

# Ozanam News

Easter 2014



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



**200 YEARS  
BLESSED  
FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM  
1813-2013**



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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23rd

April

Feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam  
(1813) and the end of the  
bicentennial celebrations.

12th

May

The Ozanam Talk will be given  
by Dr Leonard Franchi of the St  
Andrew's Foundation at the Ogilvie  
Centre, Garnethill, Glasgow 7.30pm

11th-

13th

June

Camp Frederic will take place  
again at Auchenglen. If you are aged  
between 14-17, involved in SSVp  
and would like to take part contact  
Clare at the National Office.

Many thanks to all who  
contributed articles and  
images to the Ozanam  
News.

In particular, thanks to  
SSVP England and Wales  
for the "Multi Colour"  
Frederic image used on  
the front cover.

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### 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.

# A Note of Thanks...

Thank you to all the SSVF members for the support, advice and friendship that you've offered to me over the last five and a half years. It's been like having a huge family.

I'm happy to hand over to Jim McKendrick and am sure that he will serve you well. Best wishes to everyone. - Michael Balfour



## ... and a New

## National President



On the 15th February 2014 I was elected as the new National President. A total shock to me! ...

and a gigantic leap of faith by those members

of the National Council who were brave enough to elect me!

I must first express my gratitude and that of the National Council, and indeed, all Vincentians in Scotland to our retiring President. I have very quickly come to realise he will be a hard act to follow and a big pair of shoes to fill....pray for me.

Michael Balfour is an example to us all of the true Vincentian spirit. A lifelong passion for the Society began when Michael joined a furniture recycling project at the age of 15. After serving in Conferences in Linlithgow and Inverness, he joined St Kentigern's Conference in Edinburgh where he has clocked up 35 years membership. He has generously given his time and talents to enrich all levels of the Society. He has been Edinburgh Group Council President; Archdiocesan Treasurer and spent four years as Archdiocesan President before becoming National President in 2008. Until recently was still his Conference's Treasurer!

**It is impossible to find words to adequately express our sincere thanks to Michael for all he has done for the Society in Scotland at all levels.**

Both Frederic Ozanam and Pope Francis have many things in common. One of these

is the realisation of the importance of Family Life to spirituality and vocation. The first and most important thing I can say about myself is that I have been happily married to Florence for 43 years and have been blessed with 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

I have been a member of St. John's Conference, Stevenston for 35 years, and at present hold the office of Treasurer, having previously held the offices of Vice President and Secretary.

I was the Galloway Diocesan Treasurer for over 20 years, and 3 years ago was elected Diocesan President. As a member of the National Council I served for 3 years as a Trustee and Director. For over 10 years, I was the National Treasurer and Member of the National Council under the Presidencies of the late Brother Jim Robb and Brothers Hugh Scott and John Murphy.

In the next few years, I feel the Society in Scotland needs to continue the good work done on improving our governance and administration, but also expand our vision to enhance our spiritual dimension and efforts to increase our Social Justice activity in response to Welfare Reforms. Increases in our work and activity in these and other areas will require additional resources, particularly human resources.

So recruitment and fund raising will be priorities. We should follow the advice of Frederic Ozanam and our present Pope and take St Francis as a model of our Vincentian activity and spirituality." He became poor so that by his poverty you might become rich"

- President James McKendrick

It means being nice to people all the time.  
- Rebecca, age 8

I like being in the Mini Vinnies because it makes me feel happier and I like helping people a lot.  
- Molly, age 8

There is a nice teacher there and I like helping people. I like being a Mini Vinnie because we have really nice things to do and because we gave some food to the poor and I liked doing the carol singing.  
- Julia, age 8.

# Mini Vinnies

Mini Vinnies has been running at Our Lady's Primary School in Perth since September 2013. We began with a group of about 20 children (and it is still growing!) who all said they had an interest in helping others, who wanted to make a bit of a difference in the community and in the world. Through 'This is our Faith', children are given opportunities to learn about and to understand the teachings of Jesus. Being a part of the Mini Vinnies enables them to really put those teachings into action and follow in the very footsteps of Christ.

The children take the lead in the group, deciding on projects they would like to do and how to go

about doing them. Each term they elect a new President and Secretary to take responsibility for the group. We meet once a week on Friday lunchtimes, usually for about twenty five minutes. The life of a teacher is of course busy, but twenty minutes a week dedicated to children, who simply want to serve others, is not a lot to give. I gain so much from working with these children; they are hungry to do good for others and I am absolutely inspired by their energy and enthusiasm! I would hugely encourage any other teachers who might be interested to give it a go and see where it takes them!



I really enjoy being a Mini Vinnie because I want to make a change for the whole world and to be beside Jesus. In my heart I feel really proud of myself.  
- Julia, age 8

Being a Mini Vinnie makes me really happy because it makes a big difference for everyone and a big difference in me.  
- Ailie, age 9

I like being a Mini Vinnie to do some jobs!  
- Owen, age 8

I like being a Mini Vinnie because I love to help people and it brings joy.  
- Katelyn, age 11.

Being a Mini Vinnie is good for me because I can help other people and I really like being a Mini Vinnie. I really want to make a difference and to share opportunities for other people to become a Mini Vinnie and for them to see how helpful it is to other people. When you go to Mini Vinnies you can always have people to talk to and if you ever have any worries you can always just tell them and they can help you with it.  
- Brogan, age 9



I really enjoy being a Mini Vinnie because it's really fun and I like to help people in need. - Karen, age 8

Being a Mini Vinnie means to me that I am being a really helpful boy and helping others. - Alex, age 8

I really enjoy participating in all the events that we have come up with and that we have been asked to do. When you do something good with the Mini Vinnies, it's like you've done a good deed. I enjoyed playing my violin at Dobbies garden centre when we went carol singing. - Caitlin, age 12

I really like doing activities with the Mini Vinnies as it's always fun. I love being a Mini Vinnie because I feel welcome here. I feel really good because we help people who are less fortunate than us. - Iona, age 9

I really like being a part of Mini Vinnies because we help lots of people. - Erin, age 9

I want to be a Mini Vinnie because there are loads of people in the whole world that need help and I thought it would be nice to start helping people. I see loads of stuff on tv and youtube that show that so many people need help. When we did the food parcels I felt really great because people can die without food and I didn't want that to happen. - Linda, age 8



**Would you be interested in helping 'Mini Vinnies to get off the ground in other schools?**

We are currently working on putting together a 'Mini Vinnies Action Group'. SSVP members who have indicated to us in our annual returns that they have experience in education have been contacted. However, you do not need this experience to help out with this initiative. If you would like to find out more on what involvement would entail, please contact Clare at the National Office.

Every week after Mass I would pop my money into the SSVP box in the knowledge it was being put to a good cause. Then to my great delight I was asked if I would like to become a member. I still feel very privileged to be an SSVP member.

We try to ensure those who have limited access to the outside world are not isolated. Boat trips, dinners, outings as well as home and hospital visits are just some of the ways we try to make people feel included.

I know I can't change the world on my own but I can change my small corner and the SSVP allows me this opportunity.

I became a member of St Vincent de Paul 27 years ago because I wanted to help the unfortunate and needy. I started helping at a soup kitchen and from then on attended regular meetings and Conferences.

I also got involved in delivering food and goods to needy people and Parishes. I visited

Hospitals and homes and in all those years I have met some wonderful people who have dedicated their lives to others.

I have gained so much spiritually and in many other areas and at 78 years old I pray

That I can continue to do whatever I can to support our great Society.

# Why I am a

# Vincentian

It is well documented the SSVP help the needy. Some say, "The needy suffer because of poverty and that poverty is lack of money." However, there are all different kinds of poverty. Poverty is not necessarily about lack of money. Lack of employment is poverty: lack of education is poverty: lack of spirituality is poverty: lack of friendship is poverty and loneliness is poverty. Poverty has many faces. The material rich still suffer from poverty.

This is why I find there are various reasons, "Why I am a Vincentian."

My reason for joining the SSVP is quite simple. I was and always have been, like everyone else, influenced by the parable of the, "Good Samaritan." The punch line always worried me, "Go and do likewise." Mind you, it still worries me at times.

A second reason and an important one is that the SSVP is a, "Spiritual" organisation. The work of the SSVP comes from the members Faith. It is a practical way of following the Gospel message. The conference meetings start and end with prayers and there is a spiritual reading that is discussed. It is from the prayers we learn to, "never claim that our works springs from ourselves alone."

The third reason and equally important is the work of the Society. Person to person contact is a very important part of the SSVP. Therefore, seeking out the needy becomes an essential part of the conference's work.

Any member of the SSVP will describe some story of how their involvement with those in need, made

the member of the SSVP feel more appreciative of the person in need, rather than the other way about.

So often we see such perseverance and determination it makes us wish we had the same.

Bringing hope, friendship and encouragement to the needy in the community, builds up the fellowship of the community, along with the faith and spirituality of all those helping in the work and all those helped. Yes, the SSVP is a worthwhile calling.

Questions are important and strangely enough, the SSVP came into existence as an answer to a question.

This brings me to my final reason, "Why I am a Vincentian," the manner in how the SSVP originated.

Frederic Ozanam had to face a challenging question in a debate in 1833. An atheistic group asked Frederic, "What are you doing today to show us the works, which proves the worth of your faith?" This question challenged Frederic because to answer truthfully, something would need to change. On reflection, Frederic realised that faith, is really about action, not academic debates. Frederic, on an impulse, said, "The blessing of the poor is the blessing of God. We must go to the poor". With these words, the SSVP was born; the question answered and the challenge accepted. The first conference came to realise, the best way to challenge anti-religious views was by enthusiastically doing practical works of charity, motivated by faith.

Being a Vincentian is at times, very challenging, but oh! So worthwhile.

I decided to join the conference after I had been given an invite to a Christmas dinner that was held in our parish for the housebound and those living alone.

I was asked by another member if I would consider joining. After hearing all the things the conference were involved with I decided it was a good opportunity to try and give back to others less fortunate than myself.

I've been a member for a little over 2 years now but I wish I had joined sooner.

For this edition, we asked members the simple question - Why are you Vincentian? As you might expect, there's different reasons, possibly as many reasons as members. We included a selection of responses, and the reflections by some on why being a Vincentian is relevant today.

As one response notes - SSVP is founded as a response to a question. We encourage members to reflect on what being a Vincentian means to them and do you feel you're living up to those ideals? How can the Society help you be the Vincentian you wish to be?

If you're not a member what impression do members make on you? Ask them what they like about being a Vincentian.

About 20 years I volunteered to do the annual door to door collection.

Not long after I was visited by 2 conference members and invited me to join. My life has blossomed through prayers and masses offered for me when I had

Family illness. I thought now I am on another interesting journey and thank God for the opportunities He sends us. Our members are mostly senior citizens with a great sense of humour and have energy to do all Tasks. I am ever grateful to have been asked to join this devoted group.

I admit I joined the SSVP through one of our members inviting me to a meeting in the church hall. That was about 14yrs ago. I was amazed at the amount of work done through the conference: providing second hand furniture; visiting the housebound and sick and arranging a meal for them in the church hall, or taking them on summer outings where they catch up with friends they don't see very often; providing transport to mass.

Through the SSVP I have the privilege of working 1 night per month with the "homeless" at Jericho House where we cook & serve them with a hot meal and they take away whatever we can give them.

The answer to the question "Why are you a Vincentian?" is I love people and feel fortunate that I'm able to do all I can to help them.

In 1985 I joined the conference, which had a predominantly male membership of many years experience. I was one of the youngest members.

Under the guidance of senior conference members I overcame to a large extent, any apprehension I had regarding visits, which soon became a source of joy and fulfilment.

The conference still has a good and a viable membership which is now female in the majority. Meetings are frank and lively and always mindful of our purpose as Vincentians.

Looking back over nearly 30 years I have many happy and sad memories.

The happy memories include;

- The friendship and shared commitment at conference meetings
- Leaving a house, nursing home or hospital having given someone a visit they and we enjoyed or having helped them financially
- Standing at the back of the church with the SSVP box into which many kind parishioners put their donation
- Taking part in May 1995 at the mass in St Patrick's Church, Edinburgh to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the SSVP.

The sad memories concern the passing of conference members, of those we have visited, of spiritual advisors and of benefactors. May they rest in peace.

### A Dream

I dreamt death came the other night.  
And heaven's gate swung wide  
With kindly Grace an angel came. And ushered  
me inside  
And there to my astonishment. Were people I'd  
known on earth  
Some I considered quite unfit. Or were of little  
worth  
Indignant words rose to my lips. But never were  
set free  
For every face showed stunned surprise  
No one expected me.

Simple really. I have been given so much (wonderful upbringing, schooling, job and family) that I find it imperative to give something back by caring for those in need, especially to those who live around and close to me. Allied to that is my faith, so SSVP is a good way of bringing the two together...faith in action, if you like.

I increasingly find myself asking the question. What is my role in the Society in 2014 and how does it differ from that of Frederic in 1833, how does it even differ from when I first joined the society, so many years ago. Confronted with the challenge of the 'new evangelisation' how can I and how able am I to respond to the numerous needs of contemporary society and should I even bother to try. After all I do my duty as a Vincentian, I attend the meetings, participate in the spirituality of the meeting, hold the box on a Sunday, visit the poor in their own homes and generally satisfy all the requirements of being a member of the Society, or do I?

In an age when it is accepted that the UK is one of the most socially unequal societies in Western Europe, and under a political system that appears to punish those viewed as undeserving poor by benefit withdrawal and the subsequent heartache it produces, is my commitment sufficient? In the age of the food bank, the bedroom tax, payday lenders, zero contract hours, debt, and unrelenting reform of the welfare system, can I even understand the heartbreak caused by so few, to so many. Some folk who are in work even have insufficient income to meet their bills and put food on the table, because of the current economic climate.

I have moved my thinking from that of the 'relative' poverty I once encountered to that of breadline poverty 'and wonder again whether we are moving closer to the conditions Frederick sought to alleviate in Paris in the 1830s, to show his Christian witness.

In an age where my Catholic faith seems to be a source of resentment to some, rather than a surety

Although I am not a member of a Conference but a staff member at the moment, I still very much consider myself to be a Vincentian. Having become actively involved with the Society when I was 15, I can't honestly claim that my motives were much more than 'to get experience' or 'to meet new people'. At the same time though, I always knew what the SSVP was all about, as it was very much a family affair when I was growing up, with my parents both being in parish Conferences and my sisters being youth members. It was more a case of when I would become involved with the Society rather than if.

The more involved I became with the Ozanam Club however, the more I came to realise how much I wanted to help others and it very much influenced the things that I have done in my life. - Clare Carr Youth Office

of truth and honesty, how can I reach out beyond the boundaries of my parish to the immigrant community and our own estranged communities such as 'rough sleepers' and to the 'hidden poor' in our own parishes; those we know who need help, but are too proud to ask, or even accept it. This of course leads me back to my basic question, how does my role differ from those seven good

**An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others..**

**- Pope Francis,**

Catholic men who founded the first conference and why did they do it? They were asked to prove their goodness by actions and not just prayer, 'show us your Christian works', and they did this by going to the poor, starving and downtrodden.

History shows the evidence of their efforts. Frederic Ozanam believed that the promotion of spiritual and human values should

be based on Christian love and social justice. It is an enhancement to his Blessed name that Pope Francis does not disagree.

In 'Evangelii Gaudium'[2013] Pope Francis discusses 'The Social Dimension of Evangelisation' and the inclusion the poor in society 'each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor and for enabling them to be fully a part of society'

Well it seems my reflection has at least led me to the fact that my religion and my charitable works cannot be separated from one another. All I have to do now is allow myself to be an Instrument of God and to remember it is not me personally doing the good work of the society, but the grace and example of the many good men and women who have gone before me in our unique society.

**A huge thank you to all who contributed to this article. We hope you gained something from occasionally asking "Why" instead of the more often asked "How".**



## An Indian Point of View

Vincentian is a vocation. He or she has received a call from God and a challenge from the world of today for doing good to the poor, needy and downtrodden ones of Jesus the liberator. I say that it is a call, a call from Jesus a lover and healer of the afflicted, the sick, loneliness and the needy ones. Vincentian it is not an easy way of life, it is not for all and only some are called, others not. A vocation not only implies a calling. It also requires a fitness in that calling.

It is a challenge because our present day society does not like to take up burdens and crosses, but prefers an easy way of life. With ardent prayer and good will our future will be brighter and the poor and needy ones of Jesus will be helped better both materially and spiritually.

In Ozanam's words, we hear that the aim of the Society is to en-kindle and spread the spirit of Catholicism, which stands for love, service and sacrifice.

As a Vincentian we should take the responsibility for the spiritual & material welfare of the needy people. We know that we are all spiritually poor, but with the help of God, we can acquire grace by our prayer and acts of charity. Vincentians are apostles of the poor and the apostolate must be based on prayer. A Vincentian should be a challenge to your friends by your exemplary lives and an encouragement to your colleagues by your words and deeds. Without prayers we will not get the grace and without God's grace we will not be able to do justice to the society.

You might have heard of an incident which occurred after the World War II was over. A group of American soldiers were sent in a bombed-out-German village. They started helping the villagers to clear the rubble and repair the shattered homes. Their biggest task was a ruined Church; they saw a statue of Jesus broken into pieces. Putting together the shattered fragments, they repaired the statue of Jesus, but just one thing marred the beauty of the statue. It had no hands. Unable to find the marble hands, the soldiers wrote this line at the foot of the handless Jesus. "I have no hands than yours" Jesus tells each and every Vincentian that he has no hands, lend your hands. Jesus wants you to serve Him in all those whom you meet everyday.

"Frederic Ozanam set us a wonderful example ...I'm sure that there are many amongst us who quietly follow his example."

If you want to be true Vincentian be young in spirit, but be active, you cannot remain idle, because your future depends on what you do now to the poor, needy and aged ones of Christ. Vincentian should hear the voice from Jesus on the Cross. "I thirst" – a thirst for helping the poor, the needy and the downtrodden. Let us be Ozanam's of today to love the unseen God by helping the poor and the needy ones of Jesus.

- Dominic Pinto Mumbai

After retiring from teaching, I wanted to find some voluntary work which, without being too onerous, would keep me motivated and also give me self-satisfaction. I was soon invited to join the SSVP.

May I say that I have never regretted my decision and I thank God that after 19 years at various levels of the Society I still am very proud to be a member of an organisation which, so unobtrusively, offers both such spiritual and material solace and aid to the poor, the troubled and the deprived. Frederic Ozanam our founder, in a very humble way, despite being a man of academic achievement, set us a wonderful example of modesty to follow by his tremendous work both spreading the Faith and offering a Christian love to those in need and alleviating the dreadful hardships suffered by the poor. I'm sure that there are many amongst us who quietly follow his example.

Never would I have envisaged, when I joined the Society that as Twinning Officer I would have the privilege to visit India, and meet so many dedicated members of our society, visiting conferences that are twinned with those of Scotland: an experience of a lifetime. I experienced evidence of a poverty there that is hard to imagine but also witnessed a dedication and Christian love by our Indian brothers and sisters for the poor inspired by their love of God and their fellow man.

In our Vincentian work, which can be inspiring and spiritually soothing, but at times distressing, we must be prepared to accept the changing face of poverty and accept the challenge, by taking up new projects to lighten the sufferings of the less fortunate.

Ian Tierney, National Twinning Officer

## SSVP first in Shetland!

In 2011, the parish of St Margaret and the Sacred Heart in Shetland made the decision to set up a youth group- they wished to bring young people from different parts of the island together to promote friendship, values and awareness of the needs of others.

Since its inception, the group have been incredibly busy! They have been involved in a variety of projects which allowed them to serve those in their community in a face to face manner; annual Christmas meal for senior citizens, regular coffee mornings, providing food parcels to the Salvation Army as well as visiting the sick and elderly members of the community.

Remembering those further afield the group have also raised funds to both buy 'real' gifts, such as providing water for a whole village, sending children to school and setting up a business for a family. In addition to the £1,500 that was raised for these great causes, they also raised funds to help with the running of the group - they held a bake sale, parish fun day, charity car wash, bag packing and an 18 mile sponsored walk.

They are encouraged to be active in the parish- and do in many ways- offertory, collections and



## Youth News

welcoming parishioners.

The group commenced the 'Pope Francis Award' in January 2014. This award is based on the established 'Caritas Award' for secondary school pupils and is aimed at those finishing primary school or in early secondary. Participants must undergo a program of study, reflection and community and parish voluntary work.

The group are also about to embark on an educational trip to Poland which will include voluntary work, and a visit to Auschwitz.

*"It has been a great privilege to work with the youth group. My vision is to help the young people learn more about their Faith and come closer to Christ. I think this is extremely important, as they are the future of the Church. Not only are the young people learning about their Faith through prayer and study, they are putting it into action by working together within the Parish and community."*

*"The group are growing in confidence, friendships have been formed and they radiate a great sense of joy. I think this joy comes from Christ." - Andrea Lavery Parish Youth Coordinator*

## The Voice of the Poor is changing

For the academic year 2014/2015, we will be moving the Voice of the Poor residential sessions from September and October to January. They will be offered for third year pupils, instead of fourth year. There will be opportunity for 16 schools (in 4 sessions of 4 schools) to bring along 8 pupils and 2 teachers for this well-received overnight residential at the Conforti Institute in Coatbridge. The Voice of the Poor is generously subsidised by the Conforti Institute, allowing us to offer the residential to schools at a cost of only £30 per person.

In addition to the residential, we are also planning on holding a 1 day conference early on in the 2014/15 academic year. This conference will help be aimed at 4th years so this cohort don't miss out in switch from 4th to 3rd year. Date and venue to be confirmed.

of the parish at their annual dinner in The Bank Social Club in Coatbridge and used the event to kick off their work. Members of the group have been visiting nursing homes, working the Helping Hands soup kitchen as well as organising an appeal in the parish for items to donate to the recently established food bank in Coatbridge, which was initiated the Conforti Institute and is being run in partnership with various groups and institutions around Coatbridge.



### ST AUGUSTINE'S., COATBRIDGE

The parish have been delighted by the creation of their Youth SSVP Conference. Working in partnership, young Conference member, Fr Michael Kane and the SSVP senior Conference have established the Conference with 8 members. The members range from between 18 to 23 years old. They have been meeting since the end of 2013 and have got off to a great start! They were delighted to spend the evening socialising with members

# School News

## St Rochs Secondary School Glasgow

The Conference have continued their work with Broomfield Nursing Home in Barmulloch. They have been visiting the home for some time now and are well under way with their gardening project. This project will provide a welcoming and interesting outdoor space for the residents of the home to spend time in. The pupils have also built an excellent relationship with the home, and the residents are pleased

to see them visit. The residents also enjoyed the Easter gifts that the group recently gave them. They have also kept up their work in the school by organising collections to support the Ozanam Centre. They have collected food and clothing, which was gratefully received.



## Trinity High, Renfrew

Every Wednesday afternoon, the Trinity High School SSVP school conference have been visiting St Francis' Nursing Home in Govan. With two teachers, the group of 8 provide musical entertainment, play board games and generally spend time with some of the residents at the facility, which is run by the Franciscan Sisters.

## Holyrood Secondary, Glasgow

Holyrood now has a well-established school conference, including great support from staff members. The group has provided great support to the Ozanam Centre and recently has been organising an appeal for food and clothing. The group worked hard and engaged the school community, managing to collect a great number of items. The first delivery was made just before Christmas 2013 but the group have continued collecting and recently donated a dozen bags of 'ring pull' tins. The centre organisers had specifically asked for these



tins with ring pulls as many of the people who visit the centre do not own basics like tin openers.

## Planning for the future

We are currently working on a strategic plan for the future of the youth SSVP (primary and secondary school age as well as young adults up to 33 years of age)

Is there something that you would like to see being done in terms of youth development? This could either be in terms of getting more young people into the Society and/or then keeping them there! We would be delighted to hear of any ideas or suggestions that you may have. Are you doing something that works very well and could

be useful to others? Do you have young people involved in your parish conference- how did you do this and what work are they involved in? Any feedback or ideas are most gratefully received. If you would like to discuss or ask questions about any of these topics, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can contact me at National Office on 0141 226 8833 or email me at youth@ssvpscotland.com If you're on Facebook, you'll find youth SSVP by searching for Young Vinnies - Clare Carr

## Ball for Brazil - The Sequel

A great night was had by all in attendance at 'Ball for Brazil-The Sequel'. Through the fundraising on the evening, sponsorships and donations from Conferences/parishes, we will be sending a grand total of £13,000 to the SSVP projects in Brazil that we visited in July of 2013. They are; a nursing home, a day care centre, a Jiu Jitsu project, homeless shelter and a parish Conference. The money will be put to very good use.



Staff from the Glasgow city centre office of GVA James Barr LTD recently organised an appeal for clothing and a fundraising coffee morning. The Ozanam Centre benefited from a donation of £200 and much needed bags of clothing. Pictured are Ian and Siobhan from GVA James Barr with Jim Gibson from national office.



## Twinning News

It has come to my notice that there are some conferences who have recently not been sending in their twinning dues of £30 quarterly. As we now only send off to India and South Africa the dues received each quarter from our Scottish conferences the result of non-payment of dues results in our twinned conferences in these countries not receiving the financial support and help as normal. I would ask all conferences, if they are in a position to do so, to support their twins who depend so much on our generosity.

Recently I have succeeded in obtaining new twins for some of our conferences who have been twinned for longer than 15 years which is the duration of a twinning link. If you come into this

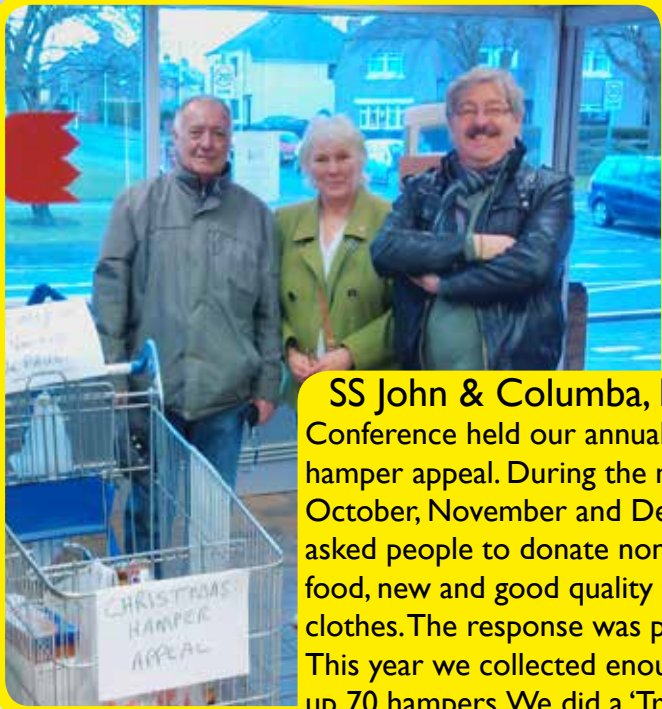
category please let me know so that I may try to find another twin for you. However on occasions this may take some time so be prepared for possible delay at times.

If, as often happens, you have not received any correspondence from your twin for a lengthy period please contact me and I will then send the details to the twinning officer who then contacts the Central Council of that particular area who makes contact with the particular conference and investigates why no correspondence has been sent indicating to the conference that it as a result of non-contact, may lose their twinning link.

Within the next few weeks a small brochure will be sent out to all Conferences giving information on many aspects of twinning and projects. I have already started to visit individual conferences, group and diocesan council meetings to talk on all aspects of twinning.

Ian Tierney- Twinning & Project Officer  
Email: [iantierney@ssvpscotland.com](mailto:iantierney@ssvpscotland.com)

# Around the Dioceses



**SS John & Columba, Rosyth**  
Conference held our annual Christmas hamper appeal. During the months of October, November and December, we asked people to donate non-perishable food, new and good quality toys, and clothes. The response was phenomenal. This year we collected enough to make up 70 hampers. We did a 'Trolley Appeal' at Tesco Rosyth, which resulted in filling 4 large trolleys. Richard, Elaine Steinbach and Sam Gill spent most of the day manning the trolleys, with other members coming along to help out. St. John's Primary School also donated several bags

of food, with the children giving up their time and pocket-money to help. When we first started with this appeal around 5 years ago we made up 8 hampers. To do 70 this year shows the need to help people even more. In this the 21st century who would think that there is still this great need.

Pictured are David Hunter (Fife Group President) along with Sam Gill and Moira McCrae, who generously provides storage for everything, are keeping the Furniture Project going, as busy as ever.

- Richard Steinbach – President of the Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh.

Our Annual concert took place on Friday 28th February in the Woodside halls.

Students from Turnbull High opened the concert playing a fine array of music to suit all tastes. This was followed by Dance UK, who shone with their dance routines and singing. Top of the bill were the "Lochsiders" a Scottish folk group who entertained us! A truly excellent evening enjoyed by all. A total of £3650 was raised which will go to Our Lady of the Wayside conference at the Ozanam centre in their work with the destitute and poor. I would like to thank all groups who gave so generously towards the raffle prizes! They were fabulous!

I would also like to thank all who worked very hard in the background in making the evening such a success.

To those who did not manage to come along, there will be another concert next year!

- Bernice M Brady Glasgow Archdiocesan President



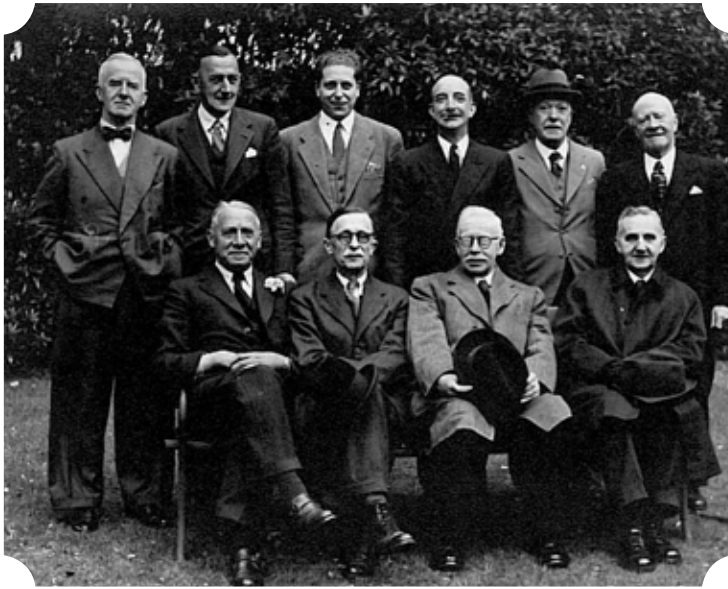
## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST UDDINGSTON

We held our annual Christmas party on the 25th January 2014. It was a great success with over 100 attending. All afternoon the hall was

full of dancing, singing and of course great food.

Being a January party it helped to keep the "Christmas spirit" alive and was a tonic to have a celebration in a bleak winter month.

- Grace McGarva, Secretary



My grandfather Henry Kenny J.P., was featured in the 'From the Archives' lower photograph, Christmas 2013 edition. He is in the back row, second from the right (with the hat on). Granddad was a member of the SSVP for over 50 years in Dundee. The following is from his obituary which appeared in the SSVP

Superior Council booklet of 1960

"From a humble Dundee Brother, Henry Kenny became a

Conference President and in time President of the Dundee Particular Council, President of the Dundee Central Council and Vice-President of the Superior Council. In everything he did Bro. Kenny was an outstanding example of one who forgot himself preferring to be a servant of the poor. Strong

With summer coming round, many conferences will be praying for good weather for annual excursions. We found an unmarked image in the archives of just such a lucky group (grey skies but no rain!). Do you recognise any of this happy bunch and know what they're doing now?

If you're planning an outing this summer we hope it goes well and you remember to take a camera. You could appear in a future edition of the Ozanam News - even if it is 25 years later!

willed and determined to fight for the principles he thought right yet he was humble and obedient to his clerical and lay superiors. A shining example of one who worked in God's Vineyard without thought of rest or reward long past the time his strength permitted, he surely left this world a little better off than when he entered it. What is Dundee's loss is also the loss of the Society and every Brother's whose privilege it was to meet him and know him. He edified all by his personal sanctity, hard work, tenacity of purpose and variety of good works to which he gave so much time, thought, and selfless labour. His place will indeed be hard to fill."

In 1950 the second plenary assembly of the Society in Paris since the war was held at which, granddad, in the role of the Vice-President of the East Superior Council, was the only Scottish representative and also participated in the Society's pilgrimage to Rome. In 1953 the celebrations in Paris of the centenary of the death of Frederic

Ozanam was held at which granddad represented the Superior Council at all the celebrations.

It was a delightful surprise to discover granddad's photograph in the SSVP archives, and I am very proud of all the work he has done for the Society and the high respect he was held in.

-James Gibson, SSVP Head Office Clerical Assistant

## From the Archives



On the back page of the December Ozanam News,  
I think the man second from the left(back row) might be James (Jimmy)Austin, I know he was in St. Constantine's conference Govan and later became a member of St.Lucy's Cumbernauld  
- Sam Derrick St.lucy's Cumbernauld



## THANK YOU

In response to recent emergencies, conferences and members across the country have again been generous in response to the call

SSVP Scottish conferences have raised £29,817 for those affected by the conflict in Syria, and an additional £73,499 for those affected by Hurricane Haiyan in the Philippines.

These monies have been passed onto the International SSVP to distribute through the SSVP in the affected areas. You can follow progress of where the money is going at

<http://en.ssvpglobal.org>



Dear Vincentians,

The Peace of Christ be with you.

We are very pleased to inform you, that through the grace of God, the total donations received have amounted to €1,231,918 which surpassed our target of €1 million. We are truly very grateful to all our generous donors from around the world in responding so positively to this disaster appeal. We express to them our heartfelt appreciation and enormous thanks. It is very touching and encouraging to witness the compassion and love of the donors in showing their Oneness and Solidarity with the victims of Typhoon Yolanda. We give Praise and Thanks to the Lord.

The Commission for International Aid & Development(CIAD) of CGI are working closely with the National Council, SSVP Philippines, in

the various rehabilitation programs/projects in alleviating the plight of the victims and to provide them with the essential basic necessities, housing, education, sustaining projects and more to enable them to live a more dignified and humane life.

Holy masses will be offered in thanksgiving and for the intentions of both the donors and the recipients.

Let us remain united in prayer in union with one another and the poor and the needy in glorifying to the love and goodness of God. In Jesus precious and adorable name, we pray.

In our Vincentian mission, charism and ethos and with the Love and abundant blessing of the Lord.

Yours in the service of Christ in the poor,  
Dr. Michael Thio, President General

## GET INVOLVED - TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Many thanks to all who submitted articles and images - all contributions gratefully received. As you can see, we're trying some new ideas for the Ozanam News. Please do get in touch to let us know what you think.

Ozanam News relies on your contributions - if your conference has a story to tell we'd be happy to share it (even better if you've got some pictures to go with it). Get in touch by email:

[communication@ssvpScotland.com](mailto:communication@ssvpScotland.com)

## OBITUARIES

It is with deepest regret that we announce the following deaths.

FRED BOWDITCH	FORMER MEMBER	ST MIRIN'S, PAISLEY	PAISLEY
PAT FAGAN	TREASURER	ST BERNARD'S, SHAWHEAD	MOTHERWELL
LIZZIE McKENNA	FORMER MEMBER	ST BARTHOLOMEW'S, TOWNHEAD	MOTHERWELL
ISOBEL DURNO	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST JOSEPH'S, ABERDEEN	ABERDEEN
TOM CALLENDER	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST GABRIEL'S, MERRYLEE	GLASGOW
MARIE HAMILTON	FORMER MEMBER	OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE	GLASGOW
JOHN McMAHON	FORMER MEMBER	ST BRENDAN'S, YOKER	GLASGOW
GEORGE MARTIN	FORMER MEMBER	ST JOSEPH'S, MILNGAVIE	GLASGOW
ANNE GRAY	FORMER MEMBER	ST JOSEPH'S, CUMBERNAULD	GLASGOW
CHARLES McCAFFERTY	PRESIDENT	ST JOSEPH'S, CLARKSTON	PAISLEY
MARY KERR	FORMER MEMBER	ST LAURENCE'S, GREENOCK	PAISLEY
AUSTIN MURRAY	VICE-PRESIDENT	ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN	ABERDEEN
PAUL MCBRIDE	SECRETARY	ST PATRICK'S, ANDERSTON	GLASGOW
RONNIE MOFFAT	FORMER VICE PRESIDENT & TREASURER	ST GREGORY'S, EDINBURGH	ST A & E
HARRY DONNELLY	PRESIDENT	ST MARGARET'S, DAVIDSON MAINS	ST A & E
HUGH McCANN	FORMER MEMBER	ST BRENDAN'S, MOTHERWELL	MOTHERWELL
EDDIE DUFFY	MEMBER	ST AUGUSTINE'S COATBRIDGE	MOTHERWELL
PATRICK MURRAY	FORMER DIOCESAN PRESIDENT	ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PORT GLASGOW	PAISLEY
JOHN NAUGHTON	SECRETARY	ST PETER'S, GLENBURN	PAISLEY

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.**

### CON McCONVILLE

Latterly Vice President, Con ran our conference here at St Ninian's in Edinburgh for over 40 years. He was a lovely guy and well known and liked among other conference members throughout St Andrew's & Edinburgh SSVP.

Brother Con McConville KSC, PGK PProvGK, PSW, Meritorius Service Award Holder, Silver and Golden Jubilarian, Lourdes/Edinburgh Hospitalite Silver Medallist, Lourdes Brancardier (Dads Army Member) SSVP member, Beni Merenti Medal Holder, Venerable

Margaret Sinclair Pilgrimage Organiser, Haddington Ecumenical Pilgrimage Steward, (and a voracious snooker player)!!

Con died on 31st October 2013 aged 87yrs. He was a generous advocate for the most needy and vulnerable in our society and was an inspiration to all of us here in St Ninian's Conference. We are so privileged to have known and been closely involved with this great and humble man.

- Willie Duff & Jean Callaghan St Ninian's Conference Edinburgh

### JOE McGLADE

Joe was a founder member of St Paul's Conference in Glenrothes. He became a very valuable and committed member of the conference and became president. He took this commitment into the Fife group council and also became the president of the group. This took him into the St Andrews & Edinburgh Archdiocesan council. He strongly supported the Port Seton and Anstruther caravan projects, helped improve and renew the

caravans and extended them from 2 vans to 4. At Fife group he was a great supporter of the Carmelite convent in Dysart where he initiated several projects and a strong support between the society and the convent which is continuing in his absence. Joe was a true Vincentian who served the poor, the sick and the lonely with compassion. He never let those in need down and will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

*Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.*

*Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal.*

*Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it,  
the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it,  
and the strength to complete it.*