

# Ozanam News

Spring 2016



Society of St Vincent  
de Paul, Scotland

## Praying for a miracle

- The road to sainthood for Blessed Frederic Ozanam

## Cattle are class

- The Indian milking cow and the role of the SSVP

## Going for gold

- Pupils serve the poor – and get visit from Paralympian

He is  
**Risen!**





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## Pupils get inspired by the SSVP and a visit from a gold medallist. See p12.

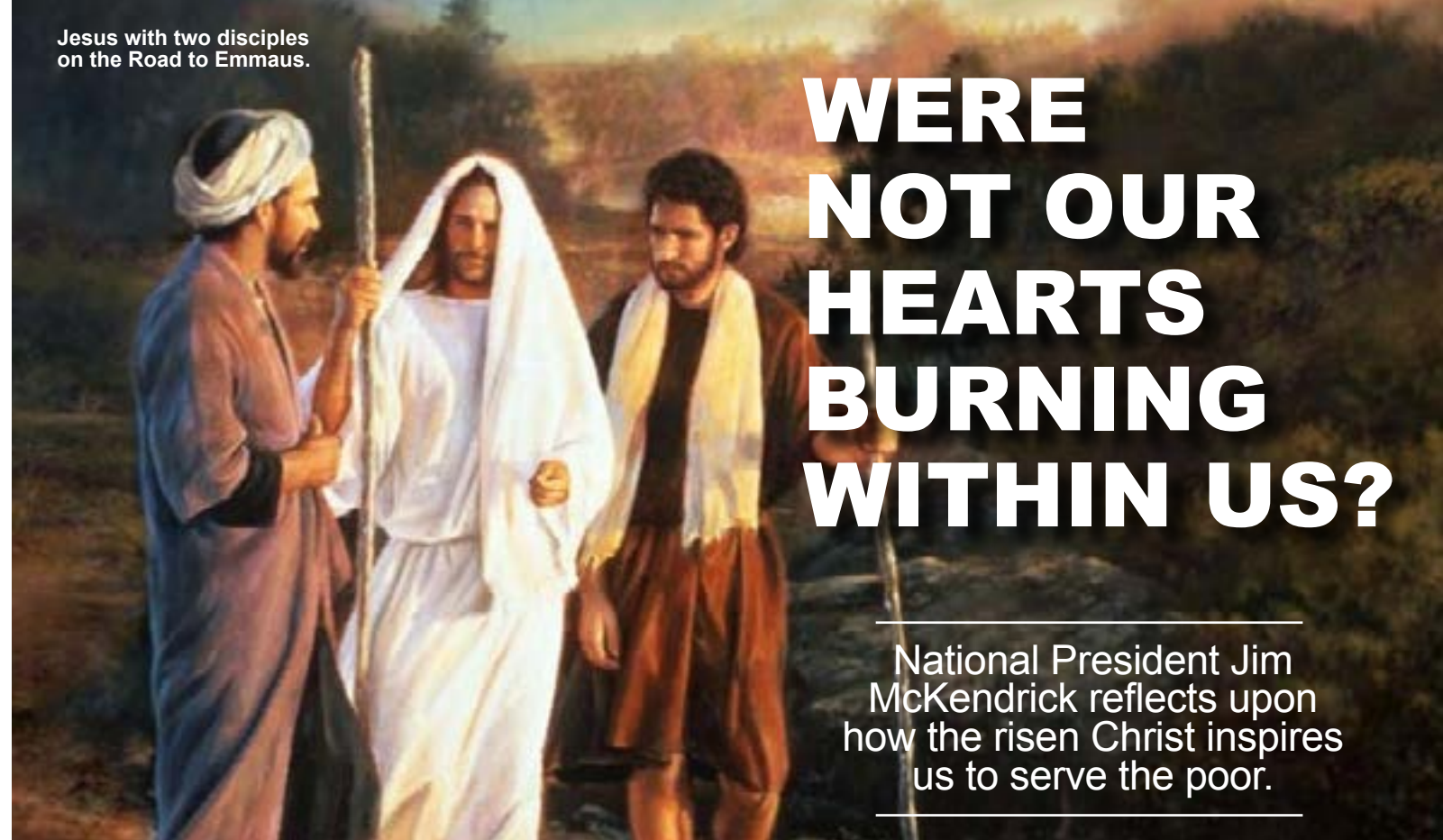
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### Publishing Policy

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.

Jesus with two disciples on the Road to Emmaus.



# WERE NOT OUR HEARTS BURNING WITHIN US?

National President Jim McKendrick reflects upon how the risen Christ inspires us to serve the poor.

The Gospel writers offer us many vivid images of the events of the first Easter Sunday.

There's the stone that's rolled away; the empty tomb; the Resurrection appearances to the women, to Peter and some other disciples.

However, only Luke, continuing his portrayal of discipleship and mission as 'a journey', presents the encounter which two disciples had on The Road to Emmaus.

This journey by Cleopas and his fellow disciple symbolises our spiritual and pilgrim journey to the Kingdom, accompanied and sustained by the Risen Lord.

Luke recounts the disciples walking toward Emmaus, forlorn and perplexed over what had happened to the Lord.

Jesus draws near to them on their journey but they do not recognise Him. They discuss the events which had occurred during the days before, surprised that the stranger beside them seems unaware of what had occurred.

In His empathy and compassion, Jesus enters into their experience and listens. He then explains how the very events they were recounting to Him on the road fulfil the work of our Redemption:

*"Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?"*

He explains to them the passages of scripture that were about Him and were fulfilled in Him. As the day is nearly over and they do not want this wonderful experience to end, they invite him to stay with them.

**The Road to Emmaus symbolises our spiritual and pilgrim journey to the Kingdom.**

*"And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognised him, but he vanished from their sight."*

There are many important lessons we can learn as Christians and Vincentians on the Road to Emmaus: The joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium): *"Were not our hearts burning within us while he opened the scriptures to us?"*; our mission to evangelise

(particularly the poor, as Jesus emphasised in the synagogue at Nazareth); the fulfilment of the Emmanuel promise, that Jesus is with us always, accompanying us on our journey.

Encountering the risen Jesus in the Eucharist energised and enthused them to such an extent that they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, *"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"*.

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. We must realise that the Eucharist is the source and inspiration of our vocation.

In it we recognise and encounter the Risen Lord and, motivated by love for Him, we seek to find and serve Him in the person of the poor. Like the disciples on the road, we are inspired to rush back to 'Jerusalem' and to our mission to serve and evangelise the poor.

*"Father grant that communion with Christ present in the Holy Eucharist, may impel us to love You by serving Him in our neighbour."*



# PRAYING FOR A MIRACLE

**Blessed Frederic Ozanam is on the road to Sainthood. All that's required is another miracle...**

When the first formal step towards the beatification of Frederic Ozanam took place in Paris in 1925, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society prayed for evidence of the sanctity of their founder.

They did not have to wait long. On February 2nd 1926 an 18-month old baby called Fernando Luis Benditi Ottoni, recovered from incurable diphtheria through the intercession of Frederic Ozanam.

Investigations followed and in

1952, 100 years after his death, Pope Pius XII signed the decree of the introduction of the cause. He thus enjoyed the official title 'Servant of God'.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II proclaimed Frederic 'Venerable' and in 1996 he signed the decree recognising the miracle, thus opening the process of beatification which took place in August 1997. To move forward to the next stage another miracle is required. Once there is proof of a second miracle, Frederic

can be canonized meaning he will be declared a Saint. At the beatification ceremony Pope John Paul II said: "Frederic Ozanam believed in love, the love of God for every individual. He felt himself called to love, giving the example of a great love for God and others. He went to all those who needed to be loved more than others, those to whom the love of God could not be revealed effectively except through the love of another person. There, Ozanam discovered his vocation, the path

## PETITION PRAYER

*God our Father,  
You alone have the power  
to bestow those precious  
gifts of Yours which You  
rightly call miracles.  
If it be Your will, be  
pleased to grant such a  
gift on behalf of (name of  
person(s) being prayed  
for).*

*We humbly ask that You  
grant this favour to glorify  
Your Holy Servant Blessed  
Frederic Ozanam,  
That it may serve to have  
him raised to the altars of  
Your saints by our Holy  
Mother the Church.  
We make this prayer  
through Our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Amen.*

to which Christ called him. He found his road to sanctity"

Frederic Ozanam, a loving husband and father, achieved greatness as a gifted scholar, dedicated teacher, a generous Christian and a gentle, reflective reformer. He passed away on September 8th, 1853, in Marseilles, aged just 40. At that time there were 15,000 members. Today there are more than 875,000. The baton which Blessed Frederic lifted has been passed on to successive generations and is carried today by the men and women of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Scotland and throughout the world.

We intend to keep alive the founder's spirit, adapting it to the many needs of the new forms of poverty. A petition prayer has been written (*see above*), asking the Lord to allow another miracle that will lead to him being declared a saint.



## The miracle cure of baby Fernando

In January 1926, a Brazilian baby was fighting for its life. Fernando Luiz Benedito Ottoni, from Niteroi, was in a critical condition, suffering from Diphtheria.

His distressed parents realised that medicine was powerless against that painful and awesome illness.

Faced with a desperate situation, the 18-month-old's grandfather, a faithful member of the Holy Spirit Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Rio de Janeiro, fervently prayed that, through Frederic Ozanam's intercession, his grandson might be cured.

Within a few hours, the illness was overcome and, on 2 February (Feast of the Blessed Mary's Purification) the child had recovered his vitality.

This happened less than a year after the introduction of Frederic Ozanam's Cause, on 15 March 1925.

Such a sudden, unforeseen and inexplicable recovery justified the preparation of a detailed dossier, bringing together medical reports and testimonies, with the intention of submitting it for examination by the appropriate authorities of the

Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The Second World War interrupted that process, despite effort and devotion from leading supporters of the Cause.

In order to give it new impetus, it was decided to present the Cause again to the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of the Rio de Janeiro Diocese, by producing a fuller dossier.

The enquiry produced, on 4 April 1995, a positive conclusion. Eventually, on 25 June 1996, Pope John Paul II was thus able solemnly, to promulgate in the Consistory Room of the Vatican, the Decree concerning Frederic Ozanam's miracle, thereby opening the way to the Beatification which would be proclaimed by the Holy Father on 22 August 1997, at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Fernando Benedito Luiz Ottoni, a former civil engineer, was then aged 75. His family, fearing it might



Fernando, aged 70. Top left, pictured shortly after his recovery in 1926.

be too emotional for him, persuaded him not to take part in the celebrations.

Instead, he delegated his brother, who was very close to him, Professor Ignacio de Loyola Benedito Ottoni, who was welcomed with great joy by the St Vincent de Paul Society.





Funds from the SSVP helped by these cows.



The Sivagangai District in southern India, circled.



## OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION CONFERENCE

Rena McLaughlin, president of St John Ogilvie Conference in Irvine, sent in the above picture of some of the families who have benefitted from funds raised through its twin conference in Puliyal, in the Sivagangai District. Many people have received milking cows along with other aid.

A thank-you letter from the Indian conference said: "We express our heartfelt thanks for your prayers and financial support. We grow by your encouragement."

## SAHAYA ANNAI CONFERENCE

Cows provide rich milk, which gives vital nutrition. That's important to a family who struggle to make ends meet.

Twin conferences in India often use the money donated from the SSVP in Scotland to buy a milking cow.

Recently, the St Louise conference in Arden, Glasgow, received a thank-you letter from the Sahaya Annai conference.

In it, conference president Mr Almaraj, wrote: "Ten beneficiaries were given a milking cow costing 10,000 rupees (around £105) each."

Not only that, ten kilos of rice were distributed to 15 families while 85 poor beneficiaries were given clothes for Christmas.

Members there have also visited patients at an



orthopedic centre in Uzhavoor, praying with them and distributing food.

A silver jubilee mass was held for all Vincentians in the region after which aid was distributed. Financial assistance was also given to a teenage girl called Fathima towards her education and a family was given money toward medical help for their daughter, Selvarani.



## HUNGARIAN HELP

*Thank you very much for the donation of £300 and we are also grateful for the support sent last year. Unfortunately, poverty in our surroundings is not decreasing, but growing. All kinds of support help ease the situation of our poor. God bless you all and we hope we will have the possibility to continue co-operating with you in the future.*

**Dr Katalin Nagy**  
Hungarian Vincetian Charity Service



## ST PAUL'S AND ST MARY'S, GLENROTHES

President Margaret Neish said: "One of our founder members Helen Cassidy of the St Mary's conference is retiring after 25 years' faithful service. This coincides with our 25th anniversary of the conference and which was celebrated on 16th March with a mass. Although it is St Mary's anniversary, we amalgamated in 2006 with St Paul's as we are all one parish and have a conference of nine members."



## ST AIDAN'S, WISHAW

The parish community came together for a retirement celebration Mass held in St Aidan's for Canon Clements. The Canon was presented with a cheque from his parishioners,

Cathy Irvine, SSVP secretary, said: "We know and love him for his kindness. The power of the Holy Spirit was truly moving in our parish and we were all truly blessed to have had Canon Clements as our spiritual advisor."

"Canon Clements was with our parish in 1968 when he was an assistant priest, he was also assistant priest at St Frances Xavier's in Carfin, St Brides in East Kilbride and Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell. He became parish priest at St Thomas' in Wishaw in 1987 and returned to St Aidan's again in 1992, this time as the parish priest where he stayed and was made Honorary Canon in 2012.

A big party was held in St Aidan's hall to

# Around the conferences



## SS JOHN & COLUMBA, ROSYTH, AND ST PETER IN CHAINS, INVERKEITHING (JOINT CONFERENCES)

Member Richard Steinbach, who is also president of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, writes: "A Christmas Fayre raised £850, which went towards hampers for the needy people in the parish. Thanks to the hard work of Elaine, Isobel and all their helpers, we managed to give every family an extra £10 Asda voucher. Tesco in Rosyth donated a lot of food and let us receive donations at the door. We managed to give 65 families a total of 75 very welcome bags of messages, and toys. Thanks to conference president Janet Agnew for storing everything in her house, and St Peter in Chains, for the use of their hall for storing and packing."



## OUR LADY OF LOURDES, BISHOPTON

The third annual dinner for the over 60s was hosted by the SVDP Conference of Our Lady of Lourdes, Bishopton on 22nd February. Everyone enjoyed a two-course meal with a glass of wine or two. A lovely evening was had by all. The next big event is a magical mystery tour, which will be held in August.

**From Aberdeen to Alexandria, members from across Scotland tell us what they've been up to over the past few months...**



## ST PETER'S, LIVINGSTON

Our St Vincent de Paul conference held the Senior Citizens lunch on Saturday 16th January. This was attended by 60 people, three-course lunch, few drinks raffle and the music was provided by Ronnie. A good time was had by all! A big thank you to all the members and volunteers who made the day so special.



## ST JOSEPH'S, BURNTISLAND

The senior members of the parish enjoyed a Christmas Party hosted by the SSVP. Mary Lynch, conference president, said: "Sincere thanks to all conference members and Morris

our entertainer who make this a truly special day. Party goers were picked up, fed, watered and entertained before being dropped off back home."



## ST GREGORY'S, EDINBURGH

Members of the SSVP with Archbishop Leo Cushley. This picture was taken at the Archdiocesan Mass held at St Kentigern's, Parkgrove, Edinburgh.



## SACRED HEART, GRANGEMOUTH

Bessie Wightman received a telegram from the Queen while the SSVP were on hand to present her with flowers and a card to mark the occasion of her 100th birthday. Bessie was born on the 19th January, 1916, in Glasgow. During World War II she helped build spitfire engines. She married Desmond in 1945 and they had two sons and one daughter. A member of the SSVP said: "Bessie enjoys good health and always has a cheery smile!"



## Around the conferences

### ST LEO THE GREAT, GLASGOW

St Leo The Great Conference welcomed a new member, Anne Marie Martin. Anne Marie has joined the conference over the last year. She is already actively involved in different aspects of parish life and will be a great asset.

### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, UDDINGSTON

St John the Baptist Church in Uddingston hold four masses for the sick each year. Member Sandra O'Hanlon said: "It is always a lovely service and our sick and elderly parishioners appreciate the special blessing of receiving the sacrament of anointing. The SSVP conference members transport some of our parishioners to and from the church, they also cater for everyone by providing refreshments in the hall."

"The get-together is enjoyed by all as are the Tunnocks pies, which always go down a treat."



### ST ATHANASIUS, CARLUKE

Members of St Athanasius' SSVP in Carluke welcome their new spiritual director Father Tom Magill PhD. They look forward to Father Magill attending their weekly meetings and being on hand to give spiritual and practical advice. Pictured is Carluke SSVP President James Smith with Father Magill.

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES, DUNFERMLINE

There was a successful food collection in Our Lady of Lourdes recently. Pictured are Margaret Fotheringham, of Holy Name, Oakley, Jan Tregido and Maureen McIntosh of St Margaret's, Dunfermline, along with Barbara Whitlock, Kathleen Healy and Maureen Hunter. Moira McRae said: "Fr Alex Davie let us use the hall and SSVP volunteers worked hard before David Hunter and Tom Canning delivered the food to the needy."



### ST CHARLES, PAISLEY

82-year-old James (Jim) Carline, vice-president and de facto president of St Charles, Paisley, retired from the society last January having completed an impressive 30 years' service. The conference and the whole society is grateful to Jim for his unstinting service.

### OUR LADY & ST MARGARET'S, ALEXANDRIA

Four S6 students from Our Lady & St Patrick's High School, Dumbarton put up the church Christmas tree, which helped them work towards their Caritas award. Pictured from left are Aidan Timmone, Nicole Anderson, Daniel Connolly and Daniel Murphy.



### St Margaret's, Dunfermline

Three members appeared in local media after celebrating 100 years of SSVP service between them. They are Elizabeth Stewart, who was the first woman to be asked into the conference at St Margaret's, Dunfermline, Madeleine Kelly and John Barrett, who also ran the Fife Furniture Van Project for 25 years. There was also newspaper coverage of a food collection involving pupils from St Columba's High. The picture, above right, features David Hunter of Saint John and St Columba in Rosyth, and Moira McRae of St Margarets.



### ST MARY IMMACULATE, LARKHALL

Stephen Fleming, president, writes: "We were advised that we were to receive no financial support with our annual seniors New Year lunch due to financial cutbacks by our local council."

"By sheer good fortune, one of our conference members noticed a poster in ASDA, which encouraged groups supporting good causes to apply for an ASDA Carrier Bag Community Grant. The application was duly completed online and submitted."

"To our delight, we secured sufficient funds to host our New Year lunch in January. The event was attended by 54 senior members of our community who thoroughly enjoyed their day, which included a steak pie lunch followed by a quiz, musical entertainment and a free raffle."

"As a result of our initial application, we were awarded further substantial funding from the Neil O'Hara Charitable Fund, to assist us in our work with those in need. We would like to extend our grateful thanks



to ASDA, Foundation Scotland and the Neil O'Hara Charitable fund for the welcome boost to our finances which, as always, will be used to help those in the greatest need.

"Should your conference be in need of funds to progress some initiative to assist those in need, we would highly recommend applying to ASDA or Foundation Scotland. Good Luck!"





Paralympian Jo Butterfield with pupils from Trinity High. Below, in action.

# Pointing the way forward

Pupils from a Rutherglen school have been inspired by the Society of St Vincent de Paul to help the homeless—and were rewarded for their efforts with a visit from Paralympian athlete Jo Butterfield. By Daniel Harkins.



@youthssvp



Youth SSVP Scotland

Pupils from a Rutherglen school have been inspired by The Society of St Vincent de Paul to help out the homeless—and have been rewarded for their efforts with a visit from a Paralympian.

The young charity workers from Trinity High School have for two years been collecting for the homeless and foodbanks after getting involved with the SSVP. Trinity's work has been so successful they have now brought other Scottish schools together to share their knowledge of being active in their communities. Ahead of a conference of schools, where pupils from St John Ogilvie High School, Rutherglen High School, Stonelaw High School and Cathkin High School joined with their Trinity peers, parasport star Jo Butterfield met with pupils.

The European champion, who competes in discus and club throw from her wheelchair, is an ambassador for the Get Set for Community Action charity.

The Trinity pupils got involved with the charity as part of their work in the community. Ms Butterfield spoke to the pupils (*left*) about her disability and athletic feats, and how she overcame challenges and difficulties.

Trinity's S5 pupils began volunteering two years ago in the SSVP's Ozanam Clubs for people with learning difficulties.

They attended the charity's Voice of the Poor conference, and began distributing clothes to the homeless and collected more than 1300 items for a local foodbank.

The pupils are now volunteering with other groups, taking time out of their Friday night to help others.

"They do that off their own back without us asking them to get involved," Marie Marks, principal teacher of religious education at the school, said.

"It's great to see how from

the SSVP's ideology they are growing and developing and reaching out to other areas as well.

"The Year of Mercy links in with everything they do. One of the initiatives was to collect socks for the homeless, following in the footsteps of Pope Francis. They are becoming much more confident.

"They are speaking out at assemblies and encouraging others to take part. They are definitely becoming stronger individuals who are making a real impact across the school in terms of social justice." Ms Marks led the school's project

**It's great to see them growing and developing from the SSVP's ideology.**

with principal teacher of pupil support Denise McCulloch. 18 pupils from S5 were involved.

"It's definitely opened their eyes," Ms Marks added. "They couldn't believe that foodbanks and homelessness could affect people in their own community, even people in their school. It's really inspired them."

Peter Bollen, headteacher at Trinity High, was delighted that the pupils were being recognised for their charitable work.

"The young people were thrilled to hear the life story of Jo Butterfield who grabbed their attention with her determination and approachability," he said.

"She also asked the young people to consider ideas such as determination, inspiration, equality and respect. She embodies these values, which chime very much with the Catholic values of our school."

● *This article originally appeared in the Scottish Catholic Observer.*



John was president of the Holy Family Conference in Winchburgh, West Lothian, for 56 years.

He served in many capacities including Conference President and Group Council President.

He began his service to the Lord as an altar boy. John was a devout and very active member of St Philomena's Church and a loving father, husband and friend to the parish, village, primary

school and wider community.

John received the Benemerenti Medal in 2010. It is an honour awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and laity for service to the Catholic Church.

SSVP member John Muir commented: "As one of our past priests said, 'Every Parish needs a John McTiernan'."

May he rest in peace.

●John McTiernan, 7 January 1942 - 3rd January 2016.



## OBITUARIES

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

●DESMOND MCLUSKEY	FORMER MEMBER	ST PETER'S, MORNINGSIDE
●ALICE JENKINS	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST ATHANASIUS', CARLUKE
●TOM MCMAHON	FORMER MEMBER	SS JOHN AND COLUMBA, ROSYTH
●DONNIE MURRAY	FORMER MEMBER	ST CONSTANTINE'S, GOVAN
●MARGARET MCGEECHAN	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST MARY'S, LARKHALL
●BILL MCKENNA	VICE-PRESIDENT	ST CONVAL'S, POLLOK
●JOHN MCTIERNAN	PRESIDENT	HOLY FAMILY, WINCHBURGH
●JOHN MCGINN	FORMER TREASURER	ST HELEN'S, LANGSIDE
●GORDON LOGAN	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST GABRIEL'S, VIEWPARK
●JOHN MURPHY	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST ALOYSIUS, CHAPELHALL
●STAN MATASSA	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST MICHAEL'S, LINLITHGOW
●HELEN WALSH	FORMER MEMBER	ST MARY'S, LARKHALL
●BILL CARLTON	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST GABRIEL'S, MERRYLEE
●JIM ELY	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST. PATRICK'S, SHIELDMUIR
●JOHN MCAULEY	FORMER MEMBER	ST. PATRICK'S, SHIELDMUIR
●JEAN RAFFERTY	FORMER VICE PRES.	ST. PATRICK'S, SHIELDMUIR
●JAMES DEVLIN	FORMER MEMBER	ST ALOYSIUS, CHAPELHALL
●MICHAEL KERR	FORMER PRESIDENT	ST JOSEPH'S, TOLLCROSS
●DENNIS O'BRIAN	ACTIVE MEMBER	ST BARTHOLOMEW'S, COATBRIDGE

# Digest

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## Love is in the air



The Ozanam Club in Viewpark hosted a Valentine's disco for youth members.

## Mum says thanks

The following letter was received by the conference of St Bernadette's in Motherwell. *Dear members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help recently to both my two-year-old son and myself. I cannot fully put into words the enormous difference your help has made to us at this very difficult time. As you saw, we had no furniture, save for a single bed. But now, thanks to all the generous donations including your own time and hard work I feel we now have a home in which we can be happy, hopefully for many years to come.*

*I cannot overstate the huge difference you have made to both our lives in many ways, not just with the much needed material and financial help but*

*with your emotional support and renewing our hope and faith for the future. Thank you so much.*

*Yours sincerely,  
M. R.*

## Update from St A&E

●The Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh is holding a day of recollection on Saturday, 14th May at St Peter in Chains, Inverkeithing, 11am until 4pm. The event is organised by Archdiocesan Spiritual Director, Father Kevin Dow. All Conferences in the Archdiocese are invited.

●Archdiocesan president Richard Steinbach, Clare Carr and Phil White are working to establish new schools and university conferences, as well as Minnie Vinnies. There will be a Mass for the Consecration of the Sacred Heart, celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Leo Cushley, at Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 4th June at 12pm, followed by a buffet in the Centre. This is Scotland wide. All are invited.

●The Fife Furniture Project is thriving, as ever. All donations, especially financial, are most welcome.

●The caravan season started on the 2nd of April. Contact Jimmy Harkins on 0131 6649420 if you have any queries.

## Party was popular

St John the Baptist conference in Uddingston hosted its senior citizen Christmas party. There was a three-course meal and entertainment which was



enjoyed by all.

## Poetry, please!

The following poem was submitted by a SSVP member 'of 40 years' at St Joseph's, Tollcross.

*St Vincent de Paul  
Who inspired us all,  
To follow his history of care  
With the help of those who have flair,  
And generously give on a weekly basis  
So that we can attend so many cases,  
To those we know in need  
To help is a privilege indeed,  
From Frederick's work in 1832  
That shows us we can help too,  
From his experience in Paris, France  
Many lives he did enhance,  
So it's members' great joy indeed  
To help anyone in need,  
May God bless those you give and receive  
For it is in Him that we all believe.*

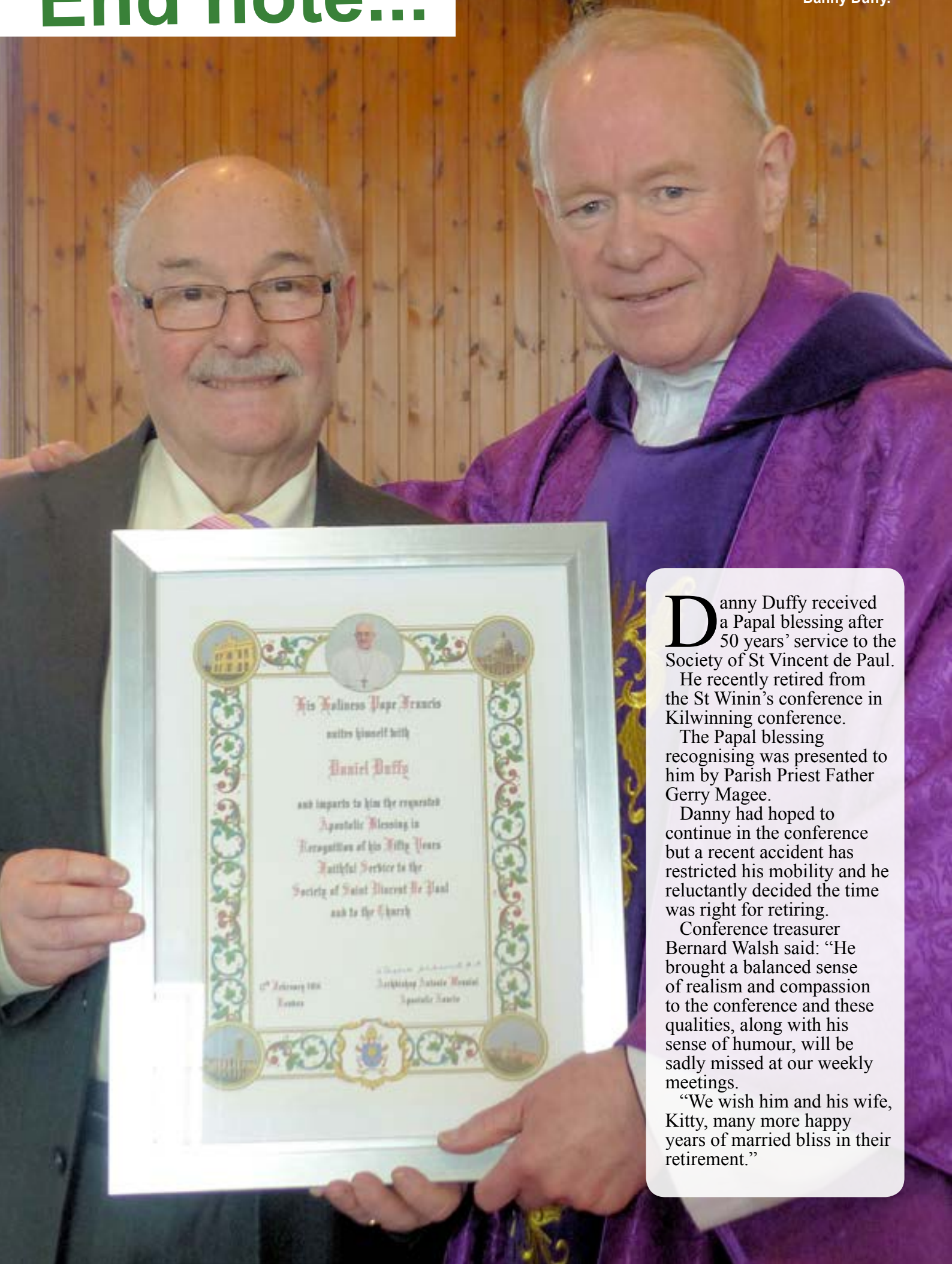
## Submissions

Submissions for the Ozanam News should be emailed to editor Matt Meade using the address at the top of this page. Please send pictures only in jpg or png format. Please put name of conference in subject bar.



# End note...

Father Gerry McGee with Danny Duffy.



**D**anny Duffy received a Papal blessing after 50 years' service to the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

He recently retired from the St Winin's conference in Kilwinning conference.

The Papal blessing recognising was presented to him by Parish Priest Father Gerry Magee.

Danny had hoped to continue in the conference but a recent accident has restricted his mobility and he reluctantly decided the time was right for retiring.

Conference treasurer Bernard Walsh said: "He brought a balanced sense of realism and compassion to the conference and these qualities, along with his sense of humour, will be sadly missed at our weekly meetings.

"We wish him and his wife, Kitty, many more happy years of married bliss in their retirement."