

December 2019

Ozanam

News



Twinning News - *The Joy of Serving*

SSVP 'in Union'
meet-up in Japan

Mini Vinnies &
Youth Projects

SSVP Conference
Latest News



Council of Scotland

Vacancy

National Spiritual Adviser

Daniel Collins

National President Trustee

James Heneaghan

National Treasurer Trustee

Richard Steinbach

Vice-President / Trustee -
St Andrews & Edinburgh

Elizabeth Herlihy

Trustee - Aberdeen

John Joyce

Trustee - Dunkeld

Pat Snee

Trustee - Galloway

Joe Maguire

Trustee - Glasgow

Pat Carr

Trustee - Motherwell

Joe Hendry

Trustee - Paisley

Kate Kelley

Twinning & Projects

Patricia McCartney

Social Justice Coordinator

Letter from National President

My warmest regards to our brothers, sisters, friends and volunteers of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (Scotland) SSVp.

As the time draws close to the end of 2019, we can reflect on the personal spiritual blessing we received during this year and humbly recall the many acts of charity delivered to those in need that we gladly serve.

The New Year 2020 is of particular significance in the historical journey of the SSVp. The foundation of the first conference of St. Patrick's, Edinburgh, took place on the 25th May 1845, one hundred and seventy-five years ago. This development heralded the beginning of the establishment of many other SSVp Conferences throughout Scotland.

The New Year 2020 also marks the 50th anniversary of the National Council of Scotland instituted in 1970.

To commemorate both these occasions I encourage members, friends and volunteers to participate in some way in the planned activities during this special year of celebration.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to all those involved with the Scottish Society of St. Vincent de Paul and hope that everyone has a Holy Joyful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year 2020.

Yours in St. Vincent de Paul & Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Danny Collins

National President



Next submission deadline is Thursday 27th February 2020!

The Ozanam News relies on your contributions. Send articles and images (jpg or png format only, no PDFs) to communication@ssvpScotland.com. Please provide full caption details for photos. We are unable to accept paper submissions. Articles should be written by email or attached as a Word document.

Publishing Policy

1. The objective is to publish a new Ozanam News, which will be issued three times per year, April, September and December. To facilitate this, a publications committee has been formed and a member of the National Council has been made responsible for its operation. The publications committee will normally meet two months before going to the printer. As at present, the actual putting together of the magazine will be the responsibility of the National Office staff, who will select the printer and liaise and coordinate with all preproduction functions. 2. In accordance with National Council requirements, the intention will be not to feature 'editorial' pieces. Any material deemed to detract from the Society's broader aims will be approved by the National Council prior to publication. Hopefully these arrangements will help the new Ozanam News develop into a more humorous, educational and spiritual publication which will concentrate on bringing the Society, its Members and Associates closer together. With this Togetherness in mind, National Council Agenda business could well become a regular feature in the magazine. In the main, letters for publication will normally be from twinning parties- regarded as reports. Other letters will be accepted for publication with an added footnote or returned for discussion by the respective council and/or president if thought to be more appropriate.

Dates for your Diary 2020

175th

ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Mon. 25th May 2020

175th Anniversary event
St Patrick's, Edinburgh

Sat. 13th June 2020

Annual Mass
St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow

Sat. 29th August 2020

Annual Meeting
Corn Exchange, Edinburgh

**National Council Meeting:
50th anniversary year**

Saturday 10.30am

08/02/2020

30/03/2020

13/06/2020

08/08/2020

10/10/2020

05/12/2020

Daughters of Charity - *With grateful appreciation*

It was not without some sadness that the National Council learnt that Sr Agnes will be leaving her Community in Glasgow, and moving from Scotland to a Daughter of Charity Community in Liverpool.

Danny Collins, thanked Sr Agnes for her many years' service as Spiritual Adviser to the National Council. "Sr Agnes has faithfully attended meetings and always offered a thoughtful and reflective contribution. We wish her well in her new Community".



PHOTO: Sr Agnes (3rd from right) with representatives of the National Council.

Safeguarding //////////////////////////////////////

The Society is privileged to be able to work with the most vulnerable people in our communities. But this privilege carries with it the burden of responsibility. Therefore, safeguarding must be at the core of our work. The Society is committed to:

- o Actively promoting the empowerment and well-being of adults and children we may come into contact with;
- o Recognising that everyone has the right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse;
- o Recognising that adults and children have the right to be protected from harm and exploitation.

Our safeguarding policies and procedures reflect those of the Catholic Church in Scotland. All SSVP members, existing and new, and volunteers must comply with safeguarding.

All Conferences are asked to check with their local parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator to ensure that their members and their volunteers training is up-to-date and in line with the current requirements.



Twinning News

The Joy of Serving



PHOTO: St Anthony's Conference, Oorunttukala, India

Twinning has been designed to help Vincentian sisters and brothers in emerging countries to pursue our mission of charity and social justice. It is the main "Special Work" of fraternal assistance of the Society worldwide. It is a work of solidarity with the poorest of this world through spiritual sharing, fraternal communications and financial help. Twinning allows donating conferences and councils to contribute in the reduction of the suffering and poverty in developing countries under the responsibility of SSVP Scotland. The strengthening of ties and material assistance generate compassion and the joy of serving the less fortunate of this world.

One aspect of Twinning is the funding of Twinning Projects. A number of years ago it was decided to set up a Project Fund to which every Conference in Scotland could contribute. When enough money has been donated by the Conferences to this fund, it allows us then to consider the funding of projects applications.

Following the completion of funded projects, we receive a report. Earlier this year we received a Completion Report from Litto Palathingal, Project Officer (Kerala Region). **The Project, was to support St Anthony's Conference, Oorunttukala, India, which is twinned with St Michael's Dumbarton.**

The total projects required 72,000 rupees (£811); 12,000 was raised locally in India & 60,000 (£675) rupees contributed by SSVP Scotland. The project assisted 14 families (48 individuals) giving them an interest free loan to start a trading project, which they would pay back weekly. Once the funds were repaid, the funds were then passed to the next families on the waiting list, who required funding.

Some results of the project included:

Vegetable vending

- o Mary and her two children who are studying tailoring and book binding, are living in a small house in 5 cent *of land. She is a Christian widow, who has a very low annual income.
- o Vinod age 37, is suffering from cancer. He lives with his wife and two children in a small house in little land which is his only asset. They are a Hindu family on a very low annual income.

Fish Vending

- o Lilly is a widow aged 75 and has a daughter who is unmarried. They get help from SSVP and their neighbours which is their only way to obtain food.

- o Soman, 48 years old, his wife Radha and two children, are a very poor family with a very low annual income. Soman is an active member in the Church Development Committee.

Petty Shop & other small businesses

- o Lilly, whose father died, is working as a servant in nearby houses. She lives with her two student children in a small house on 5 cent of land.
- o Biju lives with his parents who are ill and has two children who are studying. They all live in a hut. On the path they have a petty shop which is the only way for them to make a living.

***1 cent = 435sq ft.**

If your Conference would like to support a Twinning project, please send a cheque payable to "SSVP Scotland" to the National Office.

SSVP “in Union”

*Tom McCartney, President,
St Peter's Conference, Partick*

A recent trip to Japan following Scotland in the rugby world cup provided the opportunity to make contact with fellow Vincentians there.

With assistance from the international office we communicated in advance by email with Kazuhiro Nahakawa, an SSVP member in Tokyo. Kazuhiro put together a full day of activities for us to visit SSVP projects and meet Japanese Vincentians.

Unfortunately, Typhoon Hagibis thwarted those plans as we were confined to our hotel while the storm raged. However, Kazuhiro braved the elements to meet us at our hotel early in the morning before the storm reached its peak. He gave us a great insight into the work of SSVP in Japan.

There are about 270 SSVP members in Japan. Tokyo has seven conferences, Nagasaki six and there are conferences in six other districts, all operating under a national council.

Kazuhiro spoke to us about the work carried out in his conference. Much of it will be familiar to all of us, visiting the housebound, elderly and lonely and meeting individual situations of need.

A focus for his conference is giving learning support to ‘looked after children/ young adults’ aged 5 -18 who have had to be removed from their homes due to abuse with their schooling often being affected. Kazuhiro, an engineer, goes in one evening a week to help them with their mathematics. This illustrated to us how the work of SSVP is flexible and can be adapted to meet local need.



PHOTO: Left to Right: Tricia McCartney, Kazuhiro Nahakawa, an SSVP member in Tokyo, & Tom McCartney.

Christians are very much a minority with Nagasaki being the centre of Catholicism in Japan. Nagasaki and the surrounding area is where Francis Xavier and other Jesuit missionaries arrived in 1549 to bring our Catholic faith to Japan. This ultimately led to the execution of the twenty-six Martyrs of Japan and subsequent persecution of Christians. Nowadays there are about 450,000 Catholics in Japan who are free to practice their religion openly.

What really struck home was Kazuhiro telling us of the benefit of support provided by SSVP International in response to disaster appeals. Japan suffered major earthquakes and tsunami in 2011 and again in 2016. On each occasion financial support by the worldwide SSVP family proved invaluable in allowing SSVP locally to make a real difference on the ground and help rebuild communities.

It is sometimes easy to think of SSVP as existing only on a local level in our individual conferences. Yet the reality is that we are part of an international organisation making a difference in alleviating need and addressing injustice in many countries of the world.

Our thanks go to Kazuhiro for taking the time to give us such an affirming snapshot of SSVP in Japan and through that the realisation that, to use the rugby motto, we are truly SSVP “in union”.

Hope and the Poor:

keeping our eye on the real things that matter for the SSVP in Scotland.



The following is an extract from the SSVP Annual retreat given by Fr John Clark mccc. Fuller notes may be downloaded from <https://www.ssvpscotland.com/members/spirituality>

Introducing the day Fr John said "We, as members of the SSVP are here to be energised, motivated and enthused in giving hope and help to the poor, excluded and needy. As members with that genuine Vincentian Blessed Frederick Ozanam Spirit, let us face the future that may make some of us here uncomfortable as we meet with what can be unknown. It may involve risks. You wonder

whether it is the best of times or the worst of times. As we get on with the business of our lives as most ordinary people do, **I feel it is important to remember we are pilgrim people.**

Topics discussed included: Jesus with the Poor, Excluded and Needy; The poor and excluded under threat without any defence or protection; **Swimming** against the tide in defence of the poor. What a mad thing to do; **Jesus** welcomed and valued women; **Jesus** condemned unfair divisions.

The realities in the lived world of the Poor today.

In the heart of the pilgrim People of God there beats that saving power which excludes no one and involves everyone in a real journey pilgrimage of conversion to recognise the poor and to love them. In fact, the eternal destiny of human beings will be measured by how much or how little solidarity we have displayed with the hungry, the thirsty, the naked and the oppressed. In the end we will be judged in terms of love.



St Oscar Romero, champion of the El Salvadoran poor, reminds us: "When we speak for the

poor, please note that we do not take sides with one social class. What we do is to invite all social classes, rich and poor, without distinction, saying to everyone let us take seriously the cause of the poor as though it were our own."

Pope Francis, highlights that the option for those who are least, those whom society discards, is a priority that Christ's followers are called to pursue. (Evangelii Gaudium, 96)



Message of His Holiness Pope Francis, Third World Day of the Poor, 17 November 2019 "The hope of the poor shall not perish for ever"

Hope is out beyond what we know. It does not mean to know the future but hope provides the prospect of a future. It is enacted with tenacity.

To bolster hope the Church has to be seen close to the poor. Loving attentiveness is the beginning of true concern for the poor and the promotion of their genuine welfare, (Evangelii Gaudium 199).

"The poor need our hands, to be lifted up; our hearts, to feel anew the warmth of attention, to overcome loneliness, in a word, they need love", THIRD WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, 17/11/2019, paragraph 8.



The poor are not statistics to cite when boasting of our works and projects. The poor are persons to be encountered; they are lonely, young and old, to be invited to our homes to share a meal; men, women and children who look for a friendly word. The poor

save us because they enable us to encounter the face of Jesus Christ. You and I well know there is a great need to revive hope and restore confidence in so many places where we live and work with the SSVP.

Four Questions that challenge the SSVP in Scotland today.

(see Circular letter, Paris, 31 January 2019)

Together with Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, the Brazilian international leader of the SSVP, I'd like to ask four relevant questions on how to improve your invaluable work of service in hope for the poor, marginalised and needy at home here in the dioceses of Scotland.

Let's not forget the SSVP-Scotland has been going

strongly for 175 years. During this time only God knows how much love, compassion and understanding for the poor, excluded and needy literally the thousands of SSVP members in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac and Frederic Ozanam have given their time, their talents, their concern and friendship to help others.

- 1 What do we need to STOP DOING in the SSVP?**
- 2 What do we need to KEEP DOING to improve our Vincentian effectiveness?**

- 3 What do we need to DO MORE?**
- 4 What do we need to DO LESS?**

Let me tell you a simple story...

One day a young monk asked one of the elders why it is that so many people came out to the desert to seek God and yet most of them give up after a short time and returned to their lives in the city. And the old monastic responded: "Last evening my dog saw a rabbit running for cover among the bushes of the desert and he began to chase the rabbit, barking loudly. Soon other dogs joined the chase, barking and running. They ran a great distance and alerted many other dogs. Soon the wilderness was echoing the sounds of their pursuit, but the chase went on into the night "After a little while, many of the dogs grew tired and

dropped out. A few chased the rabbit until the night was nearly spent. By morning only my dog continued the hunt. "Do you understand," the old man said, "what I have told you?" "No ", replied the young monastic, "I don't ". "It is simple", said the desert father. "My dog saw the rabbit."

The process of redefining the SSVP conference goals for ourselves lies in learning to keep our eyes on the real things which matter. Once we know what they really are, we should never stop pursuing them.

It was in this attitude of favouring life that Jesus showed Himself to the people as He went through Galilee announcing the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Through gestures of solidarity He revealed Himself as IMMANUEL, God with us, Mt 1,23, He Himself being Good News for the people, especially for the poor and marginalized.

"If you cannot see Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament you will never see Him in the poor." St Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Social Justice A Parliament to Tackle Poverty? 20 years of the Scottish Parliament

Brian Durkin, SSVP St. Peter's Livingston Conference.

Working very closely with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Scottish Government, Poverty Alliance believe that the existence of poverty represents a breach of fundamental human rights.

On Friday 11th. October I attended the Poverty Alliance AGM. The theme of this year's conference was **"A Parliament to Tackle Poverty? 20 years of the Scottish Parliament"**.

There were speakers from various community activists, all speaking on what the Scottish Government has done for them. There was also a concern about what actions still need to be taken on issues such as; a) Homelessness, b) The rise of Foodbanks, c) poverty at various levels, d) benefit caps, e) minimum and living wage, f) zero hour contracts etc.



Annual Meeting Workshop

All in all this was a very worthwhile event to attend and I would encourage all members to follow the works of Poverty Alliance. This can be done by logging on to admin@povertyalliance.org

Obituaries - May they rest in peace

Stan Mitchell,
Former President/Group President,
St Patrick's, Dumbarton

Frank Ryan,
Former Treasurer/Secretary, St
Paul's, Whiteinch

Elizabeth Ayliffe,
Secretary, St Patrick's, Greenock

Daniel O'Donnell,
Former Treasurer, St Mary's,
Lanark

James Kelly,
Former Member, SS Leonard's &
Fergus, Dundee

Terence Meehan,
Former President, Immaculate
Conception, Maryhill

Anne McCalmont,
Vice-President, St Ambrose,
Baillieston

John Gaughan,
Active Member, St Helen's, Langside

Denise Bradley,
Former Secretary, Our Lady & St
George, Penilee

Bobby Quinn,
Former President, Our Lady & St
George, Penilee

Jack McGarvie,
President, St Gregory's, Wyndford

Sadie O'Reilly,
President, St Peter in Chains,
Ardrossan



AIRDRIE SSVP GROUP - MINI VINNIES/ YOUTH SSVP NEWS

The Airdrie SSVP Group is made up of 8 parishes which encompasses 10 primary schools and is the catchment area for St Margaret's High school in Airdrie and St Andrews High school in Coatbridge.



PHOTO St Aloysius, Chapelhall Mini Vinnies inaugural meeting

The Airdrie Group was first introduced to the Mini Vinnies and the Youth SSVP about 6 years ago by the then national youth officer Clare Carr, but it was not until September 2018 that the first Mini Vinnies group was established in St Edward Primary school in Airdrie. Since the beginning of the new school year much progress has been made and we now have an additional 3 Mini Vinnies Groups commissioned in All Saints Primary, St Aloysius Primary and St. Dominic's Primary schools.

We now have a total of 65 Mini Vinnies. We hope to have a further 3 schools with commissioned Mini Vinnies by the end of January 2020, one of which will also include a group for children with additional support needs. The 3 remaining schools will hopefully be commissioned before the end of the school year in 2020.

The vision of the Airdrie Group is to provide to the school pupils from p4 in primary school to s6 in high school



PHOTO David Ryan with All Saints Primary, Airdrie Mini Vinnies

continuity of access to the Vincentian Ethos of helping those in need. To this end St Margaret's High School in Airdrie have now established a Youth SSVP Group and in conjunction with the Coatbridge SSVP Group we are hoping to set up a Youth SSVP Group in St Andrews High School in Coatbridge in early 2020.

MOTHERWELL DIOCESAN FURNITURE UNIT IN NETHERTON (WISHAW) IS GIVEN A MAKEOVER

The dedication to those in need by many SSVP members in the past, has kept the Furniture Unit in Netherton operational for many years. In May, the Motherwell Diocesan Council made the decision to review all of the SSVP projects in the Diocese, this included the Furniture Unit in Netherton.

An initial report was written which highlighted the need for certain changes to be made. With the help of the North Lanarkshire Restorative Justice Team the Unit was cleared. Additional Health and Safety measures were then put in place, the office was given a makeover and the scene was set for us to appeal for volunteers and donations of furniture. A number of volunteers responded immediately but like all Charitable Organisations a large band of volunteers is essential to ensure an ongoing consistent standard of service is provided to all those who need our help. We are fortunate in the level of commitment of those who have already volunteered, however our appeal for volunteer drivers, driver assistants and admin assistants are an ongoing challenge.

Our appeal for furniture donations was and continues to be very successful, so much so that since we re-opened, the phones never stop ringing. There have been challenges and we know there is still work to be done to get the Unit fully operational, however we have taken major strides to achieve this.

We are at the start of a new and exciting journey in the history of the Furniture Unit. Our volunteers today, are as convinced as those in the past, that our Furniture Unit is an essential resource in helping those in need in our Community. With the grace of God, St Vincent De Paul plus the wonderful dedication of all the volunteers, we will continue to be of service to those in need for many years to come and grow from strength to strength. Indeed, **as St Vincent de Paul reminds us: 'How much our hearts should be on fire with love of this ministry of helping the poor and devoting ourselves earnestly to it, for the need is so great and God expects this of us.'**



MW Furniture Depot

Conference News:

“Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another.” St. Vincent de Paul

Aberdeen Conferences Day of Reflection at Pluscarden

Conferences from Aberdeen East and Aberdeen West met at Pluscarden for a Day of Reflection led by the new Spiritual Director Deacon Douglas Duncan. Mass was celebrated in the small chapel in Pluscarden Abbey.



Aberdeen Reflection Group at Pluscarden

Our Lady of Lourdes Conference Dunfermline



Sister Bridie Burns (left) & Sister Margaret Hall (right)

Sister Bridie Burns (left) who has served our conference faithfully for more than 30 years. Has decided to retire. Bridie's contribution

to the life of the conference has been invaluable and she will be very much missed. We wish her well.

Sister Margaret Hall (right) has been awarded the BEM in the Queens Honours List for services to local charities and Kuvula Othandweni Charity in Africa. Members of the parish and the wider community have been knitting and sending baby clothes to Africa for several years. This was co-ordinated by Margaret. Congratulations and very well done.

The conference enjoyed a social evening with both Bridie and Margaret and we are very proud of both of them.

Benemerenti Award

Bishop Joseph Toal, presents Benemerenti Award to **Patrick McCabe – St. Edward's SSVP, Airdrie**. The Award and Medal were conferred on Pat on account of his many years of dedicated formal service to the Church at large, to the Society itself and to the parishes of St. Edward's and formerly All Saints in Airdrie.

“The SSVP Conference was delighted to celebrate this very special moment in our Brother Pat's life, and to honour his decades-long work & commitment to the Society and its ethos. We were joined by our Mini Vinnie Conferences from our parish schools St. Edward's and St. Dominic's at the celebration, which saw the next generation of Vincentians recognising Pat's contributions too in their own very special way”.



Pat McCabe Benemerenti Award
Bishop Toal

Galloway News – Pat Snee, Galloway Diocesan President

The Society has existed in Galloway for 157 years, with the first Conference being formed in St. Andrew's, Dumfries in 1862. There are, currently, 22 Conferences with 150 members and these are well spread out across the Dioceses, ranging from St Palladius, Dalry, in the North, to St Joseph's, Stranraer, in the South. For Communication and administrative purposes, the Galloway region is divided into three groups. North, South and Dumfries Area, each with their own Group Councils

Since being appointed as Diocesan President, at

the Festival Meeting in Cumnock earlier this year, I have made my own personal goals, Recruitment and Communication. This fits in with our National President's priorities. To that end, I hope to bring News and Updates, (and a few photos), to future editions of the Ozanam News as, hopefully, we grow in our membership.

It is only fitting that at this time of Advent, on behalf of my fellow "Gallowegians" I would like to wish all our Vincentian Brothers and Sisters a Holy, Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

FamVin GB - Carfin Annual Mass

The Burntisland Conference run a bus every year to Carfin for the annual SSVP Mass. This includes our parishioners. We open it out to other churches in the area, mainly St. Margaret's in Dunfermline and St. John & St. Columba in Rosyth. This is proving very popular and we supply a packed lunch for those attending. We all enjoyed the day and the weather was on our side which is a blessing, especially for outside events. Looking forward to next year as it will be the Carfin Centenary.



St Josephs Carfin

Our Lady & St George Conference in Penilee, Glasgow

The Conference of Our Lady & St George in Penilee, Glasgow has been running outings for many of the elderly, housebound and socially isolated for several years. This involves volunteer drivers taking people to venues of interest such as museums and garden centres where they have a cake and coffee and are assisted to explore the venues or to just sit and have a chat with their friends.

The program tends to run between March and early October with a "Christmas Special" in late November or early December.

PHOTO: "Sunday Movie Matinee" in our church hall.



Ozanam Clubs

PHOTO: Motherwell Ozanam Club celebrates 30 years: Jimmy Lynch, founding Member was present to cut the celebration cake

PHOTO: Paisley Ozanam Club celebrates Halloween: Dracula won one of our Best Costume prizes.



Emmanuel - God is with us. Isaiah 7:14

May the peace and hope of
Christ's Birth.
be with you now and in the days ahead



**Society of
St. Vincent de Paul
Scotland**

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