

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
ONTARIO REGION

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORKSHOP

Date: Saturday, May 14th, 2011;

Location: St. Alfred's Parish, 272 Vine St, St. Catharines;
(For directions, please use MapQuest or Google Maps)

Time: 9.00 AM to 3.30 PM;

Presenter: Father John Freund, CM.

Accommodations: The Comfort Inn, 2 Dunlop Drive, Catharines will hold a block of rooms until April 14th at the special rate of \$99.99.

Please refer to St. Vincent de Paul when making a reservation. (Phone 905-687-8890).

Please note:

1. Celebration of the Eucharist May 14 at 8:30 AM at the church;
2. No registration fee;
3. Lunch will be provided.

Early registration: To help us plan the workshop and to prevent any disappointments it is appreciated if you would register by Mar.18th.

Final registration: Not later than May 1st.

Please reply to either
Jim Paddon, 519-397-2298 or jpaddon4@cogeco.ca.
Eddie Alkemade ealkemade@yahoo.ca.



THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
ONTARIO REGION

VOICE OF THE POOR COMMITTEE

Friends, (as appropriate)

I am very pleased to invite you to the *Systemic Change* workshop to be held on May 14, 2011 in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Allow me a few minutes please to explain why a workshop about change should be important to you. Although the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has made since its beginning in 1833 every effort to lessen the burden of poverty and has spoken vehemently against the blight of poverty, its members still go out every day to lighten the burden of poverty. Evidently, our approach to eliminate poverty has not been as successful as we would have liked it to be.

Obviously, we need something more than charity and advocacy. There must be another way to help especially those people who make every effort to break free from the burden of poverty, but who for one reason or another can't find the way.

There is a way though.

It is a well developed method that, if applied appropriately, will give people the skills and knowledge to make the necessary changes in their own lives and so eradicate their own poverty. The *Systemic Change* workshop not only provides an in-depth insight in how to approach specific and personal poverty, but it also demonstrates in clear and simple ways how to apply the concepts of *Systemic Change* in people's personal circumstances.

We are very fortunate that **Father John Freund C.M.** has enthusiastically made himself available to lead the workshop. Fr. Freund had dedicated most of his adult life to teaching. His most recent teaching post was at St. John's University in New York where he served as Chair of the Department of Theology.

Since 1993, however, Fr. Freund has been presenting workshops across the United States, Canada, and Europe. As part of that ministry he has fostered the use of the Internet to connect the more than two million followers of Sts. Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac in what is known as the Vincentian Family. This family serves the poor and the marginalized in more than 150 countries.

Fr. Freund now uses the famvin website to respond to the call of international leaders in the Vincentian Family to promote the systemic change perspective that will, as John Paul II describes it, "*discover underlying causes and long terms solutions to poverty*".

I sincerely hope that you will join us May 14, 2011 in St. Catharines and be part of an important movement within the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Together we will find new ways to help our neighbours in need. Together we will be able to bring them not just a voucher or a vague expectation that someday things will be better. Instead, by working together, we will give new skills and confidence to our neighbours in need that make change is possible for them.

Jim Paddon,
Chair the Voice of the Poor Committee,
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Ontario Regional Council.