

Ozanam News

Autumn 2014



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



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

In particular, the following images are used under Creative Commons License:

Alexander Schimmeck (Door Pg 3)

José Antonio Gil Martínez (Walker Pg4-5)

guu (Cathedral Pg 5)

Fresco Tours (Shell Pg 6)

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27th September - CARFIN FEAST DAY

Come and join the Vincentian Family in celebrating the feast of St Vincent de Paul at CARFIN Pilgrimage Centre, Motherwell.

4th October St Andrew's & Edinburgh Annual Healing Mass

St Peter in Chains, Inverkeithing - All welcome

Sat 11th October - NATIONAL MEETING

In the Kerrydale Suite, Celtic Park. More details soon.

25th October 2pm- St Andrews & Edinburgh Archdiocesan Mass

SS John & Columba, Rosyth. Main celebrant Archbishop Leo Cushley

Sat 29th November - REFLECTION DAY

At Conforti Institute, Coatbridge, ML5 4JS. This event is jointly organised by SSVP SCOTLAND and VINCENTIANS in PARTNERSHIP. As this is the first such event here in Scotland, we are hoping for a large turnout.

GET INVOLVED - TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Many thanks to all who submitted articles and images - all contributions gratefully received. We also value your feedback on how we could improve.

Ozanam News relies on your contributions - if your conference has a story to tell we'd be happy to share it, especially pictures. Get in touch by email: communication@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.

Strength to open the door

Jim McKendrick, National President, reflects on the 'how' of what we do

Last week I was re-reading a story from Ozanam's life that many of us know extremely well. It is Ozanam's experience of his first home visitation when the St Vincent de Paul Society was in its infancy. Ozanam and some fellow students asked Rosalie Rendu for guidance on how they could help those in need in the slums of Paris. She told them of a poor man she knew who was living through a freezing Paris winter without firewood. They arrived on the doorstep of the man and dropped the firewood – too frightened and unsure of what they should do next. Ozanam was prepared physically for what they would do with armfuls of firewood but unprepared mentally, emotionally and spiritually for how the experience would influence him. We can only imagine how critical Ozanam and his friends would have been of their actions upon reflection that night and the subsequent days – so critical of their reaction and disappointed at the opportunity they had missed. We can certainly recognise the uncertainty, trepidation and fear that Ozanam and his companions would have felt at that first visit.

As all Vincentians know that first home visitation can be terrifying, overwhelming and yet if you persevere can also be the catalyst for life-long commitment to the work of the Society. Ozanam's experience could so easily have been the end of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Believing 'that's it – we failed' or 'we don't know what we are doing'. However that wasn't his response – he re-grouped, reflected on what had gone wrong and resolved to be better prepared and respond differently next time.

The fact that this incident was just the beginning of the St Vincent de Paul Society speaks volumes about Ozanam's vision and leadership. He couldn't have known it at the time but this 'failure' of a home visitation would in fact become something of a 'parable' in the St Vincent de Paul Society's history. It tells us so much about Ozanam and his vision for what charity and service is – and isn't. It is about sharing, listening, just 'being' with those

we serve – sharing ourselves. It isn't just about what we bring (however practical and necessary it might be) – it's about how we bring it and who we are when we deliver it. For us as Vincentians it is also about recognising we don't always get it right the first time, we need to walk away and reflect on our actions and how there might be a better response next time. That's not to say we need to be overly critical of every visit or every good work – but it does mean we reflect regularly to see if what we are doing as members, conferences, councils and as the Society is reflective of, and in line with, our mission and the needs of the community.

As Vincentians we are enormously privileged in that we are invited into the personal lives of those we visit, and so it is crucial that we must always strike that difficult balance between ensuring we continue to offer practical assistance while at the same time using this experience of the practical and the personal to then advocate on behalf of those that cannot.

As Ozanam wrote:

The knowledge of social well-being and of reform is to be learned, not from the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor man's garret, sitting by his bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces him, sharing the secret of his lonely heart and troubled mind. When the conditions of the poor have been examined...it is then and then only, that we know the elements of that formidable problem, that we begin to grasp it and may hope to solve it."

There is so much to imitate in the insight, perseverance and commitment of Ozanam, and in doing so we look forward with optimism and hope to what the St Vincent de Paul Society can be into the future if we remain true to the vision and fundamentals of our founder and leader, Frederic Ozanam.

The Way of St James

A young Vincentian, Paul Stewart, a member of St Joseph's Whitburn, reflects on his experience on the Camino Santiago de Compostella



Arriving in Madrid I headed off to collect my rucksack all excited only to discover that a vital piece of my luggage was missing. I had packed three pieces of wood in my rucksack which, when assembled were actually a five foot wooden cross. My Cross was no where to be seen, devastated I headed off to find the lost luggage department and there was a massive queue! Unfortunately I had no time to wait as I had a train to catch to Leon. After arriving in Leon I was well fed by some lovely Spanish Señoras who insisted I shared their baguettes and olives.

I walked up to the Cathedral in Leon and there were TV crews everywhere, I had heard the day before I left a politician had been murdered in the street and this was a service for her and the Cathedral was closed. My visit to the Cathedral would have to wait until tomorrow. I said a wee prayer for the lady who was killed and headed off to find the Albergue. An Albergue is where you can sleep for the night for as little as 5 Euros, it is basically a hostel with bunk beds in rooms sharing with 2 - 140 people. The main Albergue in Leon is in a Benedictine Monastery with Nuns running the place, I checked in for 5 Euros and found out there was a pilgrim Blessing at 9pm.

The following morning I set out to visit the

Cathedral as I had heard the Stained Windows are worth the visit alone. I wasn't disappointed, they are up there with the most amazing stained windows I have ever seen.

Picking up the yellow arrows and scallop shell markings in the pavements I quickly picked up a fast pace. I am 6ft tall with long legs and I walk fast. My first couple of days were spent just checking out the Camino "etiquette". Due to a back injury suffered at work just before I left I had to sacrifice bringing a sleeping bag. It was either that or pay to have my luggage transferred and I wanted to do The Camino carrying my own luggage. Looking back it was not so bad that the Cross was lost?

Whenever I checked into an Albergue I just asked at reception if I could have a blanket - I was never cold at night. I had debated whether or not to bring my fleece jacket with me. The first week was amazing sunshine during the day, cold at night and freezing in the mornings- boy am I glad I took the jacket! About 5degrees some mornings, colder than Scotland.

In the second week we headed into the mountains and suddenly the weather changed. I awoke one morning to thick fog and heavy rain. Some days it rained solidly for 5 hours. One morning I set off at 6:00am in the dark and rain

and I had walked about an hour and the strap on my rucksack gave way. I couldn't see to fix it as I didn't take a torch so I had to walk back to the Albergue to get light to fix it. I had to pray hard to St Vincent that day.

They say miracles happen along The Way and I had a small one of my own one day, I had woken up with a badly strained knee and it was a 30 - 40 km hike climbing 1800 metre on a hot sunny day. At one point I wasn't going to walk at all, I warmed up a little and stretched as best as I could, I had also picked up some blisters by this point and I had to force myself to set off. I said to myself I will walk about 10km and see how it goes. As I'm walking I'm praying to any Saint I can remember and I'm praying the Rosary and lo and behold my pain vanished, I kid you not it completely disappeared. I could jump about with ease. With a spring in my step I headed off and do you know this, that day I walked 44 km uphill for most of it and this was by far the most I had walked in any single day-ever.

Mind you I almost collapsed just short of the summit and I prayed for help, around the next corner there was a girl sitting on a blanket selling drinks, water melon, etc. It was like it was heaven sent.

I met so many people on The Camino, I had been due to meet up with a friend in Leon, however he was still 7 days behind when I arrived in Leon and I couldn't wait. You were only alone when you wanted to be on The Camino and I met so many different nationalities, including many Germans, Koreans, Americans, French, Japanese and many more. I met people in their 60's, 70's and one English/American guy who was 79, and he was carrying his own luggage! Humbling or what? For me the biggest battle wasn't the walking, as hard as the walking was, (I was walking between 24-34km a day) the sleeping arrangements were extremely difficult for me. We are all used to our own space and I find it difficult to sleep generally. I knew that there was bound to be one or two snorers in the dorms and I wasn't disappointed.



Luckily for me I went for dinner one evening with a lovely English lady and she gave me wax ear plugs, for the first time in a week I slept like a log for 6 hours!

I had one bad day on The Camino when I got a little lost in a city called Ponferrada, I lost the markings and found myself feeling a little stressed and after walking an extra 2 km I managed to rejoin up with The Camino again, Joy. I wasn't the only Peregrino lost that day, I had to help a Japanese lady find a taxi to take her to an Albergue as she was crying with the stress of being lost. I met a German couple later on that night who had walked 5 km extra after getting lost also. I felt so bad for them. The evening had a great ending when a few of us went and sat under a waterfall in a river we found. For me, another aspect of The Camino I had been looking forward to was the local food, beers, wines and the coffee. I wasn't let down at all, you could usually find a Peregrino (Pilgrim) Menu for about 10 Euros which consisted of 3 courses and a bottle of wine.

As the City of Santiago grew ever closer the anticipation was growing, I was well ahead of schedule, my knees were holding out, the weather was improving, I could feel that God was on my side, and before I knew it I was in a place called Lavacolla, this is where, historically Pilgrims would stop to wash their clothes and themselves in a river before walking the last 13km to Santiago. Lucky for me I used the washing machine in The Albergue. Showered, shaved my clothes nice and clean it was the last day of The Camino and I decided to walk by myself into Santiago, I don't know why I felt the need to do so, but walk alone I did. My solitude didn't last and I kept on bumping into some of the amazing people I had walked with previously on The Camino. It was like it was somehow "arranged".

The Pilgrim Mass is on daily at midday, so I had to walk fast to make it on time. Thanks to 5 Italian Cyclist's who asked me to take 5 separate photos of them with 5 different cameras next to the Santiago Sign on the outskirts of the City, I almost missed it. With minutes to spare, I walked up to the Tomb of St James and I was overcome with emotion.

I started crying. Never had I felt so close to Christ; I wasn't the only one crying. I must have broke some aspect of Canon Law when I stumbled my way through Confession with a lovely Irish Priest, Father Joe from Cork, who knows what I said, but he told me I was "A Loved Sinner". How beautiful? I sat through Mass and found myself not enjoying it at all. There were people taking photographs, walking about, talking and when the swinging of the Massive Botafumeiro took place I found myself uninterested in the wonderful spectacle taking place before me, bizarre or what?

I headed off to collect my Credencia (Certificate of Completion). Writing out the Certificates was a lovely lady from East Lothian: small world or what?

Having found out that there was an English Mass in The Cathedral at 10:30 every morning, I headed to the Cathedral early, I gambled that it would be Fr Joe holding the Mass and I wasn't disappointed. It made my day when I was asked read in the Cathedral. I decided to stay on again for the Pilgrim Mass to see if I could enjoy it better, and I must say I enjoyed it a wee bit more. I tried to block out the flashing of cameras as best I could.

I was sad to be leaving Santiago, but I have my memories which will last me a long time, and I hope to return to The Camino next year where I hope to lead a Pilgrimage for anyone who wishes to come along, most people will only be walking the last 100km (minimum distance required) so if you fancy coming along please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Twinning

Many thanks to all the conferences who responded so generously to our appeal for funds for the Twinning Project Fund. We received over £12,000 which I am delighted to say will now allow us to fund several projects. Generally project costs £700 - £800 and we often have a back-log of projects awaiting funding. Due to your generosity, for the first time in many months, we were able to inform Bro. Prakasham the Project Officer in India that we were in the happy position of being able to offer funding for several project applications.

Prior to the appeal we were able to provide much needed support to various Central Councils and conferences in India who, as a result, are able to help many people who were in urgent need of rehabilitation due to the recent flooding. Many of these conferences, 'adopt' families who are totally dependent on the conferences to provide them with food and clothing.



The following councils and conferences received financial help:

- Central Council of Goa
- Central Council of Belgaum
- Central Council of Bangalore
- St. Mary's Conference Yemmigamur, Kurnool Central Council
- St. Joseph's Conference, Pattikonda, Kurnool Central Council
- St. Anthony's Conference, Kalugotla, Kurnool Central Council
- Sacred Heart Conference, Harsanwandi, Belgaum Central Council
- Immaculate Conception Conference, Guledgud, Belgaum Central Council
- St. Francis Saviour Conference, Asangi, Belgaum Central Council

Recently I received notification that nine previously projects are now complete. I would emphasise that in addition to the funding we provide, the local people who are able to do so in the area also help to fund these projects.

Completed projects:

St. Peter Kochupally- Goat Project

Queen Mary's, Vettucaud

provision of drinking water for 10 families.

St. Mary's, Kajirampara

House Maintenance for 4 families

Our Lady of Health Conference, Thavasimadai

Cow Project for five families

Carmel Matha Conference, Eleanganny Provision of cows for 6 families

St. George's Conference, Chelamkonam self-help for 12 beneficiaries

Punitha Arochia Matha Conference, Chettiapatty

Cow Distribution to five beneficiaries

St. Peria Antoniar Conference, Kuttathupatty

Cow Project for five families

Fatima Conference, Omalur

Self-Employment for 7 beneficiaries



Our Lady of Lourdes Conference Dunfermline

Our senior citizens enjoyed a coach outing to Pitlochry. The weather was good and we had a lovely lunch at Fishers Hotel followed by tea and scones on the way home at the Royal George Hotel in Perth.

The Conference recently issued our annual Newsletter for the parish advising parishioners of the work of the Conference. This was well received.

Our parish has an knitting project sending very many lovely little garments for babies and children in Africa. Parishioners are happily knitting and also many people out in the local community. This project was the initiative of a conference member and The St Vincent de Paul fund the postage. To date 100 parcels have



St Ninian's Inverness

A group of fifteen people from L'Arche, residents and carers, had an outing to Strathspey steam railway under the auspices of the St Ninian's conference of the SSVP Inverness. A light lunch of soup and sandwiches were provided on the train. One resident, namely **Derek Thain**, was allowed on to the platform of the engine to operate the steam whistle to the tune of "toot toot te root toot, toot toot", to the amusement, not only of our group, but to a large number of the other passengers.

We wish to thank the **Blind Society** for providing the bus for our transport, and **Mr Bill Loban** for voluntarily giving up his time to drive us to and from the steam railway at Aviemore.

Everyone enjoyed the outing, especially the residents of L'Arche.

been sent. This is a very successful venture involving a lot of different people.

We continue to deliver warm clothing and non perishable food for homeless people in our area.

50th Anniversary - Mass

We will be marking this important occasion on the **8th November** with a Mass for the sick and we are very happy and delighted His Grace Archbishop Leo Cushley has agreed to be with us.



St Cadoc's Halfway Cambuslang

We organised a day trip to Largs for about forty of the senior citizens of the parish on the 10th July.

It was a beautiful sunny day which made the trip more special with everyone enjoying a fish tea on arrival.

The sight of the Waverley at the quay was an added bonus and everyone had a lovely time.

On the return coach journey we had our lovely Polish priest Father Stan sing a rather out of tune version of "Ye Canny Shove Yer Granny Aff the Bus" - this made the day!!

St John's and St Mary Magdalene's Edinburgh East

Earlier this year the parish of St John the Evangelist, Portobello, Edinburgh was brought together with the adjoining parish of St Mary Magdalene, Bingham, Edinburgh, with Fr Jock Dalrymple as joint Parish Priest serving both congregations.

Subsequently several members of St Mary Magdalene's indicated they were interested in the work of the SSVP. After meeting together and discussing various concerns, it was decided that the two parishes would form a joint conference.

Effective 1st June 2014, the SSVP Conference of St John the Evangelist, Portobello (Date of Aggregation 1st October 1888) became a joint conference to be known as St John's and St Mary Magdalene's, Edinburgh East.

Around the Dioceses



St Aidan's, Wishaw

Pat Millar recently retired from the Society having been a hard working member for 60 years. He was the President of the St Aidan's Conference in Coltness Wishaw for many years. Since his retirement from the Society Pat has become a "Silver Surfer" on his new computer. In November 2013, St Aidan's President, Peter Feenan and the conference organised a mass of thanksgiving for Pat, celebrated by the Parish Priest Canon Joseph Clements.

After mass Pat, his family and friends enjoyed tea in the Parish hall when Pat was presented with an Apostolic Blessing for his 60 years service. Pat thank Canon Clements, his family and friends for the lovely mass, presentation and kind words.

Pat is photographed with his sisters and his Apostolic Blessing.

Paisley Ozanam Club

Paisley Ozanam Club celebrated their 10th

Anniversary in May. Everyone enjoyed an uplifting mass with Bishop John Keenan, as well as a wonderful reception - and cake! Many thanks to [Brother Iain Marshall](#) and his team for organising such a wonderful occasion.



Vincentian Champions!

Br. Bill Carlton, St. Gabriel's Conference Merrylee, and Br. George Jordan Our Lady of Lourdes Conference East Kilbride had never met before.

Both were Host City Volunteers for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and out of hundreds of volunteers, found themselves as pair welcoming and greeting visitors to the City. They were known as Meeters & Greeters.

It was a wonderful experience for both Brothers flying the flag for the Society.



St Leo the Great, Dumbreck

Jim Murphy, Treasurer and past President, Glasgow has been awarded a Papal Blessing.

Over the years Jim has worked tirelessly for others and it is his unique strengths that have helped to keep the Conference thriving. He has been consistent in devotion to the Society - he has made a real difference to many people's lives.

Jim is thanked his wife, Rita, for her support over his 40 years in SSVP. "I thoroughly enjoy making regular home and hospital visits and supporting families who are facing financial difficulties. As a Vincentian I try to remember that a listening ear can be more important than giving money. It has been a pleasure!"

Relics of St Vincent de Paul

The Society in Scotland is honoured to have in our possession a relic of St Vincent de Paul. The relics have been recently re homed in a beautiful wooden casket made by the staff of Technical Department at [Our Lady & St Patrick's High School](#), Dumbarton - many thanks to them for their creative skills. During September the relics will be hosted in [SS John & Colomuba](#), Rosyth. For those who would like access or know more about the relics, please contact the National Office.



Correction

In Ozanam News Easter 2014 edition. The picture on the page "Around the Dioceses" caption should have read, Pictured are, Richard, Elaine Steinbach, and Sam Gill. Apologies to all concerned.

St Leonard's Conference East Kilbride

We held our usual annual events this year again, starting with our St Patrick's Day Lunch and Social, for our Senior Members of the Parish. This was our first year with our new Parish Priest and Spiritual



The Sisters are very welcoming and the volunteer staff are very patient and helpful. The Chapel is available at all times for prayer and reflection. It was a great day out for our Senior Parishioners, it has seldom rained over the years, but this year was the exception; so, there was no strolling along the prom with an ice cream this year. However, this didn't dampen our spirits, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Director, Fr Chromy. Caterers provided us with a wonderful three-course lunch and our Church Organist, Roberto, provided us with background music. Later, Roberto accompanied singers, rounded up by our MC Vincent; as we relaxed with refreshments, to enjoy the remainder of the afternoon.

Later in June we set off for the Benedictine Monastery in Largs, this has been our summer destination for the last ten years.

After a wonderful meal catered for by the volunteer staff at the Monastery, our MC Vincent, arranged a sing song. Later that day, we had tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits and for some, refreshments of a stronger nature. Reluctantly for many, it was time to go, staff assisted us loading the wheelchairs and helped to board our passengers onto the bus, for the journey home to East Kilbride.

St Stephen's Blairgowrie, Perthshire

In addition to regular Conference activities such as home visits, Care Home and Hospital visits, financial assistance to families in need, our Conference has engaged in the following additional activities during the past year:-

- **Perth Foodbank.** A local Blairgowrie Distribution Centre has been set up and as well as having a Conference member on the organising committee. Weekly parish Foodbank donations are delivered to the Distribution Centre and SSVP members help to man the Centre on issuing days as well as

arranging collections within the Blairgowrie supermarket.

- The Conference successfully submitted an application for £800 to [Radio Tay Cash for Kids Charity](#) to provide carpeting for a family with young children. This may be a further source of financial assistance which other Conferences might wish to consider.
- [Dundee Homeless Soup/Socks/Gloves/Hats/Scarves Appeal](#) – over the winter, the Conference organised collection of weekly donations from St Stephen's parishioners and delivered them to the Salvation Army Centre for distribution to Dundee's homeless.

Finding friends in Faith

Volunteer leader Sarah Gillespie, St Colombkille's fills us in on Camp Frederic

It was an honour to be asked by Clare Carr, National Youth Office for the Society, to return to Camp Frederic as a group leader for the Second Year back in January.

I spent last year familiarising myself with the camp way, gaining the confidence and social skills I needed to work effectively with my group but also for large group activities. I remembered being put on the spot a few times, a microphone in my hand, with 50 young people waiting for me to do an ice breaking game with them so this year I knew what I was getting in for (or so I thought).

So, with a little more experience I set off to the Auchengillan Outdoor Centre for a last-minute team building night with the other leaders. We spent the evening going over all over energising songs and going over the planned activities we would be doing...and so the nerves set in! We were all wondering what kind of young people would arrive but we soon snapped out of it and into form when the campers arrived the following morning all set for a few days of fun and inspiring activities.

The first day was spent getting to know our groups, team building, making team names related with the Society, our theme of welcoming and designing group t shirts. This also gave us the opportunity to discuss our Vincentian work, giving the young people the

chance to share their experiences which was a great start! That evening came the 2014 Camp Frederic Quiz along with the mystery rounds like...how many marshmallows are you able to eat in a minute?, came the history of the Society rounds which of course, as you would expect, they found the easiest!

Day two was heavily concentrated on the theme of welcoming. The young people were faced with difficult issues as refugees fleeing their home face. They were forced to make life changing decisions for themselves and their families in teams. It was great to see them all work together and discussing the complex issues refugees leaving their countries face. That afternoon the kids participated in activities provided by the centre from canoeing to rock climbing before the famous Camp Frederic 'It's a Knockout,' water based activity. That evening, the young people enjoyed a disco when all the moves came out!

The final morning was all about our Mass. Each group was given a task, to organise a different part of the mass. The offertory, bidding prayers, the sign of peace etc. A teary goodbye and group photo rounded up our time at camp, after 3 days of fun yet thought provoking activities.





Each morning and afternoon the young people attended the reflections relating to the theme, by morning encouraging music and messages and candle lit reflections by evening looking back at the themes during the day.

I won't be asked to be a leader next year...I

have already signed up! It is so encouraging to see other young Vincentians grow in faith and values together and I cannot wait to be a part of it next year. Helping to shape the future of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul!

OBITUARIES

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

BETTY FYALL	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST COLUMBASVIEWPARK	MOTHERWELL
CATHY MACLELAND	CENTRAL DEANERY SECRETARY	ST COLUMBASVIEWPARK	MOTHERWELL
MIKE RING	TREASURER	HOLY TRINITY & ALL SAINTS, COATDYKE	MOTHERWELL
JIMMY MALONE	PRESIDENT	ST. JOHN VIANNEY, EDINBURGH	ST A& E
PEG McNEILL	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST CONVAL'S, LINWOOD	PAISLEY
JOHN THOMPSON	FORMER MEMBER	ST MARY'S, PAISLEY	PAISLEY
JOE ROONEY	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST BENEDICTS DRUMCHAPEL	GLASGOW
DUNCAN MACNEIL	FORMER MEMBER	ST CONVAL'S, POLLOK	GLASGOW
DOREEN MCDERMOTT	VICE-PRESIDENT	ST FLANNAN'S, KIRKINTILLOCH	GLASGOW
JOHN CUSHLEY	FORMER PRESIDENT/ SECRETARY	ST ALOYSIUS, CHAPELHALL	MOTHERWELL
MICHAEL McCLUSKEY	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST. MATTHEW'S, KILMARNOCK	GALLOWAY
JAMES CANNOVAN	FORMER MEMBER	ST LEONARDS, EAST KILBRIDE	MOTHERWELL
JIMMY SMITH	FORMER TREASURER	ST MARY'S, LARKHALL	MOTHERWELL
JAMES CORRIGAN	FORMER MEMBER	OUR LADY & ST JOHNS, BLACKWOOD	MOTHERWELL
HARRY DUDDY	VICE-PRESIDENT	ST MARY'S, LANARK	MOTHERWELL
BILL COWIE	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST MARKS, RUTHERGLEN	MOTHERWELL
ALBERT JONES	FORMER MEMBER	ST MARKS, RUTHERGLEN	MOTHERWELL
JOHN O'HARA	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST BRIDGET'S, BAILLIESTON	MOTHERWELL
JOHN WALLACE	SECRETARY	OUR LADY & ST HELEN'S, CONDORRAT	GLASGOW
PAUL MILLAR	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST JOSEPH'S, STEPPS	MOTHERWELL
CHARLIE COMPTON	FORMER MEMBER	ST LUCY'S, CUMBERNAULD	GLASGOW
JOHN McKENNA	FORMER MEMBER	ST JOSEPH'S, BURNTISLAND	ST A& E
DONALD KIRSCH	FORMER MEMBER	ST JOSEPH'S, BURNTISLAND	ST A& E
FRANK CULLEN	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST JOSEPH'S, TOLLCROSS	GLASGOW
BILL BAILEY	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST BRENDANS, YOKER	ST A& E
PAULINE WAITE	VICE-PRESIDENT/ SECRETARY	DUNDEE UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE/DUNDEE OZANAM CLUB	DUNKELD
ANDY PHEE	FORMER SECRETARY	ST AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE	MOTHERWELL
JOHN MULREANEY	FORMER PRESIDENT/ VICE PRESIDENT	SS LEONARDS & FERGUS, DUNDEE	DUNKELD
ELEANOR MCMAHON	TREASURER	ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, TWECHAR	GLASGOW
PETER CREAGH	FORMER MEMBER	SS LEONARDS & FERGUS, DUNDEE	DUNKELD
AGNES KERR	FORMER MEMBER	OUR LADY & ST MARK'S ALEXANDRIA	GLASGOW

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

CHARLES COMPTON 1924-2014

Charles Compton, a parishioner of St Lucy's in Cumbernauld, died peacefully in Nazareth House Glasgow on 13th June last. He was a man of great faith; devoted to his family; a true Vincentian and an outstanding servant to his parish and its people.

Charles was born in July 1924, the first of six brothers. He was raised by his grandparents Jack and Kate in the Blackhill area of Glasgow and attended St Roch's Secondary School.

In 1946 Charles married his wife Emily in St Philomena's in Provanmill. They had four children; Joan, Irene, David and Leslie. The family lived in Govan, Ruchill and Crookston, before settling in Cumbernauld in 1972.

During and after the Second World War, he served in both the Royal and Merchant Navies; an experience of the wide world that rubbed off on his children, who, from his postcards, learned the names of the ports and cities of the Far East.

Charles left the Navy in 1956 and took up work with the Post Office for whom he worked until he retired in 1990. Widely respected by his colleagues for his honesty, integrity and his lack of regard for material advantage or career-climbing, he was content with his lot in life: his family, his faith and his work for the parish.

Cumbernauld parishes such as St Lucy's, whose church was not built until 1973, could never have progressed without the effort and commitment of people like Charles and Emily. They, and all the

other Glasgow folk, brought their faith with them to the fringe of the Archdiocese.

Charles was already an active parishioner at St Lucy's when Fr James Reilly invited him to join the conference of the SSVP in 1978; he was our president for a number of years. He served the poor and the vulnerable in the community with devotion and unsparing effort for more than twenty five years. As a young man in the Navy, he had a great interest in weight-lifting. This was to be helpful in years to come when humphing cookers and washing machines up flights of stairs! In all his years with the conference, he never swerved from responding to need, respecting the poor and acting with the utmost confidentiality. Such was his work for the Society and the parish that he was awarded the Benemerenti Medal by Cardinal Winning.

The last years of Charles' life were spent at Nazareth House in Glasgow, where he cared for with great compassion and was frequently visited by his family and former Vincentian colleagues.

Charles lived a full life. He used the talents that God gave him too serve others. He embodied the principle of Faith into Action.

He is survived by two of his brothers; his three daughters; 12 grand children and 16 great grandchildren.

As parish priest, Fr Joe McAuley, remarked, "Charles was a man who always said 'Yes' to the Lord".

JAMES MICHAEL MALONE 1934 - 2014

Jimmy was a man of tremendous faith who joined the SSVP over 50 years ago and latterly was their president. Without seeking publicity he worked tirelessly to improve the life of others and became the first Catholic in Scotland, and the first miner, to be given the Maundy Medal by the Queen for his charity work. Some of his activities are as follows: SSVP Furniture Project, SSVP Caravans at Port Seton and Fife distributing 100s of Christmas parcels, innumerable visits to the housebound and people in hospital. No friend or acquaintance in hospital was left unvisited. All this was done with enthusiasm and cheerfulness.

Jimmy was born to James and Ellen in 1934 Glasgow. He was much loved by his three sisters and young brother. They had a very happy childhood growing up in a tenement block in Burnbank. Right up until a week before his death he could tell you everybody who lived in that tenement.

Charity for Jimmy started aged 8; delivering the

milk earned him a pint of milk for his mother and sixpence for The Holy Missions.

In 1949 his family moved to the East and Jimmy went to the mines- the Klondyke, Woolment and then on to Monktonhall. Jimmy loved his time in the Pit, the friendships, the laughs and the work. Jimmy also played an active part in the Strike of 1984. Much as the times were hard he strongly believed in their plight and saw it through to the end.

Jimmy met his wife Mary in 1953, marrying in 1958. He was very proud of his children, and was equally proud of his four grandchildren. Many happy summers were spent with Mary's siblings and the cousins, all heading to the coast in a convoy.

Latterly while in Liberton Hospital Jimmy would entertain the staff and patients with a sing song. Like so many people through his life; they took a real shine to him as did the other patients. They loved his banter and sense of humour. He said the only bad thing about being in Liberton was that his "Mary" wasn't there too!

Ozanam - The Poet

Rev Bernard J Canning reflects on the poetry of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society

In April 2013, Year of Faith, the 200th anniversary was observed of the birth in France of Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Aspects of his short life of 40 years were recalled but possibly overlooked – the fact that he was a poet and an able critic of poetry. He was the author of a work in Italian on Franciscan poets relating of the 13th and 14th century. His own love and devotion to St Francis of Assisi throughout his life may have inspired him to do so. He was particularly attached to Francis love of the poor and needy. He was keen to celebrate the liberating qualities of Francis. But he also attacked many of the evils of his day such as Albigensianism, a heresy, somewhat present today in various guises attacking the authority of the Church, Tradition, Transubstantiation, Sin, Purgatory, Praying for the Dead and so on. In Ozanam's time women priests and same sex marriages were not in vogue!

He spoke of Franciscan mysticism as seeing 'with spiritual eyes' as trying to see God with one's own eyes in the course of each day. He was echoing St Paul's words: 'I live now not I but Christ lives in me.' Spiritual Poverty as advocated and lived by St Francis of Assisi was stressed by Ozanam. His family ancestors were converted from Judaism to Catholicism in the 7th century by St Didier (Desiderius). They saw religious and priests martyred in the French Revolution. Frederic grew up in Lyon, a city of martyrs dating back to the second century. Such was mentioned by Pope Francis in his first Encyclical Lumen Fidei - The Light of Faith: 'Faith is passed on, we might say, by contact, from one person to another, just as one candle is lighted from another. Christians, in their poverty, plant a seed so rich that it becomes capable of filling the world with its fruit.'

In his life in Paris Frederic attended Mass in a church that was next to the site of the massacre of

114 priests. He witnessed others whose blood was shed for the faith most notably was Archbishop Dionysius Augustus Affre of Paris who lost his life on June 27 1848.

St Vincent de Paul Society

Ozanam and eight students of the Sorbonne founded the St Vincent de Paul Society in 1833. He selected the name modelling the rule upon the same principles that were in use in the 17th century in Paris. The society now operates in 148 countries and has around 750,000 members giving assistance to those in need and hope to all.

Ozanam, a brilliant young man, lawyer, judge, author and professor in the Sorbonne was particularly keen to celebrate the liberating qualities of St Francis' Canticle of the Creatures which he placed with the poetry by Jacopone da Todi and other Franciscan writings as examples of a medieval view of the loving mercy of God. The total number of Jacopone's poems does not exceed two hundred and eleven arranged in seven volumes classified under three principle headings: theological poems, satires and small compositions to popularise a sacred thought or to celebrate a festival.

Ozanam the Poet

In keeping with his own humble state Ozanam does not project himself as a poet. He was particularly anxious to celebrate the liberating qualities of St Francis of Assisi later seen as counteracting and in effect Christianising the French Revolution ideas of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity but without God.

Christianity promoted there was a revival of Francis of Assisi and now in 2013 the first Pope to bear his name. There seems to be another awaking in St Francis of Assisi and his work for the poor and needy. Ozanam says: "The problem which divides people today is not a political problem; it is a social one". He adds: "In spite of the fact that the penitent of Todi wished to bury in obscurity his studies and his knowledge, we know enough of him already to rank him with the great theologian. We have not forgotten the poem in which...he bids farewell to [theologians] doctors and books in order to find a shorter path to truth.

Ozanam's book, The Franciscan Poets, suggests possible parallels between the songs or laude composed by Jacopone and the simple, direct communal commitment found in the Fioretti or Little Flowers of St Francis, a classic collection of popular legends on his life.

