

The first SSVP Conference to open in Galloway Diocese was in St Andrew's Church, Dumfries on 2nd February 1862. The next Conference to open was in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on 1st November 1868, closely followed

by that of St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock on 1st April 1869.

Pupils at St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock also marked the anniversary by organising a collection of non-perishable items which were donated to St. Joseph's Church SSVP.

Alistair Thomson, President of St. Joseph's Church SSVP, said: "I have been a member of St Joseph's SSVP Conference for fourteen years. During this time, the help we have given to people has grown rapidly. "We have held a café group every Wednesday morning in the Church hall, since 2006. Each week, the recipients are given a bag of groceries, a ticket for lunch at the Howard Centre, and a cup of coffee or tea, biscuits and





sandwiches. At Christmas, we have a party where the recipients are given a gift". Mr Thomson spoke of the difficulties faced by the people whom St. Joseph's Church SSVP help. "These visitors have a wide variety of problems - drugs, alcohol, loneliness, and those who have just been released from prison. They are vulnerable and in a fragile state.

Many lead lives which, to them, seem to have no purpose. Their lives are lived in grinding poverty and so they seem to have very little hope of change," he said.

Looking back at his time as a member of the SSVP,

Mr Thomson said: "The greatest satisfaction I receive comes from trying to give them a short respite from their troubles. A real affinity is developed with many of them. The lonely give you their phone numbers in the hope that, if you do not see them for a few weeks, you give them a phone call. This lets them know that they are wanted and respected. "These people have much to offer. They are human beings, many with a good mind and a good sense of humour. "To foster this, through regular contact, is a gift I receive from them. Just to see them smile and laugh is great. For this I am grateful. Long may it continue."

St. Aloysius News

St. Aloysius Chapelhall SSVP wishes to announce the Ordination of Father Kevin Lawrie to the Priesthood on Tuesday 16th July 2019. Fr. Kevin was a former member of the Conference until he left in 2015 to take up his studies at Oscott College. The Brothers and Sisters of the Conference would like to congratulate Fr. Kevin and wish him well in his future ministry



Obituaries May they rest in peace

- **Charles Ambrose**, Former National Council Secretary/ Group Secretary, St Mary of the Angels, Camelon
- **Marie Stephenson**, Former Member, St Peter's, Edinburgh
- **Rosemary Mackie**, Former Secretary, St Columbkille's, Rutherglen
- **John Markey**, Former Member, St Anthony, Rutherglen
- **Josephine Thomson**, Former President, St Benedict's, Drumchapel
- **Helen Doherty**, Former Member, St Michael's, Dumbarton
- **David McKenna**, Former Member, St Francis, Port Glasgow
- **Mary Jane Johnston**, Associate Member, Sacred Heart, Bellshill
- **John Wright**, Former Secretary, Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride
- **Bishop Joseph Devine**, Former National Spiritual Director, Motherwell
- **Frank Beatty**, Former Member, St Michael's, Dumbarton
- **Peter Mooney**, Former Member, St Francis, Port Glasgow
- **Deacon Jaques Cooke**, Active Member/ Spiritual Advisor, St Mary's, Inverness
- **Eddie Welsh**, Active Member, St Mary's, Lanark
- **Ann Millar**, Former Member, St Bernadette's, Motherwell
- **William Wood**, Former Stirlingshire Group President/ Active Member, Our Lady of Lourdes & St Bernadette, Larbert
- **Hugh Ryan**, Secretary, St Joseph's, Helensburgh
- **Jim Rush**, Former Secretary, St Patrick's, Shieldmuir



Vincentians

Working Together In Scotland



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

