



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Toronto Central Council
Profile
Candidate for President



Name: Rob Greenaway

Conference: Blessed Sacrament

Particular Council: Toronto North

Experience with the Society:

Beginning: In the beginning, there was the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. I had no real knowledge of its mission or its work but I became a member in 2003 at the request of my pastor. I joined 7 experienced Vincentians of a wealthy conference with few neighbours in need. Home visits were rarely done except for new callers. Most of our neighbours were long term and well known to us. We simply delivered food vouchers or had our neighbours pick up vouchers at the rectory. Other than sharing a collegial and administratively well run monthly meeting our conference didn't do much except pass up our excess funds to Toronto North Particular (TNPC). I agreed to be the President of our conference and continued to do exactly what my predecessor had done. I went to a few TNPC meetings that were uninspiring and delegated attendance to my solid and willing Treasurer. Toronto Central Council, Special Works and TNPC had no impact in our conference. Our work seemed to lack meaning and purpose.

Conversion: In 2012 special joint PC meetings were held across the GTA to review the recently developed TCC Five Guiding Principles of Service and to get Vincentians input on their needs. This session was a revelation to me. Home visits were meaningful and our primary mission, equity of service, continuous learning, spiritual development, and the need for renewal and sharing were core values. I recognized that my conference was not meeting the Vincentian mission to grow spiritually by offering person to person service to those in need. It was a conversion that changed my life. I started a recruitment drive to renew our conference membership. It worked; we grew to 14, all of whom were introduced to the core mission and the Five Guiding Principles. Making meaningful home visits over the next two years brought new energy, spiritual growth and new knowledge to our conference. I joined the TCC's Membership Development Committee which I now Chair. I have connected with many conferences with the learning sessions on the 5 Guiding Principles and Vincentian

Leadership. Since my conversion, I have renewed a conference in TNPC and helped to start up a new conference in Toronto West PC.

I became President of the TNPC in 2014 and automatically a Director of the TCC Corporate Board that in theory governs the 11 Councils and all the Special Works. Not what I bargained for, because in fact, the TCC Corporate Board is consumed by the legal responsibility for the governance of a non-profit corporation whose Special Works programs provide shelter for 270 people and a camping experience for 1,700 children each year with 73 full time and 300-part time staff operating with an annual budget of \$8 million. The result is the work of 1300 Vincentians in 115 Conference is given limited attention by the TCC Corporate Board.

Candidate`s Vision for Toronto Central Council:

My vision for Toronto Central Council is to make changes to our governance model in order to enhance our ability to deliver what our TCC Vision statement states “Toronto Central Council will support and assist Vincentians in this mission by: • Developing and implementing recruitment strategies, aimed at attracting a diverse group of new members • Supporting the work of particular councils to open new conferences and revitalize ones that are struggling • Providing training and sharing opportunities for members • Seeking out and responding to new opportunities to meet the ever-changing needs of the poor.” If elected I will lead and implement a corporate governance change to create a new nomination and selection process for TCC Corporate Directors that ensures highly qualified candidates have the talents, skills and experience needed to governing the complex, highly regulated Special Works programs within the TCC Corporation. Toronto Central Council will focus on Vincentians. TCC Corporate Board will focus on the Special Works. I need your help to get this done.

Candidates Views on Major Challenges Facing Toronto Central Council:

TCC: Special Works are well managed and delivering on their varied and complex missions. A reconstituted Corporate Board can enhance and further strengthen the Special Works programs.

The major challenge facing Toronto Central Council is to deliver on the vision statement above for Vincentians. It is a daunting task that will only be successful with the 11 Council President’s focusing on the Vincentian mission at the conference level and working with the 115 Conferences directly. I am willing to lead that work.

Other Information About the Candidate:

I am retired after forty-five years in education, educational publishing and recently psychological assessments. I have served on the Board of a Toronto private school as its treasurer. I have also served on the Board of the Toronto Christian Resource Centre (CRC) which has been offering practical assistance to Torontonians marginalized by poverty since 1964 in Regent Park. I am married, have two adult children and one beautiful grandchild.

Please feel free to contact me via email or telephone should you have any questions or wish to discuss any concerns you may have regarding my visions or your concerns for Toronto Central Council.

Phone: 647-801-7422

Email: rob.greenaway@sympatico.ca