

**“I was hungry and naked and you gave me
food and clothing” MAT: 25**

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Vinnies Venue Spring 2010

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***Haiti Disaster
Vincentians across
Ontario have
rallied to the cry of
the poor and
homeless. At
present we are
sending up
\$25,000 to assist
our twin The
National Council
of Haiti***

**Coming Events
O.R.C. Meeting in
Hamilton (Blessed
Sacrament Parish
March 27.2010**

**National A.G.A.
Toronto, June 9-12
Hosted by Toronto
Central Council**



**THE SOCIETY OF
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL**

**Ontario Regional
Council**





Agnes Turley,
Treasurer

Jim Paddon
Vice President

John Staley
President

Brenda Kormendy
Corporate Secretary

Your Executive Council as well as Members of the Council have been working hard to insure that we fulfill our mandate. Carmela Addante has resigned as Chair of the Youth in order to take on her responsibilities for the International Council. Jason Hunt will replace her as Chair of the Youth. Thank you Carmela for your dedication and hard work. It is appreciated!

Remember in your Prayers:

Paula Finbow, Toronto Central Council and member of the O.N.R.C Advocacy Committee

ONRC Ad Hoc Renewal & Formation committee, Feb. 6th, 2010 report

This new Ad Hoc committee was formed last fall by Jim Paddon (Chair), with members being Bill Graham and Brian Morris.

The objectives originally were to look at how the ONRC could provide any necessary resources and training to the singularly most important part of our organization...our presidents. After our first meeting, at which we had the opportunity to look at the new National Council training modules, it was decided to see if we could integrate our objective with the presentation of these modules. The result is the formation of a series of diocesan workshops for all presidents that will provide them with the training modules and hopefully, inspire them to return to their membership with a strong level of support to attend local training sessions.

The presidential workshops will also include additional material adapted to the role of president that will include information and advice on the recruitment, training, motivation, retention and recognition of our conference members. These workshops begin on April 10th in Chatham (London diocese), April 24th St. Catharine's, May 1st Waterloo (Hamilton diocese Part 1), Hamilton (Hamilton diocese Part 2) to be determined, May 29th Ottawa (Ottawa archdiocese) and end on June 19th in Barrie. (Northern part of Toronto archdiocese and Northern Ontario conferences)

There will also be a Train The Trainer (TTT) workshop on April 17th in London which will focus on training members that have volunteered to assist with the National training module as we roll it out to the general membership

While the ONRC can strongly recommend our presidents attend these training sessions, we need to find other methods by which we can encourage all Vincentians to attend future training sessions. This is where we need the support of our presidents and local trainers. The TTT network also has the potential to educate our membership on an on-going basis about various topics. The communication level of the Society in Ontario will benefit greatly from this structure.

With the current lack of a membership committee, I'd suggest this committee take on the mandate of formation/expansion/education and become a permanent committee. We will discuss this issue at our TTT workshop with the suggestion that our training network become the membership of this committee. Respectfully submitted by, Jim Paddon.

Report- Feb. 6th, 2010.

Voice of the poor The ONRC Voice of the Poor committee looks forward to an exciting and busy year of working to address the causes of poverty in Ontario.

The two main issues we are addressing are:

1. Affordable Housing.
2. Education regarding social justice as it relates to poverty in Ontario.

Affordable housing-The ONRC has made a submission to the government on affordable housing and will continue to look at ways we can partner with other organizations to pressure our governments at all levels to address this basic need.

Education- This is a huge chore which must start with our own membership as well as our Catholic faith communities and clergy. We will have a presentation as part of a series of diocesan workshops for conference presidents dedicated to the new National training modules.

We are also working on a pilot project in the St. Catharines and Hamilton dioceses along with the diocesan social justice coordinators that will be focused on Catholic social teachings and our own Vincentian spirituality as they apply to social justice.

The key to any success in these two areas must include the creation of a “network of social justice” that will ideally establish either a committee or at least one or two contacts in each Council in Ontario. This network will enable us to communicate various efforts to raise the level of awareness of poverty issues to the general public and our elected official’s at all three levels of government.

Our committee met on Jan., 23rd to develop our strategic plan for 2010 and beyond. It includes the following objectives:

- 1 Website-To develop a separate VOP website linked to the ONRC main website.
- 2.National Council VOP committee- to develop and maintain regular communications between National and ONRC VOP committees.
- 3.Partnerships-To continue to develop on-going partnerships with related organizations such as ISARC,ACBO, diocesan social justice coordinators.
- 4.Action on legislation- Monitor current bills related to poverty reduction and maintain communications with all relevant government ministries, committees.
5. Formation-To develop programs and methods to educate our membership on advocacy topics.

Three of our committee attended an advocacy workshop held by our National Council in Ottawa last October. I can say the ONRC and our Quebec members are doing great work in this area. The other regions are just getting started and will need lots of support form national and the ONRC.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jim Paddon, Chair, VOP Committee.

Vinnie Facts: Did You Know:

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-We have over 400 conferences

-We have 46 Stores across Ontario

-We have 46,000 members

-We have 12 active youth conferences

Bill 168 Becomes Law (June 10, 2010)

On Monday February 8, 2010 The Executive met with Windsor Central Council To discuss the implications of this legislation and its effect on our stores. This ruling has serious consequences on those hired workers and volunteers who work in our stores regarding the Occupational Health and Safety Act with respect to violence and harassment in the work place.

It was decided Windsor Central Council and Ontario Regional Council, together would form a template that could be used by all stores to address the issues. With the assistance of a legal firm, it was agreed that each Council would pay half the expenses approximately \$4000 total costs.

www.ssvp.on.ca

Communications:

Reminder: All 2009 year-end reports are now due - download reports and follow submission deadlines!!! Date changes for Reporting Templates Year Ending 2009 was completed with a banner on home page to remind all Particular, Central and Isolated Councils/Conferences to Download reporting templates for year ending December 31 2009 by clicking on [PDF] and submit them to their treasurer and President as per the following datelines to be compiled and passed up to the next higher council according to the schedule below.

	2009 Due Date
Parish Conference Reports to Particular Council	Jan 01 to Feb 15
Particular Council Reports to Central Council	Feb 15 to Feb 28
Central Council Reports to Regional Council	Mar 01 to Mar 28
Regional Council to National Council	Mar 28 to Apr 06

Note National's website shows a different yearend report form regional because regional is designed to coincide with Revenue Canada Charity line numbers used at year end to fill in your Charity Year end reports to Revenue Canada

All Banners placed on our Home page:

Note: by clicking on the banner it will link you directly to the article for all details.

1 Affordable Housing Submission to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Dec – 2009 by Jim Paddon – SSVP ONRC - Voice of the Poor Committee Chairperson

2 Gospel/Reflection/Vincentian Meditation & Prayers January - February 2010

3 Windsor Essex Central Council opens website

4 Donate your Aeroplan miles to SSVP

5 Vincenpaul - Canada Bulletin, National Magazine Stay informed!!! Subscribe today!!!