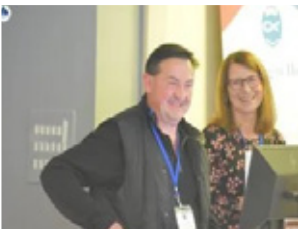


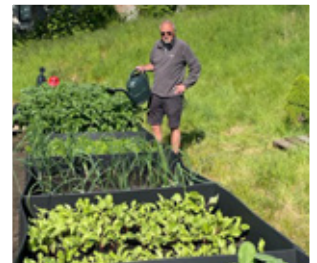
Ozanam

News

ADAPTABILITY IN A CHANGING WORLD



CHARITY MUST NEVER LOOK BACKWARDS BUT ALWAYS TO THE FRONT, BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF GOOD DEEDS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IS VERY SMALL, WHILE THE PRESENT AND FUTURE HARDSHIPS REMAIN INFINITE" Blessed Frederic Ozanam



**FOOD GLORIOUS
FOOD**

GATHERINGS

**NEXT GENERATION
VINCENTIANS**



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National Spiritual Adviser

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Sean Murphy
Student Coordinantor

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Next submission deadline is Thursday 8th February 2024

To keep up to date with SSVP Scotland news visit the links at the bottom of this page.

Any News - Any time

Also send your Conference news, together with any photos to communication@ssvpscotland.com Your news can then be shared.

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. ****Please note that consent must be obtained from all individuals in any images that you submit.****

Publishing Policy

1. The objective is to publish a new Ozanam News, which we aim to issue 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 Vice-President, Joe Maguire

Vice-president@ssvpscotland.com



Dear brothers, sisters, friends and volunteers of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, I am writing this short introduction instead of the National President Danny Collins who is currently recovering from a heart operation. Please continue to keep Danny in your prayers that he continues to make a full recovery.

This October edition of the Ozanam News showcases a variety of activities that the Society is involved in nationally, from the Asian foodbank supported by St John the Baptist/St Mary Magdalene in Dunkeld Diocese to the Mini Vinnies pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto in Motherwell. There is a report on a Gathering of the Vincentian family held at St Chad's RC Cathedral in Birmingham earlier this year in April 2023. Beyond Scotland there is an update of the Indian Sponsorship scheme from our Twinning Officer and a report on the International Council's Presidential Election that took place over five days in Rome. And there is more; the AGM, Social Justice and St Vincent's Special

Work Project in Paisley Diocese. So can I ask you to find some time to sit down and read through the magazine and enjoy it.

Please keep the Ozanam News in the forefront of your minds. There is always room for a report on local projects running near you.

May I conclude by expressing gratitude to all those involved in these activities presented in the magazine and hope that more of you will be inspired by Frederic Ozanam to stay involved and get involved in the work of the Society.

Serving in hope,

Joe

National Vice-President

Update from National President, Danny Collins

I write to thank the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (Scotland) members for their positive response to my request to make a "special effort" this year to attend the Annual National Meeting. Unfortunately, owing to unforeseen circumstances I was unable to attend this Celebration.

I wish to especially thank members for the many cards and good wishes, I received, but most importantly the abundance of prayers which were a source of comfort at this difficult time.

I hope to resume my Presidential duties "when ready".

Serving in Hope,

Danny



**Cheques for National Office
(e.g. National Dues, Twinning) payee: SSVP Scotland**

AROUND THE CONFERENCES

ABERDEEN DIOCESE

One of the most common and significant charitable contributions by SSVP Conferences across the country is the provision and distribution of food to homes, parishes, and local food banks/Projects. With the continued rising cost of food items Conferences have been working hard on various food Projects be it food vouchers, food parcels or food banks.

St Mary's Cathedral SSVP Conference in Aberdeen, despite having only a handful of serving members continue to work very hard, with the help and dedication of external volunteers. In 2022/23 they distributed approximately 4,700 food parcels from the Cathedral car park - that is roughly 90 food parcels per week!

In 2022/23 **Holy Family, Mastrich** gave out 1,659 food parcels this year; 239 more parcels than the previous year – an increase of nearly 20% to meet the demand! Enabled by the generous donations from Holy Family, St Francis & Trinity Westhill Parishioners and with the massive help from C-FINE (Community Food Initiative, Northeast) to keep costs down, they were able to help families and individuals struggling with the ever rising cost of food items.



Volunteer helpers at the foodbank at St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen

ST ANDREW'S & EDINBURGH ARCHDIOCESE

NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN GROWS FOR WEST LOTHIAN FOODBANK



Jerry O'Dwyer watering the crops.

St Michael's Conference, Linlithgow have transformed an artificial surface area within the grounds of St Michael's RC Church into a plot of raised beds, growing organic produce for their local foodbank.

The idea, to transform this long disused area of the church grounds, sprouted from a "West Lothian Foodbank awareness creation coffee morning last year and grew with the help of a few enthusiastic Conference members".

Through financial donations from local businesses, numerous acts of charity from parishioners and locals, the setup/purchasing cost of eight raised beds requiring over 9,000 litres of organic, peat free compost were met. The beds, made from recycled material and erected at a height accessible for maintenance and for people with disabilities, have become a self-contained plot of succulent, organic vegetables in sustainably built pods and containers.

St Michael's Parish Priest has been very supportive, supplying an external tap to enable daily watering and supplement water butts. After only 4 weeks of construction 2 Kgs of beautiful, succulent Radishes were supplied to the Foodbank.



Succulent organic vegetables

Harvest from the first season continues to be abundant: strawberries, courgettes, carrots, onions, potatoes; over 100 Kgs of fresh, organically grown vegetables delivered to the Foodbank for their

clients. Swede, celeriac, turnips and leeks will follow in the autumn.

St Michael's Conference are absolutely delighted with their produce!

Discussions are underway to expand the Garden Project with additional beds over time, not only to deliver more produce for the Foodbank but create a successful, Community based project for our town. They plan to visit local schools to open opportunities for younger members to get involved. *Contact us at ssvplgow@gmail.com for help or to find out more information.*

DUNKELD DIOCESE

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST/ST MARY MAGDALENE CONFERENCES, PERTH REFUGEE FOODSHOP

St John the Baptist/St Mary Magdalene Conferences were contacted by Perth & Kinross Foodbank about an influx of refugees from Sri Lanka (around 40 families) who were being helped by the Foodbank. The families

were keen to make their own familiar meals – curries and so on, but the ingredients were not readily available through the Foodbank. They agreed to help and arranged with a local Asian food shop to supply the required ingredients on a monthly basis with our St John the Baptist/St Mary Magdalene Conferences helping with the bill. The scheme has been running since May and has proved to be very popular.

GLASGOW DIOCESE

A CELEBRATION OF 175 YEARS OF VINCENTIAN WORK IN GLASGOW

On Tuesday night, 22nd of August 2023, at St Andrew's RC Cathedral in Glasgow, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society gathered at Mass to celebrate the founding of the first Conference of the Society 175 years ago in August 1848. There were six members of that Conference: John Burns Bryson (President), David Rodgers (Vice President), Hugh Margey (Treasurer), John Trainer (Secretary) and Andrew and Allan McLachlan. The Spiritual Director was Father William Gordon. It was a time of unrest in Europe with Revolution in the air, Glasgow was no different, with riots in March of that year demanding 'bread or revolution'. His Grace Archbishop Nolan, Celebrant of the Mass, referred to this time of unrest and asked if in the 21st century much has changed? War in the Ukraine, fighting in the Middle East and Africa, strikes for better pay here in the UK. What has not changed is the work and presence of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Glasgow, a Society that has developed and

changed over the years in tandem with the changes in our society. The male founders in 1848 represented an age when any activity, social or political, was the domain of men only. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul however has moved with the times and women have taken their place in the work of the Society since the 1970's and their presence was strongly evidenced in the Mass attendance on this night.

Archbishop Nolan pointed to the strengths of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, prayers and practical activities. We are a Society that has prayers at the start and the end of every meeting, but we do not forget the other side of our calling which is to help and support our poor in our parish areas, in practical and common-sense ways. The listening ear, the Community Kitchen and Cafe, the visits to homes and hospitals and care homes, the families struggling with bills who lack adequate means to feed themselves. The Society has seen many shifts and turns over the last 175 years. Archbishop Nolan encouraged us to look forward to another 175 years.

GALLOWAY DIOCESE

Our Lady and St. Ninian's, Newton Stewart is the latest Conference to be added to the Galloway Diocese.

Following an invitation to St Joseph's SSVP Conference meeting in Stranraer some months ago and a follow up visit from Pat Snee, Galloway SSVP Diocesan President and Michael Devine, Galloway SSVP Diocesan Treasurer, a group of parishioners from Our Lady & St Ninians, Newton Stewart, decided to start up a new Conference.

Though still in the early stages, they are a very eager team in small Parish, in a remote location. They are Blessed with a Deacon/Spiritual Advisor with many years' experiences in SSVP and a new member who

has a long-standing award for SSVP membership when living in England. Others in the group have been involved with the Befriending Project and Machars' Food Bank.



Members of Our Lady & St Ninian's Conference, Newton Stewart



Prior to active service new SSVP members are required to complete a membership form – forms can be obtained from the SSVP Scotland website.



St Margaret's and St Paul's Conference, Ayr

St Margaret's and St Paul's Conference, Ayr

Vincentians and Parishioners of St Margaret's and St Paul's, Ayr joined with Motherwell Diocesan Pilgrimage to Carfin in May. A great day enjoyed by all!

MOTHERWELL DIOCESE

MINI VINNIES FROM THE MOTHERWELL DIOCESE - ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE AT CARFIN GROTTO

On 6th June 2023 Mini Vinnies (MVs) from all 10 Primary schools within the Airdrie SSV Group district held their second annual pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto. With over 170 children present it was a truly memorable, prayerful, and inspiring day. The day began with Bishop Toal leading the procession around the Grotto and Fr Desmond Keegan, with some Mini Vinnies, leading the Holy Rosary. Each MV group received a certificate from Aid to the Church in Need in recognition of their proactive participation in the 'Maisy Milk' Rosary for Peace Initiative during the month of May. The day ended with over 170 MVs reciting their 'Mini Vinnie Promise'.



"...The children truly demonstrated their Faith in Action - they are our future we need to do everything we can to support them through their faith journey"

Bridget Ann Devanney, Group President

PAISLEY DIOCESE

ST VINCENT'S HOSPICE, SWC, HOWWOOD - THE BARN

St Vincent's Hospice has always been well known in the area for its Barn "Tea Room". People from across the local area would visit for its home baking and a cup of tea in the Renfrewshire countryside. With the lockdowns in 2020 & 2021, the Tea Room had to close repeatedly. So, in the aftermath of the pandemic, the Hospice took the decision to close the Tea Room and repurpose the Barn into a fully flexible new home for their Day Services.

Extensive refurbishment has now taken place. Flooring and lighting have been replaced, new fire doors have been installed along

with upgrades to the fire alarm and building security systems. The SSV, through the Special Works Conference, has financially supported the larger elements of the project including work to replace the ceiling supports.

Once the Barn is furnished, the Day Services team will make their home there permanently. Day Services currently runs a support group for people in the local area with life-limiting conditions to come together, share experiences and have access to members of the Hospice Care Team. Thanks to the support of the SSV, the new Barn space gives the service room to grow and for new groups to come together outside traditional working hours. **Jim Kerr, President St. Vincent's Hospice SWC**

BEFORE



AFTER



Please note: In the interests of SSV data protection and security Conferences should NOT give out personal mobile numbers to service users and/or use business email addresses for SSV communication/correspondence.

ANNUAL MEETING - ANNUAL MEDITATION

At the heart of the Vincentian's journey is their spiritual journey, so it is fitting that just as Conference meetings start and end with prayer, so too the Annual meeting event began with Holy Mass.



Annual National Meeting Aug 2023

Archbishop Nolan set the tone of the meeting at the opening Mass with an "Annual General Reflection". He invited SSVP members to take the opportunity to reflect on what they do and how they do it. *"Focus on the person, the people you help. How you help them and what you could do better..."* he said.

Archbishop Nolan reminded SSVP members *"The person we help is Jesus Christ, Christ is in everyone we help"*. It was with this reflection that Joe Maguire, VP (standing in for Danny Collins) welcomed members.



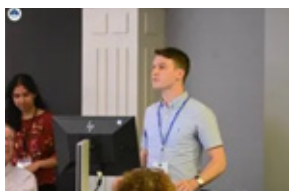
Archbishop Nolan delivering his Homily

Presentations, in the morning, included reports from the National Treasurer (James Heneaghan); Twinning & Projects Officer (Kate Kelley); Social Justice Coordinator (Patricia McCartney) and Student Coordinator (Sean Murphy with Ritty Tomichen volunteer)

James Heneaghan – questions to James highlighted the need for new Treasurers to receive training and an understanding of the Bookkeeping Procedures <https://www.ssvpscotland.com/members/publications>

Kate Kelley – explained the changes being implemented for quarterly Twinning (increase from £30 to £40), the revised Student Sponsorship Scheme categories and costs as well as the Project funding process. Twinning Project samples were also made available at the Twinning displays.

Patricia McCartney – gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the various activities in the past year. Members were particularly appreciative of the varied and detailed activities. (presentation details are available from [Tricia socialjustice@ssvpscotland.com](mailto:Tricia.socialjustice@ssvpscotland.com), or the National Office).



Sean Murphy presentation at ANM 2023

Sean Murphy and Ritty Tomichen. spoke of the great success of the after-school tutoring club which has offered support to primary school pupils at St Michael's Primary School, Parkhead, Glasgow.

Lunch offered a welcome break and opportunity for members to relax, mingle and chat with fellow Vincentians.

The afternoon included Diocesan presentations, group discussions & general feedback.

Glasgow Archdiocese – Joe Maguire and Dr Michael Connolly provided two short presentations celebrating the Glasgow Archdiocese' SSVP

175th anniversary, reflecting on the early Conference, the subsequent development of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Glasgow and the role of Brother Walfrid within the Society in Glasgow and his move to England.

Motherwell Diocese – Mary Brawley and James McCluskey from the Wishaw Furniture Project spoke of the significant number of individuals and families they have assisted over the year. Since the beginning of the year, they have carried out approximately 100 uplifts, delivered furniture and white goods to approx. 60 homes. They rely heavily on volunteers to continue their work.

Paisley Diocese – Elaine Doherty, President of the Ozanam Club Special Works Conference gave an inspiring presentation celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Club and the wonderful work it has carried out over the years. The slide show highlighted the strengths of the Club and how it affords a safe haven to those that use it.

Margo Uprichard from The Space, Vincentian Family Project - an initiative of The Louise Project - and a subsidiary of The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services Group gave a passionate talk on the aims of the Project which strives to break the cycle of the generational poverty.

What did you enjoy about the day? "My first Conference – an opportunity to engage and network with other Conferences."

"I enjoyed all the presentations. They were very interesting and enlightening, as I did not know about some of the work SSVP was doing."



What improvements, if any, could be made?

"More time to meet with other Conferences to discuss problems & solutions."

"Smaller discussion groups."

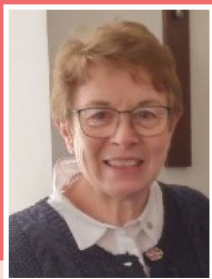
General Comments/Suggestions "Excellent & enjoyable day. A good buzz in the room!"

"Move meeting to another location."



"Has someone left your conference/retired, is there a change in office bearers? - tell us about it!" Email: admin@ssvpscotland.com

Ozanam News - October 2023



Spirituality

Sr Maria Robb DC, Spiritual Director



Reflection Ozanam News: October 2023

"What happened to summer this year?" A question you regularly hear these days.

Now, the season of summer seems to be moving into autumn way too early; but mother nature has her own rhythm. She isn't confined to the months on the calendar as we are. Mother nature knows when it is time to bud to blossom and to let go, to put energy into new life.



Just look at the trees, they seem so majestic when they are in full bloom. In the springtime they colour our world with beautiful blossom, which they gladly let go of to give us fruit and chestnuts etc.

When the fruits have gone the leaves let go of life to rest and build up energy for fresh new buds - signs of new life in nature's cycle.

We, too, have cycles in life - those special moments when something new is happening, when life is full of excitement and possibility. We have those moments when we need to work hard to make things happen,

those moments when we must let life set the pace. We also know those moments when we need to let go of something so that, like the trees, our energy goes into something new.

I'm always amazed at how the trees let go of their beautiful leaves so willingly, and yet, how hard I find it to let go of things. When I do let go of the things that clutter my life, I make room for the things I need. When I let go of the things that clutter my inner life, I make room for God, who uses that energy to build up His kingdom on earth, often in ways I am unaware of.



On 27th September, we celebrated our patron, St Vincent de Paul. He is a great example of someone letting go. He let go of his dream to be a wealthy, important priest and God used the energy created from that

letting go to create a service to those who are poor... a service that has been passed down for 400 years... a service that wouldn't have existed if Vincent hadn't let go of his original dream!!



Obituaries - May they Rest In Peace. Amen.

John Duffy, Former President St Paul's, Hurlford
Helen Kathleen Pieczara, Active Member, Our Lady & St George, Penilee
James O'Neill, Former Sec., Our Lady of Good Aid, Motherwell
Brian Coull, Sec & Acting Treasurer, St John The Evangelist, Cumnock
Hugh Collins, Former President St Mungo's, Greenock
Jean Fulton, Former Member St Laurence's, Greenock
Michael Leahy, Former President St Mary Star Of The Sea, Largs
Jessie Tritschler, Active Member St Catherine Laboure, Balornock
Julie Rowe, Active Member St Jude's, Barlanark
Julie Cameron, Active Member St Mary's, Bo'Ness
Michael Murphy, Former Treasurer St Mary's, Whifflet
Elizabeth Hughes, Former President St Mary's, Irvine
Bill Newall, Active Member St Joseph's, Dundee
Vincent O'Brien, Former Sec. St Albert, Glasgow
Grace Kay, Active Member St Gregory's, Edinburgh
Harry Kielty, Retired Member St Mary & St Joseph's, Glasgow
Mary Thomson, Former President St Catherine, Edinburgh
Richard Woods, Active Member St Margaret's, Johnstone
James Ferguson, Vice-President Holy Family, Port Glasgow
Philip Stevenson, Active Member Holy Family, Port Glasgow

Brian Hessett, Treasurer Our Lady Of Lourdes, Bishopton
Alex Burns, Active Member St John The Baptist, Port Glasgow
Matilda Sweeney, Active Member St Joseph's, Helensburgh
Louise Murray, Active Member St Bernadette's, Glasgow
George Lavery, President St Mary's, Nairn
Monique Janusewicz, Active Member Sacred Heart, Penicuik
Mary Sanders, Active Member, St Columba's, Viewpark
Nora Freer, Treasurer St Mary's, Stirling
James Caffrey, Active Member, St Ignatius, Wishaw
Fred MacConnell, Treasurer St Anthony's & St Mark's, Rutherglen
Connie Willett, Corpus Christie, Scotstounhill Bridie Brady, St Joseph's, Milngavie
Anne Park, Sec., St Alexander's, Denny
Peter Herrall, Former President, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Kilmarnock
Thomas Traynor, President St Mary's Caldercruix
Charles Grant, Active Member, St Ninian's, Inverness
Albert Carberry, Active Member, St James & St Columba's, Renfrew
John Finnie, Former member, St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen
George Savage, Former member, St Joseph's, Milngavie
Shirley Durie, Treasurer, St James Renfrew





The Vincentian Family of Great Britain – Gathering at St Chad's RC Cathedral, Birmingham



The “Gathering” is a coming together of all the religious Congregations, Societies of Apostolic life and Lay Associations that were either founded by St Vincent De Paul or that follow his charism of service to the poor. I attended the event on Saturday 22 April 2023, at St Chad's RC Cathedral in Birmingham,

on behalf of the National Council of Scotland.

Holy Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley in the presence of the various member organisations of the Vincentian Family. There was a short tableau from the life of Vincent de Paul carried out by children from the

Mini Vinnie groups of local schools. After Mass there was a chance in the welcome buffet for the groups to meet and share experiences. The same issues emerged as in Scotland - recruitment and recovering from the pandemic.



Common elements found in each group included:

- recognition of St Vincent as their founder of inspiration
- a mission of evangelising and serving the poor
- common lifestyle and a concrete form of service to the poor
- common spirituality that sees God in the poor we serve

There are fifteen branches of the **Vincentian Family** here in Great Britain. As well as SSVF Scotland they include:

- **COMPANY OF MISSION PRIESTS(CMP)** - working in parishes of great need.
- **DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL** - to serve Jesus in the poor and marginalised. They live and work in places of social priority such as hospitals, homes for troubled children, schools, day centres for homeless.
- **AIC - International Association of Charities** - work with those in poverty and speak out against injustice, challenging the structures that have the power to make change.

It is a very big family that we are a member of, so we are not alone. *Joe Maguire*

NATIONAL OFFICE

Re-look, re-think, review and renew - Jacqueline Laird, Office Manager.

At the National Office the last year, moving through a post pandemic period with the recruitment and induction of a new staff team, has been a mixture of challenges and opportunities.

There has been a significant investment in time introducing new staff to the breadth and depth of tasks. The annual Audit process alone, only now in its final stages, has been a significant learning experience.

A recent comment from Tricia McCartney, Social Justice Coordinator:

“As someone who calls into the National Office on an ad hoc basis I am always struck with the width and depth of the different administrative tasks they carry out and are responsible for. A chunk of their time often appears to be dispatching orders and invoices, dealing with individual enquiries from Conference Members and Conference/ Group / Diocesan Presidents. Sometimes these seem to be quick and easy to deal with, but others can be quite complex especially dealing with finances e.g. cheques not coded properly / bank queries and not least the ‘Audit queries’. Other tasks they do I am less clear about, but I can see that they are busy.” Equally, I was encouraged when Tricia also spoke of the ways to “streamline things and communicate information better, allowing staff to work more efficiently”.

In addition to governance support, HR, and office management, the core responsibilities of the staff team include, delivering a range of administrative, financial, communication and youth related tasks. With staffing hours limited the challenge is always how to service the essential tasks in the most cost effective and time efficient manner.

With new staff becoming more experienced we now have an opportunity, in consultation with the National Council, to re-look and re-think some priorities. Suggestions from members are always welcome.

Alternatively, you may be able to offer some time on an ad hoc or regular basis to support routine task e.g., posting out resources; sending out membership ID cards; assist with mailings; or be willing to collate and edit the Ozanam news; or create website and social media updates. Whatever your area of expertise, please consider if you could contribute to support the National Office. Your support or suggestions could free staff to take on new areas of development to reflect the priorities of SSVF. Please contact your Diocesan President or email me directly: officemanager@ssvfscotland.com

Thank you for your continued collaboration,
Jacqueline.



Twinning News

Kate Kelley, National Twinning Officer ✉ twinning@ssvpscotland.com

India Student Sponsorship Scheme Update

An update letter on Student Sponsorship has been sent to Diocesan Presidents for onward communication to Conferences. The following gives a summary of the revised categories and cost per student per year.

There are now only 3 categories - Technical and Vocational are combined.

- **HES - for Higher Education Students studying Medical and Engineering etc.** Fee: One student per year, rupees 9000+1000 local contribution from conference (9000 rupees is £87.02 approx.) rounded to £90.
- **TVTS - for Technical & Vocational Education Students, including IT studies, studying in polytechnics.** Fee: One student per year, rupees 5000+1000 local contribution from conference (5000 rupees is £48.32 approx.) rounded to £50.
- **VJES – Vidya Jothi Education Students for school studying students.** Fee: one student per year, rupees

1350+150 local contribution from conference. (£13.05 approx.) rounded to £15.

This is a wonderful scheme, which changes lives. Your continued support is appreciated.

Quarterly Twinning update

Additionally, the National Council agreed at the meeting on 10th June 2023 that the quarterly Twinning payment would be increased from £30 to £40. This change will be implemented in line with the revised Dues payments in December 2023.

"I would like to thank those Conferences who contacted me after the National Meeting and I will process their requests, as quickly as possible. Also, can I remind you, if you are wishing to reconnect with your Twin please provide contact details for your Conference, including an email address if possible, that I can supply to your Twin". Thank you, Kate



Social Justice News

Tricia McCartney, Social Justice Co-ordinator

✉ socialjustice@ssvpscotland.com 🐦 @SocJustSSVPScot



FUEL BANK FOUNDATION

Through their network of 'Partners', the Fuel Bank Foundation (FBF) provides emergency financial support to people in "fuel crisis". The 'Partners' identify people who cannot afford to pre-pay for their fuel or energy as often they will have used up all their options for support. This means that when their money runs out, they have no heating or means to cook hot food. This is what is meant by "**fuel crisis**" and the term self-disconnection. People **do not** choose to self-disconnect. They simply run out of the cash they need to keep their electricity and gas meters topped up. And when they do, the meter switches off.

When someone is referred via a

Partner agency, the FBF can provide **same-day help to address self-disconnection**. Emergency credits are made to prepayment meters. Any energy supplier's meter can be topped up within a couple of hours. Currently this unique service is operating through a number of trusted community partners up and down the country, from Local Authorities to Housing Associations, local Debt Support charities or Community groups

To learn more, I attended an introductory session by Zoom in March 2023. This was with a view as to whether SSVP should register with this charity as Partner, the benefit being it would allow SSVP Members to refer someone in Fuel Crisis to them. I am pleased to say that **SSVP Scotland** is now in process of becoming a **registered Partner**.

The next steps

Those wishing to refer someone must undertake training, to learn what is needed to make a referral and how to log it via their online portal. The training is delivered online and takes around 40 mins.

As this is a new way of working for the SSVP (Scotland) it has been agreed, at National Council level, that it should run as a pilot to gauge the support and uptake by Members, and the benefits of it - not only to the Society - but more importantly for those we seek to assist.

If you are interested in taking part or simply want to learn more about this pilot scheme, please contact me.

Tricia





NEXT GENERATION OF VINCENTIANS

With the start of the new school term **MINI VINNIE** groups across the country have been the launching and re-starting their Mini Vinnie groups in our Primary Schools. Junior & Senior Vinnies are keeping up their good work too!

MV from Sacred Heart Primary School, Edinburgh



Sacred Heart Primary Schools new Mini Vinnies

"We are so excited to be starting up a new Mini Vinnie group once again as our last group have moved onto high school. Our new parish priest, Father Ben is very supportive and we have plans to make the Mini Vinnies a real part of our church community."

Tricia McNally,
(Mini Vinnies Co-ordinator)



Elizabeth & Richard from Sacred Heart Conference, Grangemouth chat and pray with the MV pupils and present them with prayer cards, badges and pencils.

MV from St Peter's Edinburgh

"Our group meets weekly as an after-school club, supported by me as a parent volunteer and a teacher at the school ... activities included :setting up monthly food bank collections; making clay pots (link to how the Holy Spirit moulds us - the pots were given as presents for Mother's Day); making valentine cards for the elderly at the local nursing home; taking part in talks with invited SSVP guest & Sr Anna Marie; making kindness beads (St Thérèse and the Rosary); learning about 'charity', the life of the saints and the miraculous medal; making St Brigid crosses". **Margo Morris (Volunteer)**

MV from St Vincent's Primary, Carnwadric, Glasgow

*"... have been particularly active - gathering toiletries for the Ozanam Centre and for our Lenten Fundraising ...a raffle and Coffee Morning which raised £372.00 which we sent to the Syrian, Turkish Earthquake Appeal !" **Karen Stewart (PT)***



Holy Mass after a successful sponsored Walk

JUNIOR AND SENIOR VINNIES still going strong at St John's High School, Dundee

Mr Cecil (PT RE Dept) has been running Junior & Senior SSVP Conferences in the school for over 10 years.

Senior Vinnies from the **St John's High School** recently did a 9-mile sponsored walk from the school to the ruins of Balmerino Abbey, which concluded with Holy Mass. They raised a whopping £1256.59 for their school Conference!

VINCENTIAN YOUTH in action, present in Felgueiras and Lisbon



Sean holding the Scotland flag

"What makes SSVP youth groups special, is that they are a young version of the Conferences we have in our parishes. They are active, prayerful, and practical groups of young people who come together to find those in need; be that in their school or local community and address it" **Sean Murphy**

"We saw flags from Panama, Brazil, Australia, Canada, Kenya, France, Spain and many more!"

Sean took part in The Vincentian International Youth meeting (29th July – 1st Aug 2023) in Portugal with people from around the world.



Multinational flags at the Vincentian International Youth meeting

International Confederation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Inauguration of the new President General



Council General International (CGI)

The Council General International (CGI) was established on July 21, 1839, 184 years ago. During this period, several Presidents General have overseen the destiny of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. On 9th September 2023, it was the turn of the 17th President General, Brother Juan Manuel Buergo Gómez, from Spain, to take office in a remarkable ceremony, broadcast live on Ozanam TV.



The inauguration ceremony took place on the liturgical date of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, at the feet of St. Vincent de Paul in the Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul, Paris where the incorrupt body of the patron of charity lies.

Representatives of several Superior Councils, including those of Australia, Brazil, the United States, England and France attended the event, together with other guests, religious and Vincentians from Paris.



International General Assembly meeting of St Vincent de Paul Society 12 - 18 June 2023 Rome

Joseph Maguire (National Vice President, Scotland) attended the event this year joining Vincentians from all over the world, some journeying 36 hours!

"I did not have time to get details of all the stories of the Vincentians I met but they deserve mention just to illustrate the breadth of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in the world today. Thus, we have Trinidad, Tobago, Bahamas, Surinam, England, Ireland, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, Senegal, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Malta, Liberia and Algeria. There were many others that I did not manage to speak to but, like us in Scotland, all have their own challenges."



Vincentians in Scotland united in prayer with the SSVP Youth gathering for the World Youth Days in Lisbon.



SSVP Conferences are encouraged to set up a Conference email address, which a Conference member can monitor and service, rather than a personal email address. The National Office are happy to help set this up through IT Support. Please contact us at admin@ssvpScotland.com

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