

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Greater Toronto Central Council

In the Loop

October 2022

Have you heard about ...

The upcoming workshop “[Home Visitation](#)”

Please join us on Monday, October 24th at 7:00 pm for a virtual workshop on our core outreach. Home Visitation is what sets the Society apart from every other social service agency. This workshop is for both new and seasoned Vincentians, always something more to learn about this important outreach! Please join us on the Teams Platform ([HOME VISITATION WORKSHOP](#)). The Home Visitation workshop will be followed up by monthly, virtual Home Visitation Round Tables, starting in January 2023. A place to seek advice, share best practices and learn more about our core work. Watch for the dates and times.

Announcing...

Thank you to all who attended the Annual General Meeting in person or by proxy on September 24th. The Board of Directors was elected as follows: Danny Bourne, Valerie Chavossy, Pat Colavita (Treasurer), Cathy Grant, John Sidle, Brendan Steven, Gary Valcour (Chair), Michael Watt, Michael Wiley (Secretary).

Welcome to our newest Particular Council Presidents: Andre Dorion (Durham PC) and Gerry Beelen (Toronto North PC).

Accepting leadership roles is an important Vincentian contribution ensuring the continuation of the Society. Imagine if Frederic Ozanam had said that he was too busy to participate in fostering the growth of the Society. Instead, he lent his skills and talents, and did what he could to ensure the Society was present to those who need us most. Thank you to all who put their name forward for leadership roles, for those who form the core of membership and for those who exercise their responsibility and support by participating in Conference, Particular Council and Annual General Meetings.

Clarification:

We have been asked by some Conference and Particular Council Presidents about the reference to “dues” in the National Council of Canada communications. Conferences and Particular Councils are not obligated to pay dues to any level of the Society. You are encouraged to pass-up funds to support the Society at all levels, just as funds will be passed down as requested. Previously, the National and Regional Councils provided a monetary amount that Conferences were asked to budget to send up if possible; changing this practice and referencing “dues” is not how the Society works. Toronto Central Council incurs costs on your behalf, including insurance; you report to Toronto Central Council and your surplus funds are shared first with TCC. There are very few functioning Central Councils in Canada, you belong to the largest Central Council, with a properly constituted Board, Particular Council Presidents, Committees, 112 Conferences and a staff team ready to assist. Share your funds as you are able, your neighbouring Conferences and our Neighbours need you; surplus funds will be passed up as per the Rule.

And while we are speaking of Finances . . .

A reminder that Toronto Central Council has a [Financial Policy](#) to assist Conferences and Particular Councils with implementing best practices . Stewardship is so important, our donors deserve and expect nothing less. Financial decisions outside of your typical outreach must be discussed with your Particular Council, and they in turn must seek direction from TCC as other considerations such as insurance may need to be addressed. Funds are provided to serve those in need in your community, and those in neighbouring communities which include the programs provided by Toronto Central Council. If you are unsure at any time, reach out for direction, we will provide the support you need.

Upcoming Virtual Events

Save the dates:

Home Visitation Workshop
Monday, October 24, 2022

Treasurer's Workshop
Wednesday, November 9th

Completing the T3010
Thursday, December 1st

Resources...

Have you seen our new resources designed to support Conference outreach to new members? We have an interactive video for persons interested in learning more about the Society, videos on various aspects of our outreach, and learning modules. Please click on this link to access this material ([Training Modules](#)). A full complement of Recruitment material is also available on the website. This time of year is an excellent time to engage potential members, please reach out if you require support. Thanks to the Membership Development Committee for the creation of these materials.

With much thanks . . .

Monsignor Bianco is retiring from his role as Spiritual Advisor to Toronto Central Council. Monsignor Bianco has asked that we share this letter with all our 1,400 plus Vincentians in TCC upon celebration of his 50th anniversary, and the concurrent retirement from his role as our Spiritual Advisor.

Dear Bro. Gary Valcour, Chair Greater Toronto Central Council

My thanks to you, the Toronto Central Council, all the Particular Council Presidents and Councils, the Presidents and Conference members, all the lay staff of the Society and all Vincentians for the generous and joyful celebration of my fiftieth anniversary of ordination. It was a splendid and happy day for my family, friends and me. I am grateful to you Gary for your gracious and eloquent words of testimony to me. I am grateful to Louise and Anar for the tremendous time, talent, and competent work they put into organizing the mass and reception.

I am especially thankful to all the Vincentian staff and volunteers for your support and cooperation in my ministry as Spiritual Advisor to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It has been my blessed privilege to work with and for our Neighbours in Need. We have a graced calling and our Neighbours in Need bless all of us with their gifts and responses to us.

I have said it many times and I repeat: the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is one of, if not the very best, charitable outreach works of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Toronto. The church needs episcopal and clerical leadership. These times call for a vigorous imaginative and preserving lay direction and influence. You show the church to put into action, an effective humble, and beautiful lay initiative. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is one of the shining signs of hope in responding to Jesus' word and actions that we serve Him and one another.

Please continue your prayer and good work. I retired officially as Spiritual Advisor on June 30th, 2022. I will always be ready and available to assist all of you in any way I can as time and my strength permits.

I ask you please, say a prayer for me. I need your words of support to Jesus for me. St Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Blessed Rosalie Rendu, pray for us.

With gratitude, *Msgr. Sam Bianco*

Please revisit Monsignor Bianco's sermon ([Mass](#)), celebrating the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, it will inspire your Vincentian vocation.