

# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

## Greater Toronto Central Council

### In the Loop

April 2023

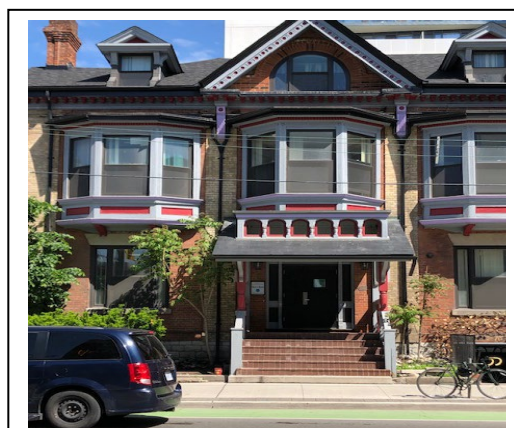
#### From the Chair...

As all of you now know, we recently lost our dear sister, Anar. For thirty years, longer than many of us have been Vincentians, Anar was a fixture at TCC headquarters. Almost every one of us has an “Anar” story, usually having to do with some way in which she helped us. Anar was committed to the Society and its work, both in the Conferences and the Special Works. She possessed several skills which are critical to our interactions with Neighbours in Need; she was an excellent judge of character but never overtly judgemental, she had a big heart but never let it cloud her clear thinking on stewardship, and she was always willing to help even as she encouraged us to learn for ourselves. I was blessed to be able to attend the memorial Mass offered by Monsignor Sam Bianco last Saturday; pleased to meet some of Anar’s family and gratified to see so many staff, Board members and Vincentians in attendance. It was a lovely tribute to a woman of faith who will be missed by all.

Our seminars on home visitation continue to bear fruit and I encourage each of you to try to find time to attend the next series of sessions. In some ways it’s like attending Mass – you discover that you’re not alone! It’s a great way to be reminded of best practices and perhaps to give each of us the confidence to engage our own Conferences in similar discussions.

I’m looking forward to some pleasant spring weather and that means that annual elections can’t be far off. Please consider how you might take a leadership role in your Conference, Council or Committee.

At each meeting as part of our closing prayers, we pray for all those in need of a home and we often see exhortations from National or Regional Council promoting workshops and committees on affordable housing. Too many of us forget that Toronto Central Council is the largest, most active provider of residential programs of any Vincentian organization in Canada. As part of Toronto Central Council, these Special Works are yours too! Just because the vast majority of our residential programs are not located in your Conference’s back yard, doesn’t mean they are not available to your neighbours in need, and it certainly doesn’t mean that we don’t need your full support both in prayers and financially where possible.



*SSVP's Mary's Home Emergency Shelter, serving women in crisis from across the GTA and beyond.*

Lastly, thank you all for your continued support and for the great work you are doing.

- Bro. Gary Valcour, Chair

# Wanted! Please consider sharing your talents

We are in need of qualified persons to serve on the Board of Directors and skilled members to join our new Engagement Committee. Please consider this opportunity, and please pass this invitation to persons whom you think may assist the Society by serving.

## Board of Directors Elections

We are searching for individuals interested in serving as a member on our Corporate Board of Directors.

If you are passionate about helping people who are impacted by poverty and are willing to share your personal and professional skills in board governance, strategic thinking, financial oversight, problem solving and issues management; this may be the challenge you have been looking for.

Our current Board has two Directors finishing their term, with the remaining Directors part way through their terms. **There are two positions open for the upcoming election.**

**Board Terms Expiring September 2023:** Danny Bourne, Director and John Sidle, Director

The Nominating Committee oversees the process of nominations and the upcoming election.

Please click here for [more information and the application form](#). We will follow up with each candidate and will provide specific instructions regarding any additional information needed to proceed, including scheduling an interview should you be short-listed. The majority of members on the Board are Vincentians, however we welcome applicants who are not Vincentians, those who have a deep appreciation for the Vincentian vocation and those who have lived experience. The matrix in the application outlines the skills needed.

Please contact Louise Coutu, Executive Director should you have any questions.

## Join the new Vincentian Engagement Committee

We're thinking about the future of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The environment in which we operate has changed and continues to change rapidly. The Society is facing several challenges as we continue to serve over 35,000 of the most vulnerable among us each year and these needs are growing.

The Society is a very frugal and efficient charitable organization where \$0.97 of every dollar donated goes directly to serving our Neighbours in Need. To ensure the Society can meet the ever-growing needs of our Neighbours, our base of volunteers and donations must also continue to grow.

As we look to the future, how does the Society:

- Recruit new and diverse members?
- Grow our base of volunteers and donors to accommodate the ever-increasing demands?
- Increase the profile of the Society in the GTA and in our parishes?
- Grow awareness for the extent of the many and diverse ways the Society operates and serves?

We are actively seeking people who can assist us in answering these questions. If you would like to help us, [we invite you to apply](#) to the new Greater Toronto Central Council's Engagement Committee. Please [click here for more information](#).

## Have you heard about ...

### ➤ Marygrove Camp and Camp Ozanam

Please continue to sign up children for the camps. If you require more camp cards, please email [info@ssvptoronto.ca](mailto:info@ssvptoronto.ca) and we will get them to you. We are running at almost full steam for the summer and there are a lot of children who could benefit from attending camp. Don't forget that when the children attend camp, it is helpful to the families who can enjoy a little downtime while their child is away, and it certainly assists with the need for fewer groceries for the week as the children enjoy a robust camp menu.



### Marygrove Camp Rake-A-Thon

May 6<sup>th</sup> is the annual Marygrove Camp Rake-A-Thon. Please consider joining us for this annual event, a lovely day out of the city, and plenty of fresh air. Please click her for information. What about the boy's camp you may ask? Camp Ozanam has a different terrain with more open, grassy areas surrounded by beautiful Maples and Birch. Marygrove is sandy, and has hundreds of Oak trees. Maple and Birch leaves shred up and blow away. Oak leaves take years to decompose. All are welcome, we appreciate your help!

*All these lovely leaves are on the ground now, waiting to be cleaned up*

### ➤ T3010's are due June 30<sup>th</sup>

A friendly reminder that the T3010 report to CRA is due by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### ➤ Home Visitation Round Tables

We just concluded a series of Home Visitation panel discussions, and will resume again after the summer break. Home Visitation Chapter 4, the fourth session that was held on April 20<sup>th</sup> and was again, well attended; Vincentians are always eager to seek out and share information on Home Visitation. After each session, **Frequently Asked Questions** will be released by chapter. Chapter Four is available by clicking this [link](#), the previous chapters are available [here](#).

### ➤ Orientation Sessions

All new members must attend an Orientation Session to fulfill the screening obligations we put in place to satisfy the Archdiocesan requirements. This informative virtual session will be held over two nights, the first, Part 1 was held on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and Part 2 will be Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm until 8:15 pm. The [link for Part 2 is here](#). The Greater Toronto Central Council expanded its services beyond Home Visitation, providing much needed supportive and emergency housing to persons in need from all over the GTA. We also operate camps, stores and other programs and services. You will learn all about our outreach, and will understand how GTCC serves, and how much we all do; you, your Conferences, Particular Councils and Central Council, supported by our donors, for persons in need.

### ➤ Central Council Office

With the absence of Anar from our staff team, please continue to email [info@ssvptoronto.ca](mailto:info@ssvptoronto.ca) for all your conference and membership needs. A helpful tip – when requesting information, supplies etc., please let us know what conference you are from, this helps us to respond in a timely manner. Thank you for your ongoing support.