

Special Edition September 2022

Ozanam

News

From the Early Days
to Here & Now



International
Visit

Local News

Summary Accounts
2021-22



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Next submission deadline is Thursday 2nd March 2023

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Any News - Any time

Also send your Conference news, together with any photos to
communication@ssvpScotland.com Your news can then be shared.
Ozanam News Next submission deadline is Thursday 2nd March 2023
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 National President Danny Collins

president@ssvpscotland.com



Dear brothers, sisters, friends, and volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Scotland, I am delighted and privileged to write the introduction to this "Special" edition to the Ozanam News.

I am pleased that the national council agreed that this publication should include three distinct sections namely: (1) CGI report on their international visit to Scotland, (2) Ozanam News Update, and (3) Summary Audited Accounts 2021-22.

I also would add some comments, firstly to mention that it was not possible for CGI President General Renato to visit the eight dioceses in Scotland within four days, hence the reason why the national council decided to select those with the greatest number of conferences and to contract Sancta Familia Media to capture the events as they unfolded.

I am encouraged by the reports which refers to local conferences working together, this good practice needs to be replicated throughout Scotland there is no doubt there are other examples of this elsewhere, we would like you to let us know so we can share this information.

In conclusion I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all involved in the preparation and delivery of a very successful international visit and for the ongoing Vincentian work carried out daily.

Serving in Hope

Danny Collins

National President

A CAFOD prayer for Ukraine

Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength, and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen

CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.



Thank you - SSVV Scotland Conferences nationally have donated £40,000 to support CGI CIAD International Solidarity Fund. Donations continue and are most welcome.

Visit of the 16th President General International



**International Confederation
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Council General International
16th President General International**



Letter 42/2022
Paris, 27 June 2022

To dear
Brother **DANIEL COLLINS**
National Council President
SSVP SCOTLAND
GLASGOW
SCOTLAND

Copy to brother **Laszlo Koenczoel** (ITVP Europe 1)

Subject: Special thanks.

*Dear brother Danny,
Dear Scottish National Council leaders,
Dear presidents of Conferences, Councils, and special works,*

1. May this letter find you in God's grace. I earnestly ask you to convey to the National Council of Scotland, and to the local Diocesan Councils visited, my sincere thanks for the very kind way I was received during the institutional visit I made from June 21 to 25, 2022.
2. I had the joy of visiting Edinburgh, Glasgow and Motherwell. My thanks to brother Richard Steinbach (Edinburgh), brother Joe McGuire (Glasgow) and brother Pat Carr (Motherwell) for their warm welcome. I appreciated all the events prepared to me. And it was a great honor to attend the Holy Mass on the 175th anniversary of our Society in Scotland.
3. I was very impressed by the religious fervour of the Scottish Vincentians, endowed with great spirituality, compassion and empathy for those who suffer. They truly know that the "poor" are all of us, not only those without material goods.
4. Everywhere I went I felt completely at home. Everybody was kind enough to show me, in detail, the projects and initiatives underway in all these places. Thanks a lot for the presence of "Sancta Maria Media", because they broadcasted live all main ceremonies and made all the pictures of the trip.
5. I would also like to thank the three Councils that I visited for the local transportation, and food expenses, among other kindnesses, that I received during my trip. The Council General International thanks you all from the bottom of its heart for this gesture of charity towards me and brother Laszlo Koenczoel.
6. I always learn many new things when I travel, whether in the Vincentian Conferences visited, in the social works, or in the very friendly meetings in the Councils and parishes.
7. These visits are essential to broaden the President General's vision, for it is through them that I can more accurately prepare the Circular Letters I write each year or share successful Scottish projects with other Vincentian territories around the world. In these trips, frankly speaking, I am the one who gains the most in view of the affection, the knowledge, and the discoveries that I am favored with.
8. Dear brother Daniel Collins, keep taking care of our Society in Scotland with simplicity, dedication, and servant leadership. I learned a lot from you in these days.

Many thanks to Scotland for the wonderful days I spent there.

A big hug to all of you.

See you soon. Vincentian greetings,

Renato Lima de Oliveira

16th President General International

Motto of the Presidency 2016/2023: "If anyone wants to be first, let him be last of all and servant of all" (Saint Mark 9, 35b).
Council General International: 65, Rue de la Glacière - 75013 PARIS (France)

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SSVP Scotland welcomes President General International Renato Lima de Oliveira and Vice-President László Könczöl.

Compiled by International Territorial Vice-President, László Könczöl.

The President General International (PGI), Renato Lima, visited Scotland from Monday, 20th June until Saturday, 25th June 2022, accompanied by the International Territorial Vice-President Europe I (ITVO), László Könczöl. Both visitors arrived on Monday 20th June afternoon at Edinburgh Airport.

They were welcomed at the airport by Richard Steinbach, President of the Archdiocese of St. Andrews & Edinburgh and Haydn Carr-Pollock, President of West Lothian Group Council, who was the driver of Brothers Renato and László during the entire visit. After a joint dinner in a restaurant the guests were taken to their hotel in the Old Town of Edinburgh.



Visit to Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh

The first day of the visit, Tuesday 21st June, was devoted to SSVP in the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh. The programme started with a Holy Mass in St. Margaret's Chapel, Gillis Centre, Edinburgh celebrated by Archbishop Leo Cushley. At the end of the Mass Brother Renato gave a short talk and presented a medal of Frédéric Ozanam's beatification to the Archbishop.

After the Mass an Extraordinary National Council meeting followed with a warm welcome to PGI Renato and ITVP László.

The main

topics of the meeting were power point presentations of the National President, Danny Collins, on actual activities of SSVP Scotland and of PGI Renato on SSVP worldwide. The latter was supplemented by a short presentation on the Scandinavian Mission by ITVP László.

After lunch Renato and László attended a joint meeting of three Conferences, which reported on their close cooperation namely St. Gregory the Great, St. John Vianney and St. Catherine of Alexandria, Gracemount, where the meeting was held, with members from all parishes attending. Later this evening a short movie about this day could be watched online TV, since two young staff members of "Sancta Familia Media" escorted the visitors during the entire visit, broadcasting live all main ceremonies and taking pictures of the trip.



Brother Vincent Lamour 100th Birthday

On Wednesday 22nd June a visit to the Archdiocese of Glasgow was on the programme. The first stop was at the home of Brother Vincent Lamour, a retired member of 56 years' service now celebrating his 100th birthday. This was followed by a visit to the SSVP National Office that allowed Renato and I to meet and chat with the office manager and staff based there and after this all of us moved to a local restaurant for lunch.

Frederic Ozanam Centre

A short drive from the National Office brought us to the Frederic Ozanam Centre situated in the centre of Glasgow which offers a change of clothing to needy people in the area on Thursdays and, soon to reopen, a cafeteria on Sundays, both staffed by SSVP members and volunteers. Two members were on hand to give the group a short, guided tour of the premises and a user of the centre had been invited along to give a different perspective on the centre from the user's standpoint.

St Mary's parish church

Leaving here the group then headed to St Mary's parish church in Calton to meet members of the SSVP - St Vincent's Deaf Conference - where Renato was helped to make conversation with the members through sign language (British Sign Language) by brother Joe Maguire and sister Liz Ann followed by a short tour of the church itself.

Louise Project 'The Space'

Another drive took us to the Louise Project on the south side of Glasgow called 'The Space' and there met Margo Uprichard the project manager who explained that the project was community-based working with the people from the Romany community now living in Glasgow to improve literacy and integration into their new environment. A final stop saw the group meet with the Daughters of Charity at their house in Pollokshields for a light buffet (3 courses!) and a chance of a rest before the final event of a very busy day the Mass at Blessed John Duns Scotus where the St Francis Pipe Band welcomed us into the church.

Mass was said by Archbishop William Nolan at the end of which Brother Renato presented the gift of a medal to the Archbishop. A get together in the church hall nearby with the members of the society completed the event.



Diocese of Motherwell

The Diocese of Motherwell was the destination on the third day, Thursday 23rd June. In the Diocesan Centre of Motherwell, the visitors met Bishop Joseph A. Toal and the President of the Diocesan Council Pat Carr. Together they drove to Carfin to meet at the Xavier Centre with teachers, youth, and Mini Vinnies from Airdrie. Here, a silver plate with an engraving from Youth SSVP of Scotland was given to the President General.

After nice talks with the Vinnies a short tour of Carfin Grotto followed with visits to the All-Saints Reliquary Chapel, to St. Vincent's statue and to the Lourdes Grotto.

In the afternoon a visit to the SSVP Furniture Unit took place before teatime in the Chapel House of St. Bernadette's Parish. The Holy Mass in the evening was also attended by Mini Vinnies from Carlisle displaying self-made posters with biblical text passages and images. The Mass was followed by a buffet in the Church Hall including gift giving to the guests.



Final visit and Farewell

The final day of the visit, Friday 24th June, was again in the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh. The morning started with a tour of the Scottish Parliament and a talk with MSP Angela Constance on social issues. Then the Vincentians drove to Rosewell, where they visited St. Joseph's Homes, a work in Vincentian spirit supporting people with learning disabilities.

The day ended with Holy Mass at St Patrick's Church in Edinburgh and unveiling the 175th Anniversary Plaque of the first Conference in Scotland by PGI Renato.

The next day Brothers Renato and László were taken to the airport, where they had flights to their respective homes.



Around the Conferences

St Andrews & Edinburgh Archdiocese

My dear fellow Vincentians, it was with a heavy heart, and some regret, that I made the announcement at the belated St. Patrick's 175th Anniversary Mass on the final day of CGI President Renato Lima de Oliveira, and International Territorial Vice President László Könczöl visit, to retire from my post as President of the Archdiocese of St. Andrews & Edinburgh, and National Vice President. It has been an absolute pleasure to have been in those roles for such a long time, but I feel that now is a good time to let someone else take over the reins. I have met many people from all walks of life, and made many friends, who hopefully, will remember me in a good light, and please, do not pass me by on the street if you see me.

As we have seen recently, when everyone comes together and works towards a common goal, then we begin to see a way forward. This was no more evident, than during the CGI President's recent visit, when three Conferences came together in Edinburgh to deal with social and poverty in their area. Facilitated by Bobby Murdoch, Edinburgh Group Council President, St. Catherine's, St. Gregory's, and St. John Vianney, all came together to help alleviate poverty in their area. This shows just what can be achieved when everyone works together and helps each other out.

On that theme, I would ask each and every one of you, to do some soul searching, and guided by the Holy

Spirit, seriously consider taking up positions of office in our Society. We currently need a Group Council President for all four areas in St. Andrews and Edinburgh.

I will still be around to help anyone who needs it. "See the face of Christ in the eyes of the poor"

Yours in St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic, **Richard Steinbach.**

Acknowledgement

The National Council members have expressed their appreciation to brother Richard Steinbach for his commitment, dedication, and personal contribution as a SSVP member, Diocesan President of the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, and National Vice President. We wish brother Richard a happy healthy retirement from office (not from the Society) and hope that he can now enjoy more time with his family.

Serving in Hope

**Get more involved
accept the task**

**It is not too much
for us to ask**

**Step forward now
and do your best**

**The Holy Spirit
will do the rest.**

Glasgow Archdiocese

A servant of God and the Society Fr Willie Monaghan became the SSVP Glasgow's current spiritual director in 2000, a new millennium and a new role for Father Willie who took up the charge of the society from the late Fr Willie McLellan of fond memory. Fr Willie Monaghan began his priestly career serving first as a deacon to Corpus Christi and then upon ordination in 1974

embarking on his spiritual journey in the Glasgow Archdiocese, serving in no less than seven parishes before arriving at his eighth and current parish of St Agnes Lambhill. Not bad for a young man who after leaving school started work as an apprentice butcher. Father Willie has shown a great loyalty to the society celebrating Mass for us both at our annual Mass and our



Around the Conferences

Glasgow Diocese continued

requiem Mass and others in between especially remarkable as his health over the last years has put an extra toll on his priestly activities. So it was with great pleasure that the society met with Fr Willie on Monday 30 May to present him with a papal blessing on the occasion of his 75th birthday from the Glasgow Archdiocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We enjoyed a cup of tea and some French fancies and a reminisce of his experiences as a priest throughout his ministry. We wish him many more.



John Jack

' John Jack a former member of St Constantine's SSVF Conference in Govan lived in a ground floor flat in Uist Street, Govan. He earned his living as a carter for a lino company. When his wife died (she was Catholic) John became a convert and very devout attending morning Mass and eventually serving Mass (these were the days of the Latin Mass). He became a member of the conference soon after this. After some years he volunteered as a lay helper with the Holy Ghost Father's mission in Papua New

Guinea and assisted them in constructing wooden buildings to serve as a school and church etc. Following a brief spell back in Scotland he returned to New Guinea and eventually died peacefully there after years of service. A modest servant throughout an adventurous life.'

Holiday Assistance fund

Glasgow Archdiocese have opened a Holiday Assistance Fund for Conferences wishing to send a family or individual in their parish off on a short break. The monies for the holiday arise from the previous sale of our caravans at Saltcoats and the fund stands at approximately £25,000. Where possible we hope Conferences who have enough

funds can pay 50% of the total cost with the remainder being met by the fund. We hope this will allow the fund to last a little longer. Information on how to apply is now with your group president or contact Joseph Maguire, Archdiocesan President glasgowdc@ssvpscotland.com

Galloway Diocese

Thankfully, as the pandemic has receded behind us, Conferences have been returning to some form of normality. Meetings and visits have resumed in most areas. Many thanks to all the brothers and sisters, and our respective Spiritual Directors who have persevered through the past two difficult years in order for this to happen.

We are also very grateful to our Parishioners and Donors, across the Diocese who haven't forgotten us during this time. Their consistent generosity and empathy towards those needing help in our communities is very much appreciated.

A Diocesan Festival Conference is being organised for early October 2022. Date and time still to be

arranged. This will be the first time in three years that we will all be able to get together and hopefully everyone who is able can attend.

Aberdeen Diocese

St Mary's thank you dinner

The parishioners of St Mary's Inverness have continued to generously support the work of the Inverness Conference during the difficult times of the Covid lock-down. We were able to continue to support and help people with food vouchers, help with fuel bills. In February we organised a thank-you dinner in the Church Hall at St Mary's.

Aberdeen East Quarterly meeting was held on 11th July 2022. It was noted that the Conferences restarted slowly when the lockdown restrictions were lifted. Visiting to care homes and housebound in their homes has restarted. Some reported that they continued visiting throughout the pandemic by planned garden visits.

Conferences with foodbanks, Holy Family, Mastrick and St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen continued to



operate throughout the pandemic as they were an essential service. Holy Family reported that usage varied recently, possibly due to a new foodbank in the local Community Centre. Our Lady & St George Conference is working with

the Foodbank run by the Church of Scotland in Ellon. Donations of food from CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East) is much appreciated.

Paisley Diocese

Lottery Success

The funding application submitted to the National Lottery to support Paisley furniture project has been successful. A Grant of £ 10,000 has been awarded, which will assist in the development of the project, we appreciate this positive decision.



Quality Control & Hygiene

The Special Works Conference provides complimentary support to St. Vincent's Hospice, Howwood.

Donations from SSVP afforded the opportunity to lead the way within the Scottish Hospices Sector to "Improve Air Quality" by installing Active Air Purification Units within the hospice, as part of the infection-control response to the COVID19 pandemic. Wipe-clean furniture has also been installed at a cost of £8,500.

Back in Action

Both Paisley and Inverclyde groups along with the other projects and Special Works Conferences are all back in action following the COVID restriction.

St Patrick's Food Bank

Following a meeting of the Inverclyde Group in June 2022 it became apparent that St Patrick's Parish Conference, due to its central position in Greenock, was bearing the burden of those in need of help – financial and particularly with food and power bills. To this

end the Conference has established a food bank. It was agreed at the Group meeting that other Inverclyde Conferences be asked to assist St Patricks.

Motherwell Diocese

Where Indian twinning becomes local twinning

Like a lot of parishes, nowadays, our parish of St. Ninian's in Hamilton joined with our neighbouring parish of St. Cuthbert's in Burnbank. In 2011, the two parishes formed a linked parish, and it was at that time we first became familiar with the growing community of Syro-Malabar (Indian) Catholics, who also have their own local parish Conference boasting fourteen members, within their Syro Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain. In 2016, Bishop Toal, designated St. Cuthbert's church as the base for Syro-Malabar Catholics residing in the Diocese of Motherwell. Their vibrant and enthusiastic witness to the Catholic faith is now an integral part of our parish identity and parish life. In 2018, the Syro-Malabar community was established as a Mission by the



name of St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission, Hamilton, with Father Joseph Vembadamthara VC, as Mission Director. In April 2021, Father Joseph left St. Ninian's and St. Cuthbert's Parish to return to India before taking up another post in Germany and was replaced by Father Johny Vettickal Abraham VC. As more Keralites come to Scotland to set up a new life in our country, so too, on occasions, does the need for assistance. Both Conferences reach out to our new Keralite neighbours and help them when requested, as we do with any other requests for assistance.

The Syro Malabar Conference also

help their fellow Keralites back home in India, disbursing funds directly to those identified parishes, local Conferences, communities, and cases who are in need, through their network of contacts on the ground in Kerala. Our Conference and the Diocese of Motherwell Furniture project can always rely on the enthusiastic help from our Syro Malabar brothers in helping to uplift and deliver furniture when approached. Here is where Indian twinning truly becomes Local twinning.

In October 2022 the Community will move to St John Ogilvie's, High Blantyre.



Stayin' Alive

Our Parish of St. Ninian's & St. Cuthbert's had been generously gifted an AED defibrillator, by a parishioner, for use within the parish. As we have two church buildings within the parish, our SVVP Conference decided to purchase the same model of defibrillator, so we have one in each of the parish church buildings and halls. The Conference were able to purchase the defibrillator from funds left over from the Race Night in November 2019 BC (before COVID), which would normally have been used for our Senior Parishioners Annual Lunch. The defibrillators will be

kept within the church sacristy when services are being held and within the halls when church hall activities are being held. With this in mind we organised some Resus training sessions for parishioners and members of the various clubs which use the church halls. We had a good uptake for this 'life or death' life skill which was delivered very professionally by St. John Scotland. God willing, we will never have to use the defibrillators, but we can at least be reassured that in the unlikely case of an emergency, there is one available at both sites that we could use, and which could potentially save someone's life. Here's to 'Stayin' Alive'.



Conference Centenary Celebrations 1922-2022

St. Brigid Newmains SSVP Conference celebrated their Centenary. To mark the occasion, on 14th June 2022, Bishop Toal celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in St Brigid's church, along with Rev. Gerard Bogan, SSVP Diocesan Spiritual Director, Rev. Monsignor Michael Conway, Rev. Stephen Rooney, Parish Priest and Rev Hugh Kelly, retired Parish Priest. After the Mass, Thomas Cullen, a member for 72 years, received a framed certificate from the Society.



60 years' service

John Mackay of Our Lady of Good Aid Conference, Motherwell, being presented with a certificate in recognition of his 60 years' service to the Society and the needy. John was the Conference Treasurer for many years only retiring last year. Father Chromy, the former diocesan Spiritual Director, is pictured presenting John with his certificate on the day John celebrated his 90th birthday. John, ad multos annos.

Dunkeld Diocese

Prayer, sharing and reflection

As we move forward from Covid Lockdowns and learn to adjust to new ways of doing things, the main focus for SSVP conference members in our diocese is rebuilding and growth.

On Saturday September 24th we are expecting members from all 12 conferences across Dunkeld to spend the day at Kinnoull Monastery in Perth. We will gather together for prayer, sharing and reflection. However, if we are to offer help and support to those in need, it is important that we focus on our Vincentian promises.

Do we follow Christ through regular person to person service of people in need? How do we do that? Have we been of service to anyone today, or this week? Do we agree to seek out

and find those in need? Not easy in my experience! Most people are unwilling to ask for help. Do we go out of our way to find the needy? Do we encourage new members to join the Society, and do we make them welcome? When did we last ask someone, anyone, to join us?

Putting out a general appeal is not enough, we must approach individuals and tell them that we need them to join us now. We are supposed to be a family, but how many Conferences have age groups representing grandparent, parents, children and even grandchildren? Not many I suspect, probably nearly all the same age group!

Do we preserve our founder's spirit of youth through enthusiasm, adaptability, and imagination? I suspect this is very difficult, after all, we like to live in our comfort zones. What new ideas have we introduced in the last 12 months? What are we doing differently from 5

years ago? Do we actively co-operate with Vincentians in neighbouring parishes, throughout Scotland and other countries? Possibly. Could we do better? Probably.

Do we share in prayer and action with people from other faiths who care for the needy in our society? Possibly, but again could we do better?

We are aware of the concerns and needs of many of our neighbours as we approach winter and the rising cost of living. Most of us are familiar with the press frequently saying the choice is, "eating or heating".

Let us pray that following on from our time together at Kinnoull Monastery under the guidance of Sister Maria Robb, our Spiritual Director, we will have some answers and move forward together.

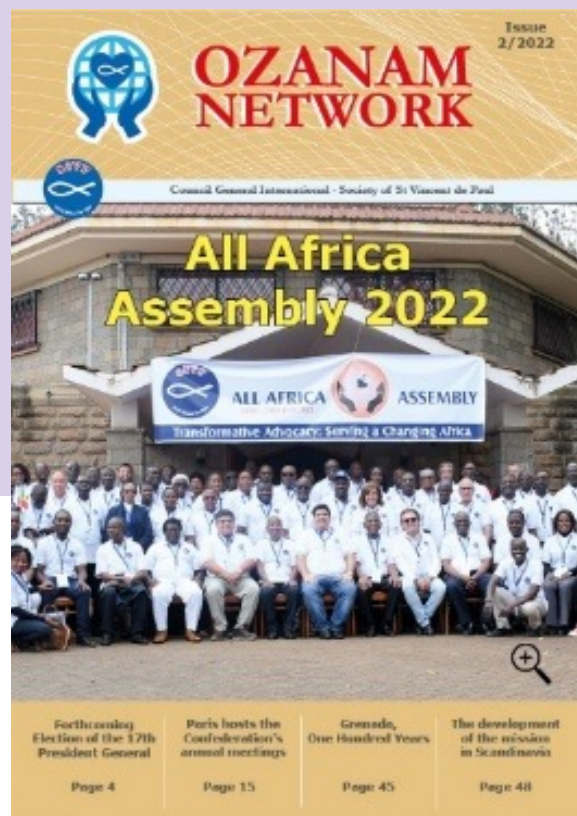
Vincentian Family News Worldwide & Scotland



Vincentian Family Worldwide

"Ozanam Network" Magazine, with 64 pages filled with articles, news and information: <https://www.ssvpglobal.org/latest-issue-of-ozanam-network-digital-magazine-6/>

Announcement to Members of the Council General of the Forthcoming Election of the 17th President General Council General International Opening of the election process for the 17th President General : <https://www.ssvpglobal.org/announcement-to-members-of-the-council-general-of-the-forthcoming-election-of-the-17th-president-general/>



Vincentian Family - Scotland

The Space, an initiative of The Louise Project, is a Vincentian Project

Families Flourish and Communities Thrive



At The Louise Project we provide a Space where people are safe to be vulnerable. We provide a Space where people can dream of a better life and are enabled to act on this. Our way is based on relationships built on truth, honesty, gentleness, compassion, and accountability. We honor the dignity of all people, and we recognise that all people have gifts regardless of ability. We had the pleasure of welcoming SSVF President General Renato and ITVP Laszlo during their recent visit to Glasgow. We discussed in depth the Vincentian Way that is the very foundation and heartbeat of the project and also what it means to be Vincentian in our times:

- ***"Be alongside those who are poor and address their immediate poverty".***
- ***"Provide opportunities for learning and personal growth that people in hardship can meet their own needs".***
- ***"Bring about systemic change to challenge and end persistent poverty".***

Through the work of our Community Drop-in, Community Integration and Building Better Future programmes we can demonstrate lasting impact and transformation in the lives of families struggling with poverty: *"my life is good now (since coming to*

The Space)"; *"Literacy classes are the best days of the week for me!"*. We were reminded of the importance of collaboration and partnerships across Vincentian organisations. We were reminded of the importance of the Vincentian voice and its potential to bring lasting change to a suffering world. We want to do more; we are called to do more; together we can do more.



Margo Uprichard CEO - The Louise Project

www.thelouiseproject.org.uk

www.spaceglasgow.org.uk



Spirituality

Sr Maria Robb DC, Spiritual Director



Who's Plan is it anyway?

Children often ask me if I was born a 'nun'. I guess of all my sisters and brothers, I was perhaps the least likely candidate for that as we are growing up! We all dream our dreams and plan our future according to our agenda and becoming a daughter of charity wasn't anywhere in my plan. But our plans may seem wonderful but are they always God's plan for us?

A wonderful example of this is seen in the life of St Vincent De Paul. He grew up helping mind the sheep on his father's small farm. They were simple, peasant people, but they recognised Vincent's intelligence and made sacrifices to educate him. Vincent had a noble plan for his future...to become a priest. What family wouldn't be happy to have a son become a priest! It was Vincent's reasons for becoming a priest that were a little questionable. In the 16th century the financial opportunities for clergy were good. With the right connections, priests could become some of the best paid people of the time. This is what appealed to Vincent - a good chaplaincy with enough money to support his family and retire early.

Vincent's only stumbling block was God's plan for him. Yes, Vincent's plan was to become a priest... and this was God's plan for him too. Vincent did have a vocation to the priesthood, God did call him to this, but the reasons for becoming a priest were different in God's plan for Vincent. There was no early retirement for Vincent in God's plan!!! God's plan involved transforming Vincent's



heart through touching the lives of those who are poor. Vincent did have a well-paid Chaplaincy. He mixed with royalty and rich, and it would appear that Vincent's plan was coming to fruition. Then God introduced Vincent to those who are poor, and through them Vincent was to fulfil the plan God had for him....to give his life fully in service of his sisters and brothers in need.

The 19-year-old, newly ordained Fr Vincent De Paul could never have imagined God's plan for him, but he allowed himself to be led by the cries of those he was serving, and through reflection and prayer he discovered these were the cries of God himself. We all have our plans and sometimes when our 'plans' are disrupted we can get annoyed and irritated. Today, many of our sisters and brothers across the world are having their 'plans' disrupted by war, financial worries, hunger.... and so much more. Our call as Vincentians is to stand beside them, listen to their cries allowing them to touch and transform our hearts, and in doing so, respond as best we can, knowing that these cries are the cries of God himself.

Obituaries - May they Rest In Peace

James McClure, Founder Member & Former President, St Vincent De Paul's, East Kilbride

William Meechan, Secretary/Vice-P, St Mary's, Paisley

Mary Soares, Former Vice-President, St Bernadette's, Motherwell

Maureen Brady, Active Member, Our Lady & St Helen's, Condorrat

David Hobson, Former Archdiocesan Vice-President South Grp President and Conf President, St Gabriel's, Merrylee

Janet Ross, Former Secretary, St Palladius, Dalry

Jimmy Jenkins, Former Member, Our Lady of the Wayside & Our Lady & St Helen's, Glasgow & Condorrat

Matt Armour, Former Member at Our Lady & St Helens, Our Lady & St Helens, Condorrat

Tommy Coffey, Active Member, O.L. Of Lourdes, East Kilbride

Vincent Feeney, Active Member Immaculate Conception Bathgate

Sophia Boyle, Vice-President, St Palladius, Dalry

Kevin Britton, Former Treasurer, St Columbkille, Rutherglen



St Vincent de Paul Feast - 27th September

The Vincentian Family will celebrate the Feast of St Vincent de Paul at Carfin 27th September 2022

11.30am Hall for refreshments open

1pm Rosary procession

2pm Mass

All are welcome.



Twinning News

Kate Kelley National Twinning Officer ✉ twinning@ssvpscotland.com

Do you contact your Twin?

Twinning is a commitment to a Conference overseas from a Conference at home. The commitments are regular prayers, correspondence, and financial support for your Twin.

Prayers are said for Twin Conferences at each Conference meeting. Remember, every time you meet as a Conference you are also praying for your Twin.

Financially, we help with our quarterly Twinning payments of £30, but there are other ways we can help.

Special Donations can also be given to a Twin as an extra boost. There is at present a limit of £250 in a current year. This could increase soon but has yet to be agreed by the receiving National Councils as they must preserve equity among their Conferences.

Correspondence is important as it forms a link between your Brothers and Sisters and experiences both common and uncommon are shared. The emails I have passed on to Scottish Twins have been humbling and inspiring. There may of course be a problem with language between Twins, and some may not have access to email. However, successful communication can be set up. Communicating between Twins has been found to be enriching to both Conferences. Conferences who have lost contact with their Twin, can contact me at twinning@ssvpscotland.com and I will try to assist in putting you both back in touch with each other. We are asked to try to contact our Twins at least once a year.

Projects: Conferences who can afford to, are encouraged to donate to the Project Fund. Without this Fund we would have been unable to help families and communities to be set on a future path with possible ways of making a living or a means of supporting their community.

Anyone wishing to know more about the projects we have supported, may contact me. I will happily send you some examples.

There are also the **Student Sponsorship Schemes** which were popular before the pandemic. There are 4 different schemes for this. The details can all be found at <https://www.ssvpscotland.com/site/wp-content/uploads/Twinning-Guidelines.pdf>.



Social Justice News

Tricia McCartney, Social Justice Co-ordinator

✉ socialjustice@ssvpscotland.com 🐦 @SocJustSSVPScot

Social Justice at the heart of Vincentian Life

Our mission statement says, *"As committed members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, we seek to identify and combat all forms of poverty, by promoting social justice and actively working with those in need, acknowledging that, by freely giving of ourselves, we become more aware of the power of love in all our relationships."*
AGM, September 1992

Are we totally fulfilling our Vincentian commitment 'to be a voice for the voiceless' [7.5 of the SSVP Scotland Manual and Rule]. 7.6 of the SSVP Scotland Manual and Rule states 'Where injustice, poverty or exclusion are due to unjust economic, political, or social structures or to inadequate or unjust legislation, the Society should speak out clearly against the situation, always with charity, with the aim of contributing to and demanding improvements. Commentary: To challenge what is wrong in society was seen by Ozanam as essential;" Whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children;

as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed."

As Vincentians as a first point of action to promote Social Justice, I would urge Conferences / Groups / Dioceses to consider participating in **Challenge Poverty Week 3rd – 9th October 2022**. The first Challenge Poverty Week was launched by the Poverty Alliance in 2013. They wanted to highlight the injustice of poverty in Scotland, and to show that collective action based on justice and compassion can create solutions. The week is an opportunity for you to raise your voice against poverty and unite with others in calling for a just and equal Scotland. Each year, hundreds of organisations in Scotland do just that, including elected representative, charities and NGOs, local authorities, faith groups, businesses, school and colleges, trade unions, professional bodies and more.

Information on what on how to run an event and for resources visit can be found on:
<https://www.challengepoverty.net/online-resources/>

For further information visit:
<https://www.povertyalliance.org/campaigns/challengepovertyweek/>



Join Our Team!

SSVP Scotland are looking for a Youth Development Co-ordinator.

Youth News

Youth Development
Co-Ordinator



youth@ssvpScotland.com



ssvp.youth.scotland



@youthSSVP



Youth SSVP Scotland

Welcome back to all our Vinnie Groups

A special welcome to new groups which have recently started including

St Josephs, Clarkston, St Mary's Primary, Cumbernauld, and St Andrew's Primary, Cumbernauld.

After COVID19 restrictions several Vinnies are re-grouping and identifying initiatives to support those most in need in their local areas.



Some ideas have included:

- An invite to the school or local parish hall for a chat, afternoon tea or even a little concert.
- A visit to the local care home (if permissible) to hear and share stories from residents.
- Groups are encouraged to participate in Challenge Poverty Week 3-9 October 2022. SSVP Scotland is a member of Poverty Alliance, and work together for a more just and equal society. Lesson plans are available for all age groups <https://www.challengepoverty.net/online-resources/> There are daily themes which can be used during the week, or indeed whenever it suits you best.
- Start to prepare Christmas cards or Christmas hampers. Your local SSVP Conference may be able to assist with the distribution.

Whatever you do, remember to send a report and photos to SSVP Scotland
communication@ssvpScotland.com

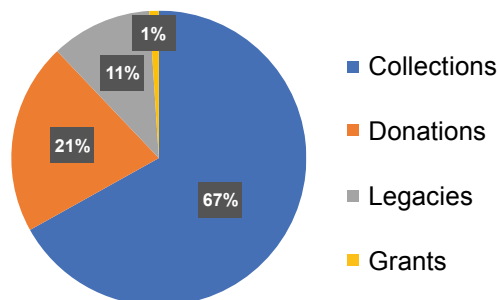


Society of St Vincent de Paul (Scotland)

Summary of Accounts 2021/2022

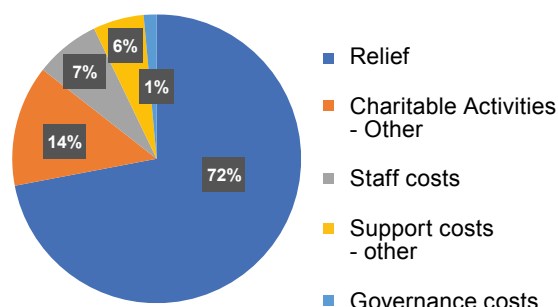
Income

Income	Total
Collections	£806,005
Donations	£252,859
Legacies	£133,450
Grants	£12,382
Total Income	£1,204,696



Expenditure

Expenditure	Total
Relief	£660,481
Charitable activities - other	£124,398
Staff Costs	£66,967
Support costs - other	£52,177
Governance costs	£13,269
Total Expenditure	£917,292



A copy of the full accounts are available from the SSVP (Scotland) National Office.

How You Can Help

Time is precious to us at SSVP. If you can give your time to volunteer alongside our Conference members at events or projects, we'd be very grateful.

Put the Fun in Fundraising: join in the next Scottish KiltWalk and nominate SSVP Scotland as your chosen charity or plan your own fundraising event.

Donate online sponsorships and activities are not for everyone so if you'd prefer a gentler means of giving, head to our website www.ssvpscotland.com and donate easily there.

Donate your talent Do have a special skillset that could help us reach more of the poor in our Scottish communities? Art, computing, design, financial or benefit system training to name but a few. If you can share these skills at a meeting or two, we'd be grateful to learn from you.

To help, contact your Diocesan President or National Office admin@ssvpscotland.com

Vincentians Working Together in Scotland



DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY
of St. Vincent de Paul



📍 Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Scotland)

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