

October 2020

Ozanam

News

Spirituality - Responding to our Vincentian Call

**Adapting to the
Financial Impact
of COVID-19**

**Mini Vinnies &
Youth Projects**

**4th World Day of the
Poor 15th November**



Council of Scotland

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2021

18
FEBRUARY

**Next submission deadline is
Thursday 18th February 2021!**

The Ozanam News relies on your contributions. Send articles and images (jpg or png format only, no PDFs) to: communication@ssvpscotland.com. Please provide full caption details for photos. We are unable to accept paper submissions. Articles should be written by email or attached as a Word document.

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.

Message from 12th National President

Danny Collins



My sincere regards to our brothers, sisters, friends and volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Scotland. I hope and pray that everyone during this worldwide pandemic has found the inner strength through the Holy Spirit to overcome the serious challenges we all must face.

Adaptation to A Changing World

Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. It seeks to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. It gives priority to the poorest of the poor and those who are most rejected by society. SSVP (Scotland) Manual & Rule Book.

Serving the poor is to be our first preference

Despite the situation we find ourselves in I take great comfort knowing that Vincentians have adapted to the changing world conditions, necessary to try and ensure that health restrictions have not completely prevented the SSVP from providing services to those we serve. I am aware of many initiatives taken throughout the dioceses in Scotland, which required us to adopt a different way to deliver services for example:

- Working more with others to provide groceries to the poor and needy.
- Participating in Food Voucher Schemes.
- Keeping in touch (by telephone) with those we normally visit.
- Responding to referrals by meeting family members outdoors....

Extract from the VINCENTIAN PROMISE

"Do you agree to cooperate actively with Vincentians in neighbouring parishes, throughout Scotland and other countries? I do".

Since the development of the SSVP there has been an expectation that local Conferences struggling through a "shortage" of resources could rely on neighbouring Conferences and/or diocesan councils to provide assistance and encouragement

to our brothers and sisters to enable them to continue to support those we serve.

I am aware that there are many instances throughout Scotland and Internationally where the Vincentian Promise has been put into practise. These Twinning arrangements at a local Conference, diocesan council, National and International levels are essential to ensure that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul achieves our Vincentian duties, particularly in these difficult times.

Meetings of the Vincentian Members

The members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in Conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action. Spiritual bonds and friendship between members are essential, as is the common mission to help the poor and the marginalised. "The entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian friends". SSVP (Scotland) Manual and Rule book.

I have no doubt that members having been denied the opportunity to hold regular meetings are missing the Spiritual benefits that we receive from them. This unfortunate circumstance should not prevent all members from saying their Conference prayers every week, so that, we may receive a spiritual blessing together in the comfort of our own homes.

I am encouraged by the number of Conferences who have been able to hold meetings by using the technology available. It is also true that many Conference members do not have the facilities or capacity to use this alternative method of communication. I therefore encourage those members to offer their Conference prayers in the traditional way, which in my opinion is equally rewarding.

It's Now that Matters

"The NOW moment is the moment of destiny" not the past, not the future, but the HERE AND NOW. Fulfil it well with all your strength and you will be accumulating great rewards. SSVP (Scotland) PRAYERBOOK.

175th Anniversary 1845 – 2020

Archdiocese of Glasgow – *coping in the crisis*



For the foreseeable future it appeared to us at Glasgow Archdiocese that Conferences in some areas were likely to struggle with income as a result of reduced numbers able to attend mass, parishioners still shielding, and the general pattern amongst the public of using cards to purchase goods rather than cash. This being the case, we devised an alternative approach to our usual source of funding via the parish box collection. We encouraged Conferences to consider introducing a standing order or direct debit option to their parishioners or alternatively use contactless machines either handheld or in stand-alone units that parishioners could use to make their

donation. We noticed that in England the society there had introduced this idea on their national website.

To proceed with this Glasgow Council produced forms for standing orders and direct debit both of which included the Gift Aid option. These were sent to group presidents along with some guidelines on how to implement this change in the parish. This would supply the tools for a Conference to hopefully ensure a steady income, allowing them to continue to serve their poor through the uncertain times ahead.



Summer with COVID at St Ninian's Knightswood

“Covid stopped our usual routine of visits and meetings with a bang. We were lucky in that a local restaurant had obtained funding to supply free hot food to those who were self-isolating, so along with our members at Corpus Christi parish we teamed up to deliver a weekly drop off of pizza, pasta soup and bread. Deliveries were made every Wednesday afternoon over a period of four months and the food was very well received.



When the restaurant notified us that the food offer was closing, the Conference fell back on the continued cash donations coming to us from parishioners.

This allowed us to provide emergency payments to people in the area who were struggling. Those in need had many various issues including drug and alcohol addiction, mental health issues, financial debt because of imprisonment and a family denied the right to work and access to benefits. To bolster the financial outlay, we applied for support to Faith in the Community Initiative and received a grant of £300 which was very quickly spent on our cases. Currently, as income continues to be a problem, we are looking at other methods such as presenting the parish with a standing order/direct debit option as well as the familiar route of internal twinning. We have coped so far but we are living in straitened times and praying earnestly that a second lock down is not around the corner”.

Around the Conferences



St Andrews and Edinburgh – Working Through!

The work of SSVP St Andrews and Edinburgh has been going on apace throughout lockdown. In the early days, food parcels were dropped off to households in need to ensure that no one went hungry. Later as restrictions were eased, it became possible to check up on vulnerable people from a safe social distance. They really appreciated being able to see a friendly face and have a little bit of company.

Over on our furniture project we have managed to keep going throughout. Delivery methods have changed in line with recommendations, but we have managed when requested to provide essential items to people in need. We are grateful to all our wonderful volunteers who have made it possible for beds, furniture, and white goods to be given to those in need, making their lockdown that little bit easier. We are still welcoming donations of these items to have on standby so we can respond to need.

We are in the early stages of a new partnership with the Catenians through director John Russell. They have kindly donated funds to our work and some of our members have helped at their foodbank in Bathgate. This is a great example of how Catholic organisations can work in tandem to find God in the poor.



St Ninian's Hamilton – Working Round Restrictions

St Ninian's Hamilton were another parish where the work did not stop even though Masses and meetings did. Requests for help remained high, coming in through the Conference mobile and via the Parish Priest, who is often the first point of contact.

for them. It meant we were able to find out if anyone needed something other than food such as having a prescription collected.

Social media really came in handy as we used our parish What's App and Facebook pages to co-ordinate the monthly food donation scheme. As we could not be inside the church, we decided to hold the donation drop off in the church car park. It was the first time many people had seen each other for months, and they were able to enjoy an outdoor catch up at a safe social distance. We were humbled by how generous the parishioners were at this difficult time.

Having no income during this time, we applied to Faith in Communities Scotland and were fortunate to receive a grant. This enabled us to buy a smart phone for a terminally ill parishioner who had no family in Scotland. This meant they could connect through video to family in England and spend precious time in face to face conversation.

We also bought food vouchers for local schools to distribute to families in need and purchased stationery items to help local pupils with home schooling. Our assistance was also offered to our Church of Scotland neighbours via their Minister and Elders.

Food packages were dropped off at doorsteps and visits were replaced with phone conversations. It was difficult to be apart from the people we connect with, but we found safe ways of still being there



St Edward's Airdrie- All Hands On Deck!

At St Edward's Conference, lockdown saw them busier than ever! They received a total of £1800 in grants from Faith in the Community and Neighbourly Community Fund.

These were used to establish a School Clothing Initiative to help families at St Edward's, St Dominic's, Hilltop and Tollbrae Primary schools, which lie within the catchment area of St Edward's parish.

Another School Clothing Initiative was launched to support our eight remaining Primary Schools and two Secondary Schools. Conferences have been very supportive and with the help of a contribution from diocesan funds, a cheque was issued to each of the ten schools at the start of the new term.

Linking with Airdrie Foodbank in partnership with Scottish Gas employees, members delivered food to families in need and also helped financially with utility



St Margaret's receiving cheque for uniforms.

bills and food as the health crisis worsened. In doing this we supported several of the Airdrie Conferences where all the members were self-isolating.

We linked with a local grocer who purchased food items from the Cash and Carry to help us save money. Thirty boxes of chocolates were delivered to some of our elderly parishioners who were confined to their homes. In addition, Conference members have been keeping in touch with them by phone to help combat loneliness.

Plenty of Care to Share in Ayr!

Like most Conferences throughout the country, we, in the Ayr Conference have been greatly confined in our activities due to Covid-19 and the accompanying restrictions.

However, we have continued to support our communities as best we can by making sure that our Conference phone number and contact has been well communicated via parish newsletters, church website and Facebook sites.

Members have been restricted to responding to calls for aid, or when alerted by input from parishioners. Obviously, home visits have had to be curtailed and aid has been distributed at "arms-length" via letter boxes. Personal interviews have been carried out by phone. Face to face meetings now happen at a safe distance.

We have still been able to support our local foodbank, practically by supporting their needs, and have made food vouchers and food parcels available where required.

In all of this we have been admirably supported by our Parish Priest, Father David Bolland, who quite often is the "first port of call". Also, the Parishioners of St. Margaret's Cathedral and St Paul's in Ayr have been consistent in their generosity to us, allowing us to continue as best we can.



In addition, we have managed to maintain a limited furniture store with the help of younger volunteers. We have maintained close liaison with St John's Primary and Queen Margaret Academy, who advise us of any families that require assistance.

Please God, we will get back on an even keel soon. In the meantime, Conferences have been urged to keep an eye on their neighbouring Conferences to share resources through local twinning as required.

Paisley's Pattern for Pandemic Priorities

Paisley Diocese have been busy responding to those in need during the pandemic. The furniture project received many requests from different Conferences to help displaced families. Motherwell Diocese have kindly offered the Paisley furniture project one of their vans. This is a true blessing as we are having a serious problem with our trailer, so this will make a huge difference to our service. We were delighted to receive donated sleeping

bags and footwear from AGM factory in Queenslie. These will be going to the homeless forum in Greenock. The individual Conferences are keeping in contact with those in need via phone calls and knocking on doors to make sure no-one is left without food or electricity. It is wonderful the way parishioners have been supporting us through these strange times and many thanks to Parish Priests for their support.

Adapting to the Financial Impact of COVID-19

by James Heneaghan, National Treasurer.

The current Coronavirus pandemic has had a down turn on the funds available to SSVP. With Masses postponed then limited, the income into parish Conferences has been greatly diminished. As Vincentians, we are finding ways around this issue.

I am encouraged by many local initiatives, including: benefiting from funding opportunities; invitations via parish newsletters to donate to Conference, limited collections at Masses, where possible, and including an invitation to support via a regular standing order.

Diocesan Councils are already supporting a small number of Conferences which are struggling. As per our Society Rule, Conferences who have healthy bank balances can assist via Local Twinning of Conferences in their Diocese who are low in funds, to enable them to assist those in need in their areas. This also enables dues to be paid and the wider work of the Society of St Vincent De Paul to continue. As an example: In the Motherwell Diocese where they have been proactive in changing this system to improve efficiency. Funds are collated & distributed centrally by the Diocese using the benefit of electronic banking, which allows funds to be transferred quickly. Conferences must not leave themselves short and unable to assist the needy in their parish/area.

Likewise, members might consider making a donation in lieu of the secret collection, as a sign of continued solidarity. In 2019/2020 Members donated over £43,000 nationally.

I will be in touch with Treasurers directly in the coming weeks. There is much work to be done and many challenges to be faced in the year ahead, however I trust that by the Grace of God, and working together as Vincentians, we will find ways to support those most in need and maintain our stewardship of the Diocesan and National Councils in Scotland.



Twinning news

Update from Brother Cyril in India

Kate Kelley Twinning officer shares letter from Blessed Virgin Mary Assumption in Perumal Palayam.

“Dear Kate,
Wishes and greetings in the name of our founder Bl. Frederic Ozanam to all your office bearers of SSVSP Scotland on behalf of our Conference. We celebrated the feast of the Assumption in St Sebastian Church. All safety arrangements were effectively managed, by Fr., Sagaya Christu Raj. Special Prayers were offered for the Coronavirus pandemic.

Amidst this difficult time, by the people’s contributions, we bought clothing for 13 school children at a cost of Rs.7000/. In addition, we supported two students with Rs.250/ in cash as their education fund. In this pandemic, our India has suffered a lot. We came in the top among the affected nations. Here people are very much affected by this virus. They really need financial assistance very much for their basic needs.



Twinning BVM Assumption Perumal palayam India

We offer special prayers for your people who are affected by this pandemic. Once again, on behalf of our Conference, may our Mother Mary and Jesus guide you during this period.

A. Cyril, President

International News

Another step closer to Sainthood for Blessed Frederic

On September 24th, the inquiry on the alleged miracle ascribed to Bl. Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam was concluded after an 11-month investigation. The closing ceremony was held at the Archdiocesan Curia of Mariana in Brazil.

16th President General, Renato Lima will personally deliver, God willing, this documentation to the Vatican’s Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

He said: “It was an historic day for the whole Church, especially for us, fellow members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It was also a very moving ceremony,



President Renato with documents

since the cause for Ozanam’s Canonisation was started 95 years ago, looked forward to by all the Vincentians in the world. As the official courier, I will have the privilege and immense honour of personally delivering the documents in Rome, where the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and their experts will review and scrutinise the investigation as part of the process.”

Spirituality - Responding to our Vincentian Call

By Sr Maria Robb DC, Spiritual Director



September is a wonderful month for the Vincentian Family.

We celebrate the Feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam on the 9th, St Jean Gabriel Perboyre CM on the 11th and St Vincent de Paul on the 27th.

Each of these Vincentians were called by God to take His love and compassion, His charity, to those who carry the cross of poverty.

Vincent was called to break open new doors and lead the way in living out his faith and his call to priesthood by serving Christ in his sisters and brothers who lived on the margins of society of 17th century France. His calling led to what we now call the Vincentian charism.

Frederic was called 200 years later to live out his faith by serving Christ in his sisters and brothers who were poor, in 19th century France through the Vincentian charism.

Jean Gabriel, a Vincentian priest and contemporary of Frederic, was called to live out his Vincentian call as a missionary in China where his ultimate call was to die for his faith as a martyr.

Although God had called each of these men to be a Vincentian, the way God invited them to live out their call was quite unique. Each one responded to the needs before them as God directed them to.

Today it is you and I who are being called to live out our faith under the Vincentian 'banner'; to serve Christ in our

sisters and brothers who live on the margins of society in 21st century Scotland.

For us, that means living out our unique call in these days of a pandemic that restricts many of us from responding as we might want to. Like St Vincent, St Jean Gabriel and Bl Frederic we need to ask the Lord how He wants us to respond today. Our call is unique and therefore our response will also be unique. Each of us will respond as God needs us to.

Vincent, Frederic, Jean Gabriel – all names to us, names we recognise as members of our Vincentian Family, but each one was a breathing, thinking, feeling person of their time, who felt the pain of their sisters and brothers who were carrying the burden of poverty. They were men whose eyes and hearts were directed to these people by Christ so that they might, like Simon of Cyrene, offer to share the weight of the cross, even for a short part of the journey.

YOU and I have been called to this ministry as Vincentians today.

Stay close to the Lord because He who calls us will lead us to those He wants us to serve.

Let us pray for each other that we might hear His voice calling, even during all that distracts us in these days and ask Vincent and Frederic, 'What would you do today?'

Obituaries - May they Rest In Peace

Patrick McCleave, Treasurer, St James, Coatbridge

Noel Kidd, Former Member, St Charles', Paisley

John Moohan, Former Member, St Mary's, Paisley

John Docherty, Active Member, St Francis', Port Glasgow

Jean Elliot, Treasurer, Sacred Heart, Grangemouth

Dennis Hallahan, Active Member, St Bernadette's, Tullibody

Patrick McPartlin, Former Member, St Joseph's, Blantyre

Mary Johnston, Active Member, St Joseph's, Tollcross

Elizabeth Wallace, Secretary, St Maria Goretti's, Cranhill

Nora Herron, Former President, Sacred Heart, Grangemouth

Edgar Hickie, Active Member, St Patrick's & St Catherine's, Shotts

Bernard Thomson, Active Member, St Thomas', Wishaw

Michael McGunnigle, Former Member, OL & St Mark's, Alexandria

Mary Lamond, President, St Mary's, Inverness

George Lavery, President, St Mary's, Nairn

Joseph Collins, Active Member, St Teresa's, Newarthill

Billy Noonan, Active Member, St Kessog's, Balloch

Bill Houston, Former Glasgow Archdiocesan President, Group President, member of St Louise Arden and Our Lady of the Wayside Conference, Glasgow

Victor McCluskey, Former President, St Brigid's, Kilbirnie

Robert Hosie, Former President, St Joseph's, Helensburgh

Edward Higgins, Secretary, St Thomas', Riddrie

William McGrady, Former Member, St Cadoc's, Newton Mearns

Mary Bradley, Former Member, St Albert's, Pollokshields

James Burnett, Vice-President, St Brendan's, Yoker

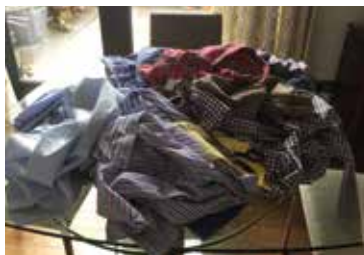
Agnes Burns, Former Treasurer, St Joseph's, Tollcross

Beatrice Goodwin, Active Member, St Eunan's, Clydebank

Andrew McCartney former member St Michael's Conference Dumbarton



Social Justice – The Practical Approach



Donated clothing.

Social Justice Co-ordinator, Tricia McCartney decided on practical action by making masks at the outset of lockdown. This was a great instance of leading by example and of thinking on a practical level of “What must be done.”

Tricia said: “During the early days of lockdown, it became apparent that the wearing of masks might be something that we all have to do. To get ahead of the curve and before

shops opened, I started to make masks using shirts, tea towels and bed linen donated by friends and family. I then put the finished masks into a polythene bag with a SSVP sticker on it and gave them into our parish church for anyone who might need/want one. Donations for SSVP were welcome but not essential by any means. It’s been hard to know how much money each mask has raised but over the course of time since lockdown, donations have continued. I hope they have helped maintain the profile of our work during these challenging times.”



Shirts re-purposed as masks.

National Living Wage Week 9th-15th November

The Living Wage Foundation are planning a week of raising awareness of the many workers in Scotland who are still living in poverty. During this time, they will be sharing information and campaigning for more companies to embrace this positive step for workers.

Katherine Chapman, Director, Living Wage Foundation said: "With talks of the planned increase to the statutory minimum wage being frozen, it is important to recognise over 6,500 employers who go beyond the government’s minimum and pay a real Living Wage, including those that ensure over 100,000 key workers are paid according to the cost of living." "This year has been challenging

for both workers and businesses alike. However, the pandemic has disproportionately affected the lowest-paid workers, many of whom are already struggling to keep their heads above water on the minimum wage."



SSVP Scotland supports Living Wage & is an accredited employer. More details can be found at <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/> <https://www.scottishlivingwage.org/>

Shaping the Future Together:

A number of SSVP Conferences have worked with and been supported by Faith in Community Scotland, during these months. SSVP Scotland are now exploring opportunities to develop this collaboration. Over the next 12 to 18 months they plan to bring together a number of local faith groups and associated community anchor organisations who are keen to journey with and learn from each other as they

adapt their work and experiment with changed circumstances, in the midst of considerable uncertainty and challenge. The emphasis will be on mutual peer support, exploring questions together and piloting potential ideas and ways forward, with financial and staff support from Faith in Community Scotland.



Lockdown has been a challenging time at SSVP Youth. Our plans for Mini Vinnie and Youth days had to be shelved and most disappointing of all was not being able to visit schools and spend time with our wonderful young people.

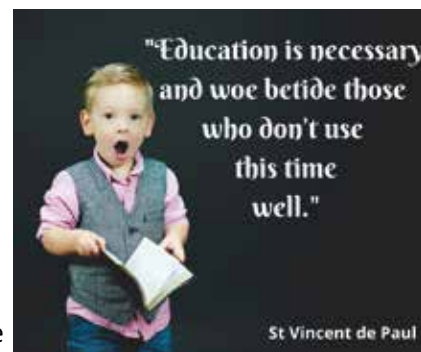


Chalk picture of St Vincent in purple.

So, in the words of Bon Jovi "When you can't do what you do, you do what you can." What we could do was turn to technology. Facebook, Twitter and email became vital in maintaining connection with our pupils and teachers. Our first activity was to celebrate St Vincent's Birthday on 24th April. Our Mini

Vinnies responded with their talents by drawing pictures and writing stories about our Patron.

We have been developing new resources based on the lives of St Vincent and Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Both of their feast days in September were celebrated with a new phenomenon - a Facebook Festival! We shared pictures, quotes, stories, and videos of our Patron and Founder all day long. These events connected Youth with the wider membership and pupils across the country were able to attend virtual Mass whilst at school. The response was very positive and stretched round the world, receiving praise from a member of the Canonisation committee and from President General Brother Renato Lima.



Airdrie Deanery Mini Vinnies Keeping Busy

"During lockdown we set up the Mini Vinnies Twitter page to help celebrate and promote their wonderful work. Schools have told us about some of the activities they have been involved in pre-lockdown, for example ' St Edward's Pancake Tuesday Cafe', a special Mass in St Aloysius led by Mini Vinnies , All Saints' massive food collections for Trussell Trust and our last Commissioning Ceremony at St David's prior to lockdown.

St Edwards Primary Mini Vinnies have produced and posted an excellent video entitled " Faith, Friendship and Action" on the Mini Vinnie Airdrie/

Coatbridge Twitter page. This has been inspirational to all who have viewed it and enjoyed a trip down memory lane.

St David's Mini Vinnies led a virtual rosary during the month of May, bringing prayer and technology beautifully together.

Our Mini Vinnies produced fantastic pieces of research and PowerPoints on the life of Frederic Ozanam for his feast day celebrations and children from a number of primary schools attended a virtual mass in his honour."



twitter

@CoatMini

4th World Day of the Poor “Stretch forth your hand to the poor” 15th November 2020



Pope Francis shares his message for World Day of the Poor on 15th November 2020. Here we have printed some extracts from Vatican News in which the Holy Father echoes the values of St Vincent de Paul. The full text is available at the Vatican website www.vatican.va As members are unable to meet for this year's Annual SSVP Retreat, this may offer a suitable reflection during these weeks.

“Stretch forth your hand to the poor” (Sir 7:32). Age-old wisdom has proposed these words as a sacred rule to be followed in life. Today these words remain as timely as ever. They help us fix our gaze on what is essential and overcome the barriers of indifference. Poverty always appears in a variety of guises and calls for attention to each particular situation. In all of these, we have an opportunity to encounter the Lord Jesus, who has revealed himself as present in the least of his brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40).

.... the metaphor of ‘stretch out your hand’ takes on its deepest value because it forces us to face words of the Lord who wished to identify himself with those lacking the essentials and who live in conditions of social and existential marginalization.

The message points out several situations that during these months under the pandemic have evidenced an outstretched hand and that have become etched in everyone’s mind: “The

outstretched hand of the doctor who cares about each patient by trying to find the right treatment. The outstretched hand of the nurse who, well beyond her or his working hours, remains to look after the sick. The outstretched hand of those who work in administration and provide the means to save as many lives as possible. The outstretched hand of the pharmacist exposed to numerous questions in a risky contact with the people. The outstretched hand of the priest who blesses with grief in his heart. The outstretched hand of the volunteer who helps those who live on the street and those who, despite having a roof, have nothing to eat. The outstretched hand of men and women who work to offer essential services and protection. And other outstretched hands, we could still describe up to composing a litany of good works. All these hands have defied contagion and fear in order to give support and consolation" (n.6).

In many ways, the image of stretch out your hand, closely recalls the logo that, from the very beginning of Pope Francis' initiative, has accompanied the World Day of the Poor. The outstretched hands are those of two persons: one is standing on the doorstep of the house, the other one is waiting on the outside. The appeal is striking because it evokes how much both need each other. The outstretched hand of the poor is begging but is also asking the person on the doorstep to come out himself in order to break the circle of selfishness that surrounds everyone.

National Office Bid Fond Farewell to Elaine

This summer saw National Office saying farewell to long serving staff member Elaine Gorman after over 20 years service. The accolade of appreciation sent on the occasion of her early retirement confirms how much SSVP members valued Elaine's service over the years. Members & staff wish her well for a long, healthy and enjoyable “early” retirement.



Elaine retirement.

Ian's award for Outstanding Service to SSVP

Ian Tierney President Sacred Heart, Bellshill & former National Twinning Officer has been awarded the Bene Merenti Medal for many years of Christian duties including over 25 years' service as a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Ian was involved over 15 years with an organisation called “Hope” which provided support for prisoners on release and with their families during difficult times. In response Ian said “Needless to say I am absolutely delighted and honoured to receive this award and I thank all those members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul who helped me in my work”.



Ian Tierney.



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