

Ozanam

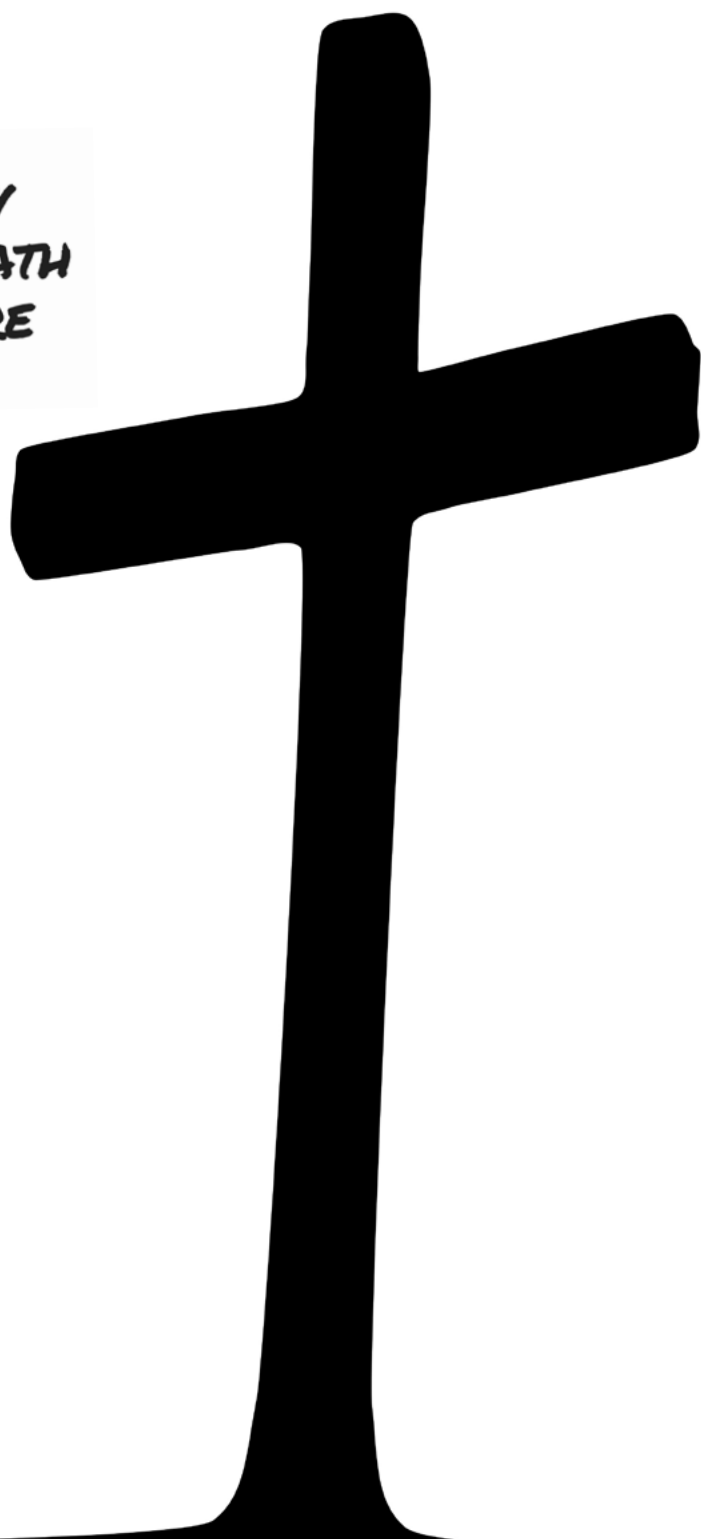
News



Society of St Vincent
de Paul, Scotland

**"LET US LOVE THIS LITTLE SOCIETY
WHICH HAS PLACED US ON THE PATH
TO A MORE CHARITABLE AND MORE
CHRISTIAN LIFE."**

- BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM





COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

SR AGNES MCGARVIE
National Spiritual Adviser

JAMES MCKENDRICK
National President
Trustee

VACANT
National Treasurer
Trustee

RICHARD STEINBACH
Trustee
St Andrews & Edinburgh

CHRISTINE GRAY
Trustee
Glasgow

DANIEL COLLINS
Trustee
Paisley

JOHN JOYCE
Trustee
Dunkeld

ELIZABETH HERLIHY
Trustee
Aberdeen

JOE MACEACHAN
Trustee
Motherwell/VIP

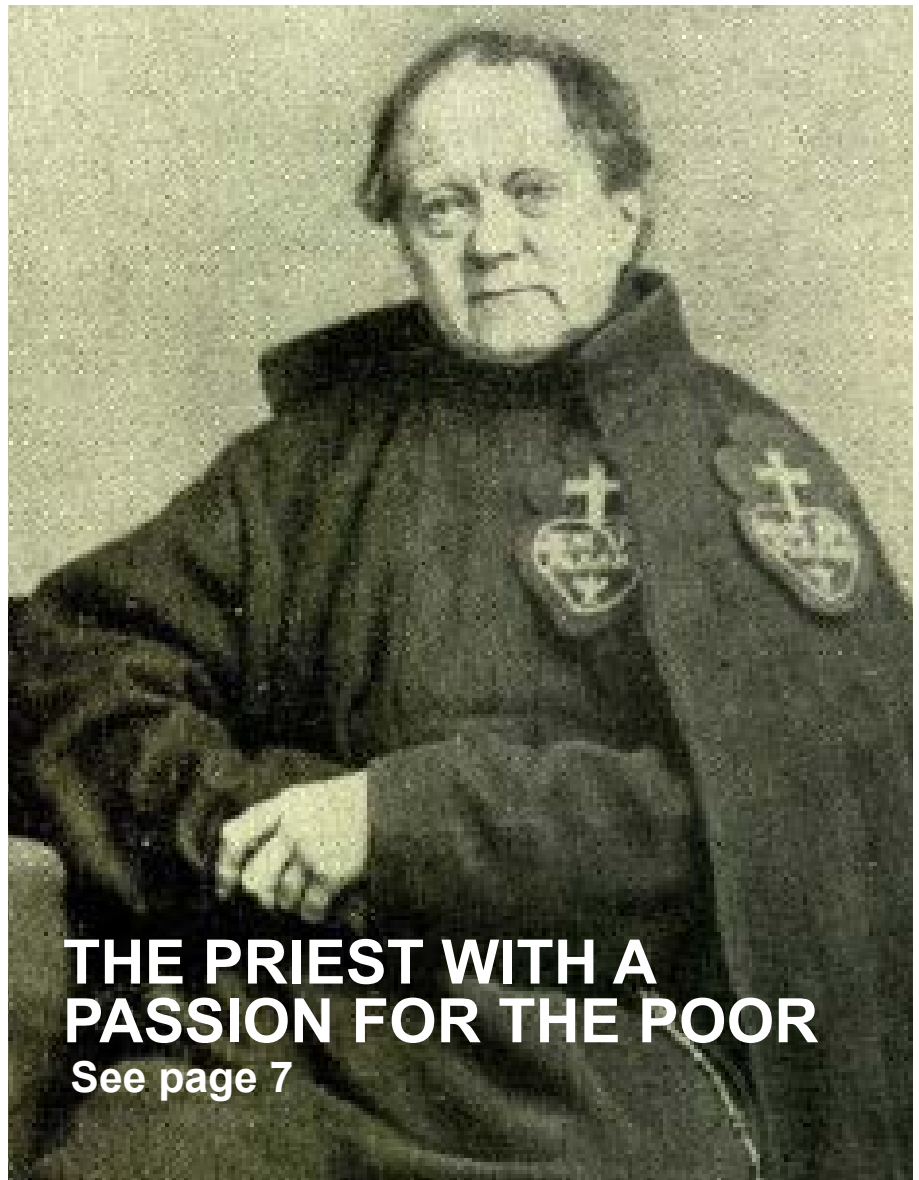
VACANT
Galloway

IAN TIERNEY
Twinning Projects

The Society of St Vincent de Paul

National office:
2nd floor,
113 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 2RU
Tel: 0141 226 8833
email: admin@ssvpscotland.com

Ozanam News Editor: Matt Meade
communication@ssvpscotland.com



THE PRIEST WITH A PASSION FOR THE POOR

See page 7

GET INVOLVED! We want to know what your conference is up to. If you have a story, share it. The *Ozanam News* relies on your contributions. Send articles and images (jpg or png format only, no PDFs) to com.munication@ssvpscotland.com. Simply put the name of your conference in the subject

bar and your full contact details. Please provide full caption details for photos. Please note, we do not accept paper submissions. Articles should be written by email or attached as a Word document. If you need help or have a query please contact editor Matt Meade on 07985 592920.

www.ssvpscotland.com

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.



If you know the history

Jim McKendrick, National President

OUR Society has a rich history and some incredible stories. This edition of *The Ozanam News* is dedicated to highlighting some of them.

Hopefully, it will inspire your work for the Society through your love of Christ. He is central to our lives and to the history and growth of the SSVP. In this Easter season we can help proclaim the good news of the risen Christ by renewing our work in his service as members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

It's good also to know a bit about our past so we can tell people about how the SSVP came to be! In 1831 Frederic Ozanam had come to Paris to study at the Sorbonne. He happened to meet Emmanuel Bailly, a former professor who was now the owner and editor of a prominent Paris newspaper, *La Tribune Catholique*. Bailly encouraged and supported Frederic in his early writing career and published his first efforts in *La Tribune*.

At Bailly's house Frederic also met and befriended some of the young students who were lodging in two houses owned by Bailly which provided a safe environment and a Catholic ethos.

The following year, Frederic and five friends started the Conference of History. At one of its meetings a remark by Jean Broet was overheard by Frederic and his friends: *"You are right when you speak of the past. In former times Christianity worked wonders. But what is it doing for humanity today?"*

And you, who pride yourselves on your Catholicity, what are you doing to prove the worth of your faith?"

Though chastened, Frederic and his companions felt compelled to respond.

A very animated Frederic summed up their mood: "One thing is wanting - that our apostolate may be blessed by God and works of charity. The blessing of the poor is the blessing of God. Therefore we must do what our Lord Jesus Christ did when preaching the Gospel. Let us go to the poor."

Fifty five years later, Paul Lamache, the last survivor of the founding group, remembered every detail of the scene.

"I can see the flame burning in Ozanam's eyes," he wrote. "I can hear his voice trembling a little with emotion as he explains his project of a charitable Catholic association. He spoke in terms so warm and moving."

Bailly accepted enthusiastically Ozanam's suggestion of a little society which would go to the poor.

He offered his office as a meeting place, agreed to preside over the meeting and suggested increasing their numbers.

In a letter to his friend Lallier in May 1838, Ozanam looked back on those hectic few weeks of transition from the Conference of History to the Conference of Charity: "All those humble scenes from our student days, when I recall them in the half-light of the past, have an inexpressible charm: the evening meetings with Fr Gerbet, which seemed to gain an air of mystery and which first brought us together: those battles about

Continued...

(cont.) history and philosophy to which we brought so much genuine enthusiasm, where there was a heartfelt sharing of success; the little meetings in the Rue du Petit-Bourbon Saint-sulpice.”

The first meeting of the Conference of Charity was held at 8pm on 23 April 1833. The seven men present at this historic event were: Emmanuel Bailly; Frederic Ozanam; Felix Clave; Jules Devaux; Francois Lallier; Paul Lamache and Auguste Le Taillandier.

Little is known about the actual discussions of the first meeting. However, the format of the meeting has come down unchanged through almost two hundred years and today is observed in every conference throughout the world.

The Conference met weekly on Tuesday evening. An Opening Prayer, the Veni Sancte Spiritus was recited.

A Spiritual Reading from The Imitation of Christ was read. Cases were discussed and allocated. Soon, under the guidance of Sister Rosalie, each member was assigned a family to look after. A secret collection was taken up. Closing Prayers were recited. The resources of the Conference were very limited.

Frederic summarised it as: “The collections which we make amongst ourselves every Tuesday, the alms of some charitable people anxious to second our goodwill and the cast-off clothes of our wardrobe.” As well as giving them lists of families to visit, Sister Rosalie also provided bread and money to augment their meagre resources.

On 4 February 1834, the Conference was

placed under the patronage of St Vincent de Paul and subsequently changed its name. It was also placed under the protection of Our Blessed Lady. At a Festival meeting on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 1835, the first Rule of the Society was presented by Lallier and Bailly, first Secretary General and first President General respectively.

The little society grew rapidly, and by the end of 1834 it had over 100 members. The following year there were 250.

It became necessary to sub-divide the original Conference several times. Original student members founded new conferences on their return to the provinces.

By 1853, two months before his death, Ozanam was able to report to a new conference in Leghorn “We eight (le Provost had joined the seven founders a few months after the inaugural meeting.) now number in Paris alone 2,000 Brothers who visit 5,000 families (that is to say about 20,000 people) or one-fourth of the poor whom this immense city holds.”

By 1860, there were 2,500 conferences worldwide with and 50,000 members; in the Centenary Year of 1933 there were 12,000 conferences (200,000 members).

Today there are over 40,000 conferences (800,000 members).

Frederic’s words remain pertinent today: “Let us love this little society which has made us known to one another, which has placed us on the path to a more charitable and more Christian life.

“Oh how glad we shall be that we did not leave empty the years of our youth.”

Twinning report

Ian Tierney, Twinning Projects

●The Project Fund is helping eight projects in India, totalling £6,972.

A project in South Africa received £800. These projects covered areas such as; self-help, goat banks, housing repairs, fish-vending and a computer project. The funding for these projects comes from the general

Project Fund provided by all those Scottish twins who donate to it.

●In March, £2,000 was sent for a project requested by our third twinned country Hungary. It will be spent finance music education for disabled children in Miskolc as well as general education courses in washing, cleaning

and lifestyle advice.

●I attended St. Peter in Chains conference in Ardrossan to give a talk on twinning. Many thanks for their generous donation. Any conference or group who wish me to give a talk on twinning can contact me at twinning@ssvpscotland.com



A bike crash left James Robertson in a coma. Doctors believed he would die, but St John Ogilvie had other ideas. His sister Clare shares this remarkable story.

ON the morning of Corpus Christie 1961, my brother James Robertson left Mass and headed to work in Grangemouth on his motorbike.

The road was used by oil tankers and was wet and greasy. En route, James skidded and hit a concrete farm entrance. He was taken to Falkirk Infirmary where doctors said his brain was seriously contused and he would not survive. He was comatose for five-and-a-half months. His body became like a skeleton and he was fed intravenously.

His aunt, Margaret Whelahan, was president of the Catholic Nurses Guild whose chaplain was Father John McQuade, a Jesuit priest. He asked us our family to “give our guy a chance” and asked us to pray to St John Ogilvie to intercede for James.

James became continent, was able to swallow and showed gradual improvement.

After waking he told my mother that John Ogilvie had been to see him and said he did not look anything like the depiction on the medal as he was dressed as a cattle drover in medieval clothes. The Jesuits were very excited to hear this as they knew that John would be in disguise and was indeed dressed as described. James said that John Ogilvie told him that he would get better.

James confounded everyone by gradually getting rid of his wheelchair and subsequently his zimmer, a tripod and even a walking stick. He could walk independently. Sadly, his leg and arm were retracted as they had never been splinted when doctors had said that he would never get better.

The Jesuits collected all the medical evidence and some years later when a Mr Fagan was cured of cancer through the intercession of John Ogilvie, the case for Canonisation went forward. James went to Rome as one of the ‘Favours’ and received Holy Communion from Pope Paul VI (above).

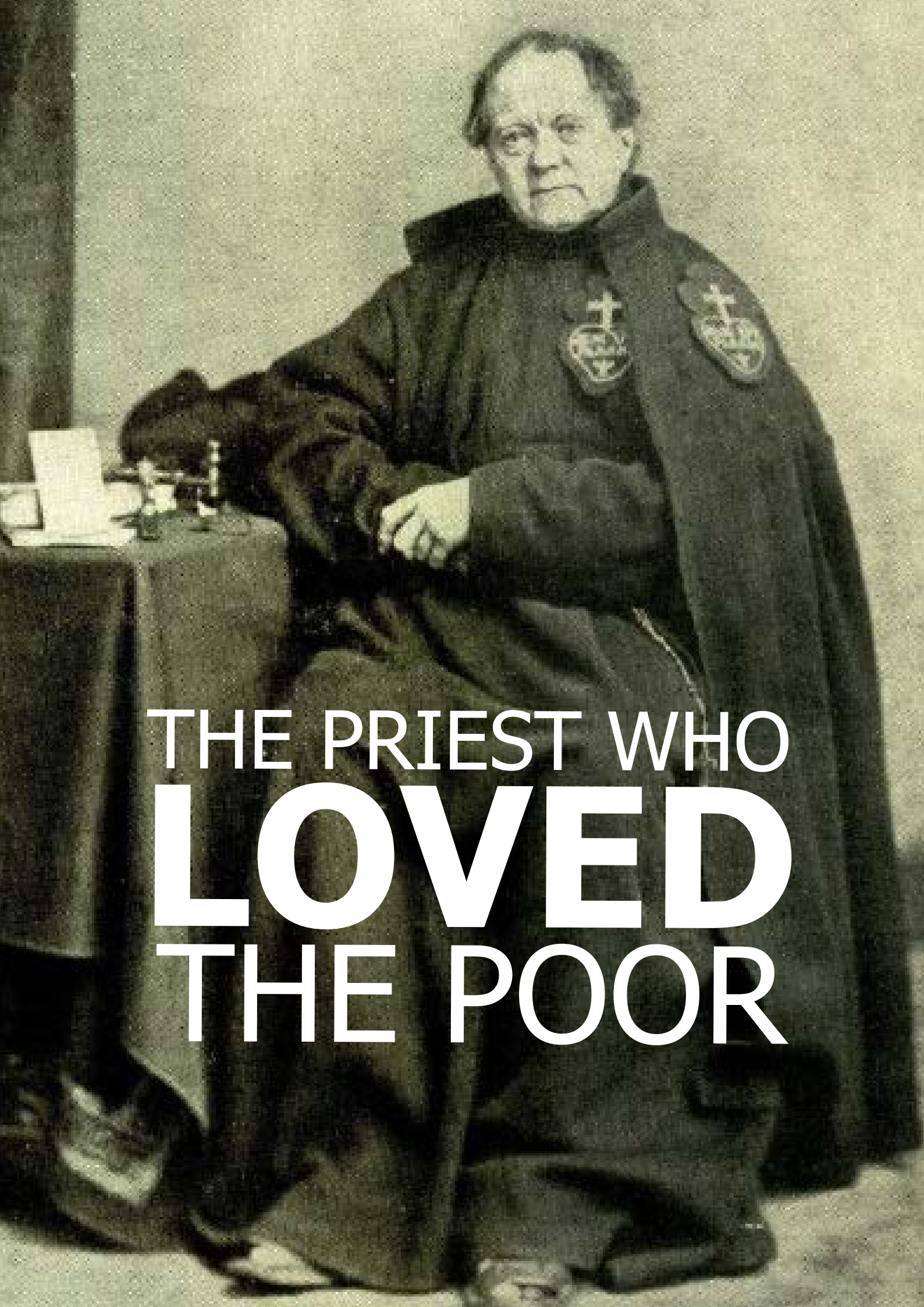
James died in January at Fraserburgh. He was 77. James was a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul in Bathgate for 30 years. May he rest in peace.

“James had been a member of our conference for many years. Over those years we always thought of him as a living miracle.”

- Joe Milligan, St Mary’s Bathgate conference.

“God had sent him St John Ogilvie as an intercessor, who told him: ‘You will get better.’ James was able to witness to his faith in the midst of his own suffering and do so with energy, humility, patience and integrity.”

- Fr Mark Impson, Fraserburgh.



THE PRIEST WHO
LOVED
THE POOR

Father George 'Ignatius' Spencer turned his back on great wealth to become a Catholic priest, stunning polite society. He also played a pivotal role in helping establish the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Victorian England and is now on the path to sainthood. By Matt Meade.

Father George Spencer cared a great deal about the poor. A Passionist priest in Victorian England, any money he had he gave it away.

So he was impressed upon meeting a Monsieur Baudon who told him about a fledgling Catholic lay society in France, dedicated to serving those in need.

It inspired him to write an article for the Catholic Magazine in 1843 about his hope of having it established in England.

"The primary end of the society... appears to be visiting and improving the condition of the poor," he wrote. "They chose as their patron... the great saint who perhaps stands pre-eminent above all in modern times for the spirit of enterprise and for success in the humble works of charity among the poor."

That saint was Vincent de Paul.

"He was, in reality, the man who brought the society to England," says Fr Ben Lodge, postulator for the Cause of Fr George Ignatius Spencer. "His visionary thing was greater lay involvement in the life of the church. We're used to the idea now of lay involvement, but he was 150 years ahead of his time in that regard."

Fr Ben has spent around thirty years researching and transcribing the diaries and writings of Fr Spencer. "He wrote incredibly small and my predecessor couldn't read his diaries. I could only do an hour at a time, then my eyes would water."

In 2010, a Vatican investigation declared Fr Spencer lived a life of "heroic virtue". Fr Ben, currently parish priest at St Sophia's in Galston, East Ayrshire, said: "His family were the cream of the nobility - his father was First Lord of the Admiralty.

"Their house was one of the most beautiful in all of London. Guests at the dinner table were the great and the good - people like Nelson and Scott the novelist. So it's extraordinary that Fr Spencer

became a Passionist priest.

"The first rule of the Passionists had been rejected by the pope because it was thought no-one could live that way. It was considered that that type of living was too severe. Any money he had he gave it away, so much so that his father put a block on his allowance.

"He even gave away money that was intended for his return journeys.

"The other interesting thing is that Fr Spencer had a form of Spina Bifida.

"I've talked to consultants, and they told me that if he had to walk more than two miles he'd know all about it. I asked "What if he walked 22 miles?". They said he would be in screaming pain. It's heroic stuff." He added: "He listened to the gospel message - 'What should I do to become perfect? Go sell all you have - give the money to the poor.'

In February 1843 Father Spencer wrote to M. Baudon to say that he had only received one letter about the article in the Catholic magazine. It was from a priest in Lancashire.

This priest wrote that he wished to co-operate in the establishment of "so beautiful a work". Father Spencer concluded his letter with a phrase that embodies the attitude of the Society of St Vincent de Paul to all its works: "We must depend on the good providence of God."

That providence came to pass a year later. On a cold January night in London, thirteen men gathered together. M Pagliano, a restaurant owner and Catholic convert, hosted what was the first meeting of the SSVP in England.

Today, our society has blossomed to thousands of members across the UK. In no small part can we thank the Passionist priest who cared a great deal about the poor.

Royal connection: Fr Spencer is the great-great-great uncle of the Princess Diana, as well as the great uncle



JOSEF MAYR-NUSSER

The Italian SSVP member who became a martyr after refusing to take an ⚡ oath to Hitler in World War II has recently been beatified.

Josef Mayr-Nusser was anxious. The Italian Catholic had been conscripted by the occupying Nazis in Italy to join the SS, a feared military group.

It forced him to leave his wife and newborn son for training in Prussia. But when it was time for SS members to swear an oath to Hitler, Mayr-Nusser refused.

According to a fellow comrade, he was “pensive and worried,” but told the general with a “strong voice”: “I cannot take an oath to Hitler in the name of God. I cannot do it because my faith and conscience do not allow it.” Although his friends tried to convince him to retract his statement and take the oath, he refused. He believed that Nazi ideals could in no way be reconciled with Christian ethics and values.

Mayr-Nusser had joined the Society of St Vincent de Paul at the age of 22 in an effort to imitate the charity of the saint.

Five years later he became president of the Bolzano branch of the SSVP, spending a large amount of his time visiting the poor and providing them with both material and spiritual support. When World War II flared up in 1939, Mayr-Nusser joined the anti-Nazi movement “Andreas Hofer Bund.” However, a few years later, civil war also broke out in

Italy following the 1943 ousting of Benito Mussolini from power, which led to the German occupation of the northern half of the country and his conscription to the SS.

As a result of Josef’s refusal to swear an oath to Hitler, he was thrown in jail to await trial. Because of this he was jailed and later transferred to Danzig in Germany where he was prosecuted. While awaiting trial, Josef took to chopping wood and peeling potatoes, and was given the right to pray during his time in captivity.

In 1945 he was sentenced to death for treason, and was ordered to march to the Dachau concentration camp to be shot by firing squad.

However, he fell ill with dysentery along the way and died before reaching the camp on 24 February 1945. When his body was discovered on the train, he had both a Bible and a rosary with him. Josef’s cause for martyrdom was launched by the Diocese of Bolzano and was approved in 2005, allowing him to receive the title Servant of God. Last year, Pope Francis’ recognition of his martyrdom has paved the way for his beatification which took place last month. This SSVP man’s faith in Christ and conviction of belief makes him an ideal example to members worldwide.

● *Adapted from an article that appeared on the Catholic News Agency website.*

Erlangen, 24.2.1945



Liebste Hildegard!

La lettera

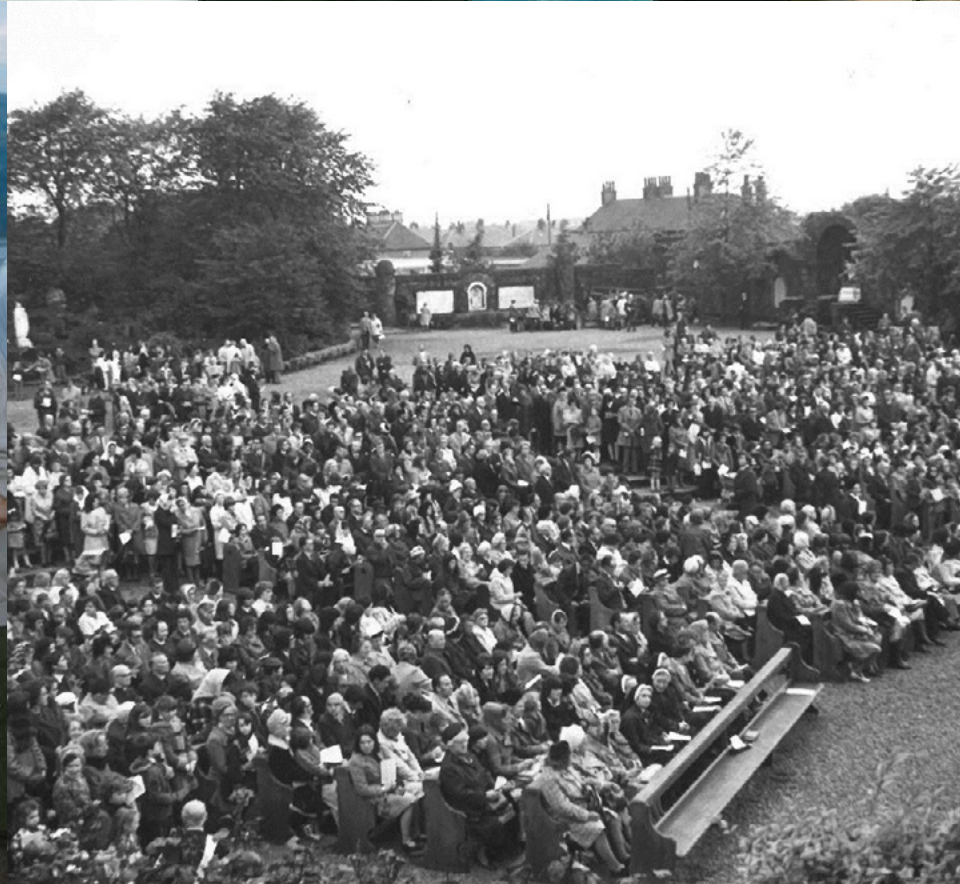


Memory Lane

A fond glimpse into our past.



Send your submissions for Memory Lane to communication@ssvpscotland.com



Vinnies on video

A new generation of Vincentians are the stars of a promotional video for St Andrews & Edinburgh Diocese



Watch the video now on the SSVPScotland Facebook page

Congratulations to St. Theresa's Parish, East Calder, on the successful Aggregation of their Conference, last month. Pictured with Archdiocesan President Richard Steinbach, left, are Eddie McGrane West Lothian President, Theresa Canning, Jim & Sheena Paden, Theresa O'Donnell, Elizabeth Morgan, and Fr. Tony Lappin.



Around the conferences



After more than 30 years dedicated service, Bridget Kelly retired from the SSVP at Our Lady & St Ninian's in Bannockburn, Stirling. President Danny Duffy said, 'Bridget is well known by so many people and her caring visits over all the years will be cherished by those to whom she gave so much time.'

● On the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian charism, the Holy Father, through the Apostolic Penitentiary, has granted the whole Vincentian Family, a Plenary Indulgence (Confession, Communion, and Prayers for the Pope), those will receive it who participate in the Eucharist or in some public or private prayer service (Our Father, profession of faith, invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St Vincent).

● Margaret Ferguson has been elected as the new conference president at St Thomas in Neilston.



St Mary's Lanark hosted an SSVP group meeting with a Mass led by father Jim Thompson and speaker Margo Uprichard from the Space



St Ninian's Conference, Inverness, donated books to mark the reopening of the Highland Hospice in Inverness. From left, Fr. Allen Andrew Leaver, Peter Kelly, Brian McGlennon and Charlie Grant.



● SSVP national clerical officer Jim Gibson celebrated his 60th birthday last month.



Mini Vinnies from St Margaret's Primary, Dunfermline, who took part in an SSVP video (see page 12).

Big year for youth

Clare Carr-Cullen

National Youth Development Officer

National Youth Day

Get ready for our 2017 National Youth Day event! It looks set to be even better than the brilliant 2016 event at St Bride's hall in Motherwell. It combined prayer and reflection with a mixture of learning experiences and fun activities. That allowed Youth SSVP members and young adult leaders to bond and get to know one another. We also shared experiences and learned more about the SSVP and contemporary issues.

The 2017 event is open to all Youth SSVP members between the ages of 12 and 17. Unlike the Voice of the Poor Conference, it is not an event to encourage more young people to join Youth SSVP, but rather a gathering for existing Youth SSVP members. At the time of going to press, details are being confirmed but we know that the event will take place on the week of 12th June.

Mini Vinnies Assemble!

On Thursday 22nd June, Mini Vinnies

members from across the Archdiocese of Glasgow will gather at 'The Space' in Govanhill. This pilot event at this beautiful venue will give children and teachers, the chance to share their experiences ideas, and learn more about the SSVP.

Due to the large numbers of children joining Mini Vinnies, we will be unable to accommodate all. So we are asking that each Mini Vinnies group sends up to six members. Conference members who work with their Mini Vinnies group are also most welcome to attend for all or part of the day, which will run from 10am until 2pm. With more Mini Vinnies groups starting across the country (there are now 36 that we are aware of, with more starting all the time!), we hope that events like this will become regular. We are always looking for members to assist with Mini Vinnies, so please get in touch if you are interested.

SSVP Youth Development

For further information on these events, or to find out more about involving young people in the Society, please contact the National Office and speak to me. Alternatively visit our website at ssvpscotland.com

Obituaries

May they rest in peace

Ferdinando Cardosi

Former president
St Andrew's Cathedral
Dundee
Dunkeld Diocese

William McLaughlin

Former president
St Teresa's, Dumfries
Galloway Diocese

Ronnie Daly

Former president
St Mungo's, Townhead
Glasgow Diocese

Eddie Gallagher

Glasgow South East
Group president
& conference pres.
St Anne's, Dennistoun
Glasgow Diocese

Angus MacLeod

Former member
St Helen's, Langside
& OL of the Wayside
Glasgow Diocese

Charlie McColgan

Former president
St Catherine Laboure,
Barlanark
Glasgow Diocese

Edward McGuigan

Former member
St Paul's, Shettleston
Glasgow Diocese

James Meechan

Treasurer
St Catherine Laboure,
Barlanark
Glasgow Diocese

George Wretham

President
OL & St Mark's,
Alexandria
Glasgow Diocese

Annie Armstrong

Active member
St Mary's, Caldercruix
Motherwell Diocese

Charlie Bradley

Former member
Our Lady of Good Aid
Motherwell

James Divers

Former president
St Mary's, Cleland
Motherwell Diocese

Anne Hutchison

Active member
St Mary's, Hamilton
Motherwell Diocese

Jimmy McCulloch

Sec & Former president
St Mary's, Cleland
Motherwell Diocese

Thomas McIlduff

Former president
St Margaret's, Airdrie
Motherwell Diocese

Pat Walsh

Former member
St Athanasius, Carluke
Motherwell Diocese

Gerry Beggbie

Former president
St Peter's, Glenburn
Paisley Diocese

John Barrat

Former president
Fife Furniture Project founder
St Margaret's, Dunfermline
St A&E



Get creative

The international SSVV has launched a writing contest to highlight the life of Emmanuel Bailly, our first President General.

Check the website for more information:

www.ssvpglobal.org

Alternatively, more details are available by emailing communication@ssvpscotland.com

First prize: 1000 euros*

Second prize: 750 euros*

Third prize: 500 euros*

We will love each other now and forever, from near to far,
from one conference to another, from one city to another,
from one country to another...

- Emmanuel Bailly

* Plus same amount for winners' conferences.