

News in Brief

E-news October 2022 | Issue 30

Welcome to our latest e-news, which is filled with stories from around the country from hard-working volunteers and staff who are helping people in a practical way every day. If you have a story you would like us to share, please email it to us at: national@svdp.org.nz

The Importance of Conferences

On my travels around the country to meet with so many of you, I am constantly reminded of the importance of our Conferences in the Society, not just for the great work that they do, but also for the ongoing spiritual development of its members.

In the words of Blessed Frederick Ozanam, we are saying to the poor

“You are for us the sacred image of that God whom we do not see, and not knowing how to love him in any other way, we love him through you.”¹

It is through our person to person contact, that the Poor are able to experience the love that Christ has for them and at the same time we are able, through the Poor, feel the love that Christ has for us. No speeches, sermons or lectures; just a simple loving act of giving and receiving practical help.

So as Conference members we must continually strive to ensure that our work is conducted at a personal Conference level. While shops, centralised foodbanks and warehouses can be speedier and more efficient as they should be, there is no way they can be allowed to take the place of a personal contact. It is not their job to deal with the Poor – it is OURS, as Conference members.

It is sometimes referred to by academics, as *“having a preferential option for the Poor.”*

Today the Society is facing the same challenges as the Church and all Religious Organisations in the modern world. These challenges include increasing secularism,

individualism, aging membership, dwindling numbers, forced amalgamations, leadership problems, lack of solidarity, etc. A kind of losing their way. We need to address these issues and if we fail to do so we will have failed the Poor, ourselves and more importantly, Christ. He is the one who offered the job that we as Vincentians accepted.

At the National Council meeting on 5 & 6 November, Area Council Presidents will be discussing ways of helping Conferences and growing membership. We are hearing so often of the need to have more resources that can be used to promote and encourage the growth of our Society.

I encourage all of you to share your ideas on growth with your Conferences and Area Presidents, so the National Council can have a fully informed discussion on this topic in November.

But most importantly, pray that the Meeting will be open to the love of Christ and the inspiration of the Spirit as we listen and share with each other.

God bless

Terry Jordan
National President



MEMBRE DE LA SOCIETE
DE SAINT-VINCENT DE PAUL



¹ Dirvin, J., Frederick Ozanam, A Life In Letters, St Louis: Society of St Vincent De Paul, 1986.

Young Vinnies step up for canteen service

When the school canteen lady retired, Sacred Heart College in Napier surveyed its options. The students asked for an online lunch delivery service but at more than \$10 a pop, it was an expensive option. The school principal turned to the Young Vinnies at the school and asked if they could help.

‘Oh yeah, what days can we have’, said Vinnies Youth Coordinator for Hawkes Bay, Paola Minehan. Paola is often around the school and always looking for ways to help out.

The Young Vinnies at the school took the opportunity and began running the canteen on a Monday and Tuesday. They split into two teams, each having one day a week. A free cereal breakfast is offered each day and lunch is available from between \$2 and \$4.50. Just one lunch is offered each day, ranging from soup to nachos to mac cheese.

‘The work is frantic, with students lined up as soon as the bell goes waiting to purchase whatever is being sold that day,’ says Paola. ‘The most popular lunch sold so far has been nachos. Ninety-nine percent of the time, the meals are sold out.’

‘Food is prepared by the Food Tech teacher Sarah Coram-O’Kane. We couldn’t run the project without her.’

Paola says the students come from different backgrounds and the need varies greatly.

‘It’s a mixed bag. There are some well-off families and some families for whom Monday is a hard day because there is nothing to eat in the cupboard. It’s a great school, everyone helps out.’

The cost of running the canteen are met several ways. The food prep and the running of the canteen are done by volunteers, some food comes from Hawke’s Bay food rescue and the local Vinnies Conference and Area Council make a small donation to help buy ingredients each week.

Everyone benefits from the project, says Paola.

‘It gives everyone the chance to go to the canteen and buy lunch at a very reasonable cost. And it’s very interesting for the Young Vinnies too. They are learning customer service, cash and food handling skills. And if someone is in need, we just give them the lunch. Young Vinnies make those judgement calls.’

As well as the canteen outreach, some families are provided with food parcels as well through Vinnies, says Paola.



Young Vinnies run a super-affordable canteen service at Sacred Heart College, Napier.

Vinnies Tamaki Makarau

Last August members of the National Board and the NEO attended a meeting to discuss the Auckland Young Vinnies operation.

The special emphasis of the operation is centered on young people, Pasifika and Maori Communities and the vulnerable with a focus on youth development and leadership, volunteer community outreach including employment and career pathways. The warehouse (pictured) acts as a food hub for the Auckland region.



Ukraine: Where New Zealand Aid Has Assisted



This conflict has now been happening for the past 7 months. New Zealand's contribution to the Fund for International Solidarity (F.I.S) along with other donor countries has supported in the aiding of the Society's activity in Ukraine and the bordering member countries, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. The aid process is approved by the Commission for International Aid and Development (C.I.A.D)

This aid has included assisting those who have remained in Ukraine, especially those near the war zone, the misplaced and refugees who have chosen to leave the country. The surrounding countries have provided accommodation, medical, food, transport and education assistance. Some of the member countries have also continued to take aid into the war zone areas.

Some of the reports we have received:

Romania: "Where there's a will, there's a way While never reckless, Vincentians are prepared to take risks. When the roads were too dangerous to travel, we used the rail network. When we heard that aid was starting to get through to the cities, but the people in villages had nothing, we helped set up more than 40 rural and suburban food distribution points. When we learned that the elderly and disabled were still living in bombed out buildings and unable to access food, we began using volunteer cyclists to reach them and now provide a lifeline to more than 700 people a day. When lifesaving medical supplies were needed, but other agencies couldn't deliver them, we provided transport for 12,000 tourniquets and 5,000 medical kits. If people have no electricity, we provide food that doesn't need to be cooked."



Ulrike Mattfeldt, SSVdP C.I.A.D, "I tried to be in contact with our Kiyv Brothers and Sisters, in particular Sister Marta from the Daughters of Charity, but there is no reaction so far. The Kiyv building of the CM and Daughters of Charity is in a hilly part of town not far from the Central Station - and hopefully safe because far away from airports."

DePaul International: "Looking to the future While the war continues, the need for humanitarian aid will continue to grow, and even sustaining our current levels of 80-100 tonnes per week will be no mean feat. But we are also starting to plan what comes next. We know that people will need significant help to deal with the effects of trauma, financial and practical support for those who have lost their homes, help with employment and benefits, legal assistance for those who have lost all their identity documents, and so much more. We have over 30 years' experience of helping people with all these challenges and are well-placed to deliver this support, but we are going to need all the financial help we can get."

From Ulrike Mattfeldt: "Ukraine and her fight for a democratic future are on all our minds. These recent photographs from our Kyiv conference, however, allow for more personal insight in what determines people's present life in times of Russian aggression: Restoration of bombed dwellings - nothing luxurious as shown what is left of kitchen equipment on the photo (see next page), but worthwhile for Russian forces to be destroyed in order to undermine people's resilience."



Our Kyiv Vincentians try to help re-organize living conditions and survival in the near-by Kyiv neighbourhood.

So far, they want to manage by themselves - a perfect example of our Vincentian philosophy of sustainability! However, they would come to us and our solidarity when necessary."

CGI Board Meeting 10 September:

Also voted was a "Memorandum of Understanding" to be signed with Depaul International, a Vincentian Family member very present in Ukraine. The MOU will help the SSVP in the humanitarian action that is being done in that very suffering region of the planet.

"In particular, this MOU:

- Establishes lines of responsibility in the funding and delivery of humanitarian assistance
- Details lines of communication to enable a collaborative and partnership-based approach
- Details minimum standards to be followed in the implementation and reporting of humanitarian assistance.

The context in Ukraine, and particularly in Kharkiv Oblast, is insecure and unstable. Both parties recognize the importance of flexibility in this response to ensure people's changing needs can continue to be met. DPI will continue to assess the delivery and security risks in the environment. Both parties commit to a spirit of transparency and partnership to discuss and agree any adaptations which may be required within the terms of this MOU as a result of these changing risks."



Prayer on a Ukrainian soldier's backpack: "God, if I die young ..."

A reporter posted this powerful photo of the prayer written on a Ukrainian soldier's backpack.



At the end of April, Ukrainian reporter Illia Ponomarenko posted this powerful photo on his Twitter profile. It shows the backpack of a Ukrainian soldier with the text of a simple prayer:

"God, if I die young, let me into Heaven, as I've already been to Hell."

Lord, protect those who are fighting for their freedom. They are dying in the defense of their country. They are losing their loved ones. They are suffering.

In the context of this conflict, Pope Francis recently wrote:

When we allow ourselves to be devoured by this monster represented by war, when we allow this monster to raise its head and guide our actions, everyone loses, we destroy God's creatures, we commit sacrilege and prepare a future of death for our children and grandchildren.

Greed, intolerance, ambition for power, violence, are motives that advance the decision for war, and these motives are often justified by a war ideology that forgets the immeasurable dignity of human life, of every human life, and the respect and care we owe it.

Twinning Report

OCTOBER 2022
By Arthur, NZ Twinning



SRI LANKA

We have forwarded two lots of funding to support them during the current economic crisis.

"The Economic crisis in Sri Lanka has resulted in declines in electricity, fuel, cooking gas consumption resulting from shortages. Long queues have formed in front of petrol filling stations. Daily electricity power cuts have been imposed throughout the country. Schools have been closed. Examinations in schools could not be held due to shortage of paper. Hospitals do not have the necessary medical drugs and routine surgeries have been suspended. In response to the fuel shortage and power interruptions small business institutions have been closed and many have lost their jobs. Daily wage earners have lost their livelihoods and poverty has increased. Fishing boats too haven't had diesel or kerosene to catch fish." - National President Sri Lanka.

In July NZ\$5,000 was forwarded and a report has been received. The funding aid has been distributed to conferences throughout Sri Lanka.

Funds were utilized to:

- Provide cooked food and dry rations, clothes etc. to the needy
- Pay house rent, utility bills for those who lost their livelihoods.
- Purchase medical drugs not available in Government Hospitals for patients.
- Have special classes for students who missed out on studies as schools were closed.
- Provide Elders Homes and Homes with disabled children food, sanitary items and basic requirements.
- Assist elders with food, medicine, transport to hospitals etc.

A further NZ\$25,000 was sent during September. We are waiting for a report on this.

Some of the highlights from their AGM report were:

Twining funds received from the National Council of Australia and New Zealand were handed over to the Dioceses to be distributed among the Conferences as listed on the remittance advice.

Badulla Diocese - Three children of the same family who lost both their parents in a bus accident in Passara were granted a cash donation of Rs. 100,000 each for their education which was invested in a fixed deposit to receive a monthly interest.

Colombo Diocese - 229 Students of the Sunday school in the Parish of St. Sebastian's Church Katuwapitiya who lost one or both parents in the Easter Sunday bomb attack were granted gift vouchers for the purchase of shoes to the value of Rs. 4,58,000

Galle Diocese - 300 Students of the Sunday school in the estate sector in three Parishes in Deniyaya received gift vouchers for the purchase of shoes.

Kandy Diocese - Financial assistance granted to purchase two sewing machines to train women of low-income families sewing to earn a living. Financial assistance granted for house repairs of a needy family.

Trincomalee Diocese - Financial assistance granted for flood relief victims who were displaced. Cooked food, dry rations, clothes, medication provided.

A donation of Rs. 10,000 was made to the elders home Samata Sarana in Colombo



TONGA

Since the last e-news we have supplied more material and funding. The focus has been around the ongoing effects of the tsunami. The guidance we have received from Tonga has resulted in support for horticulture programs, tools, seeds and other support equipment. Funding was used to purchase mainly seeds so we were also supporting Tongan businesses.

The following report was received from the National Council of Tonga:

Gifted Containers Temporarily Repurpose

Amidst the disaster in January 2022 (volcanoes eruption, Tsunami and COVID19) the two containers of urgent relief supplies from NZ were released and safely stored into two gifted containers from SSVP NZ shipped earlier for the purpose of building a shop for the Society in Tonga. Without these 2 containers we would have to find an alternative which is safe and secured storage areas for the food, water, tools, clothes and blankets etc. Moreover, the costs of holding containers for months would be a burden for the Society. The lockdown restricted many things including movements of personnel and goods but fortunately with the shipment stored safely and easily accessible we were able to continue our support to families and communities who were affected seriously by the disaster.



The third shipment from NZ also arrived early this month and has been stored in these two storage containers. The repurposing was necessary under the circumstances, and we thank Arthur and SSVP New Zealand for this vital support and huge effort.

The two storage containers are strategically located at the Ma'ufanga Parish which is the main parish in Nukualofa for easy access.

SSVP Feast Day

More than 100 food parcels were prepared and distributed by the Ma'ufanga Parish Conference as part of its main activities of the SVDP Feast Day. All conferences undertake this activity every year to mark the World Day of St Vincent.



Helping the Poor

Helping the neighbour with mats, blankets and tarpaulin after a new shack was built to relocate this poor family where their clothes, blankets were soaked with an overnight rain. The mats, tarpaulin, and blankets were donated by the SSVP of NZ and part of the third shipment of equipment and food that arrived in early September.



Some of the observations expressed by the National Council of Tonga were:

1. Rapid reactions by our twinning partner SSVP New Zealand as well as our Oceania and International SSVP family is commendable and as stated elsewhere without this funding support we would have to rely on our meagre resources that would only last less than a month. In addition to the funds received from New Zealand we also received two 20-foot containers made up of dry food, canned food and supplies such as milk and water, corned beef, clothes, toilet papers, rubbish bins, batteries, gumboots, blankets, equipment to help stretch our relief activities a lot longer.
1. In conclusion, we would like to thank most sincerely to the SSVP of New Zealand (Arthur Schultze), ITVP Oceania (Frank Brassil), National Council of Australia & its overseas partners (Tricia Walden), Maurice Yeung (CIAD Paris) and Lily Lober SSVP (Samoa) for providing the funds and spiritual support to assist the efforts of the SSVP Tonga to help and assist families who were affected by the Volcanic eruptions and the Tsunami. Your kind support has been instrumental in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of those who needed the most assistance as well as others in the wider conference communities who were also affected in various physical, psychological, social and economic ways.

SAMOA

Samoa National Council has had to go through some change. The previous National President was elected to Parliament so had to step down from the role. We have had a new National President and Twinning Coordinator appointed so we are getting things back on track.

There will be discussion in the next few weeks as to what the priorities are and how we can meet the assistance required.

In recent months the Stokes Valley Conference and members have purchased and modified a 20' container to be sent to a village on Savaii. The driving force behind this was a long-time conference member Frank Vailini. The container will be used as a meeting point and a shop within the village. The goods shipped included fridges and freezers, food, household goods and furniture, walking frames and an electric wheelchair.



INTERNATIONAL

Most of you will have seen reports on the war in the Ukraine. As reports are received, we will continue to circulate. There have been queries with regards to funding, this is under review with the appropriate SVDP people.

We launched a project Strategy - 25 earlier this year which was focussed on member countries in the Sub-Sahara who are faced with extreme poverty. We are able to report that twinning has been re-established in 2 countries and 1 other now has donor country. The effect of Covid - 19 has seen c50m people slip back into poverty.



International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul

President-General begins official visit to two African countries: Angola and Sao tome and Principe

After participating in the "All Africa Assembly 2022" (AAA 2022) in Nairobi, Kenya, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira will be traveling to two other African nations: Angola and Sao tome and Principe.

In both countries the agendas are quite similar, including meetings with the National Council, open event for the members, interviews for Catholic media, audiences with bishops, celebrations, home visits and events with the youth.

Brother Renato will also deliver a lecture on the importance of the Council General for the SSVP, at which time he will answer questions from those present. Brother Ilídio Manhique (ITVP Africa 2) will accompany the presidential visit.

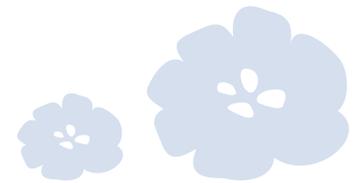
"This is the second time, as President General, that I come to Africa. I feel at home here, because of the affectionate manner in which I am received. Africa is the continent of hope and charity, and our Society has been growing and flourishing, in quantity and quality," said President Renato Lima.

Before attending the AAA 2022, on July 19, the President General also met with about 300 Kenyan brothers and sisters, in a morning of formation in which he talked about the programs, projects and initiatives underway within the Council General.

Since he took office in 2016, 43 countries have already been visited, and 15 more should be visited by the end of the mandate in September 2023. We wish him every success in this new missionary journey.



A Good News Story



- Bryan and Joan, St Vincent de Paul, Ashburton

Some old Marist Messenger magazines handed on to a St Vincent de Paul friend Lois were posted overseas to inmates in a Zambian prison. Then out of the blue, Bryan received letters from a prisoner telling of his life in jail and asking for prayers and help. Apparently Bryan's address was printed on the back of the magazines.

So for the past 14 years Bryan has been writing to and receiving letters from a prisoner in Zambia called Sam. These letters have given hope to Sam that somebody loves and supports him in his time in jail. Over the years, Bryan has assisted Sam with donations and funds to purchase a laptop so he could continue his studies while in prison.

Being caught at the scene of a crime that he maintains he did not commit, he was given a death sentence. On Sam's behalf, Bryan wrote to the then President of Zambia asking for clemency for Sam and that his sentence be reduced. The National President of St Vincent de Paul at that time, Michael Hanrahan also sent a petition to the Zambian President, asking

his Government to discontinue the death sentence. Following this Sam was granted clemency and his internment was reduced to Life imprisonment with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

Two years later with a change of President in Zambia, Bryan wrote a petition once again to the new President and asked the then NZ National President of St Vincent de Paul, Marlena Hoeft-Marwick to petition on Sam's behalf as well for an early release from prison. This was done two years ago.

Last month Bryan received great news. Sam has received a pardon and has been released from prison three years early. He is Free!!

St Vincent de Paul Ashburton conference has recently forwarded NZ\$500 to Sam to enable him to start out in the community once more as his family is very poor.

Below is a letter received from Sam in thanks for all the prayers and help he has received from us all.

Greetings to you Joan and Bryan and the entire St Vincent de Paul,

I write to confirm that I Sam Sakala did receive the support fund of the sum of 5000 kwacha. The money came at a time when I needed it to help me with my settling. It will go a long way to help me step on another level of Life in society. As you may be aware I came out of prison after fifteen years only to find everything is new and challenging.

Servants of God, the amount may look small but it has left an indelible mark of true sacrificial LOVE of Christ. The efforts from the St Vin de Paul and the lawn family are devine and with God is blessings.

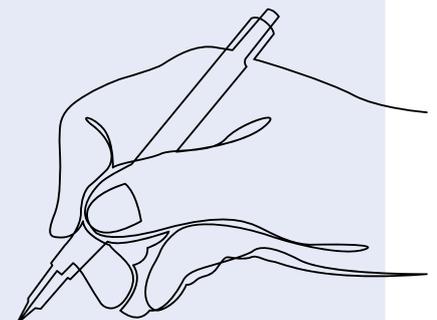
My humble request is that you pray for me so that God may open more does of mercy, am still limping but hope to fit in as soon as possible. Life out here is still characterised by discrimination and selfishness and it's only through the good works like for St Vincent de Paul can help spread more the love of our saviour,the love which embraces and entertains straight strangers.

I am happy to testify on how encouraging and strengthening it's to feel loved and cared for. When on death row, I felt the love of Jesus through the Lawn family and St Vincent De Paul of New Zealand.

Thank you Good LORD BLESS your families.

Sam Sakala.

Hebrews 13:1-3



Pavitt Street Transitional Housing Project

Transitional Housing at Pavitt Street

Just under 12 months ago, the Society started the construction of these seven apartments to house young mothers and their children who are homeless or in unsatisfactory housing circumstances. This came after several years of planning, gaining all the necessary approvals plus fundraising \$2.25m.

Today, the builder has made good progress with the construction and expects to have these facilities completed by early December. This progress has only been possible by the generosity of grant funders including the Hoatu Fund, Chch City Council (Endowment Fund), the Hugo Trust and Kiwi Foundation. There have been many others who have contributed to this goal for which we are extremely grateful. Today, our fundraising target for construction, landscaping and furnishing of these facilities has been reached. This now leaves our last fundraising goal of \$110,000 for the social services needed to support our tenants.

Recent visitors to the site have included the Hugo Trust, Rose Crossland (CCC) & Rob Farrell (who advised on the project in its early stages). Plus we were able to welcome Bishop Michael, Mike Stopforth & Simon Thompson from Diocese. It was a joyful experience for +Michael, Mike and Simon who were most impressed with these facilities and stayed to learn more about the recent experiences and future plans of the Society.



Pictured left: Rose Crossland, CCC with Mike Daly.

Pictured right: Rob Farrell with Mike Daly.

The HOPE Programme

The Society is partnering with St John of God Hauora Trust (SJGHT) who will deliver the HOPE (Housing Opportunities for Parental Enhancement) programme to the parents at Pavitt Street. SJGHT deliver a range of social and community services to vulnerable young people in Christchurch, supporting them towards growth and development. The Waipuna based HOPE team will provide wrap-around support to these families enabling the parents to develop skills that enable them to secure and sustain a permanent housing solution in which they can thrive.

HOPE will walk alongside each family at Pavitt Street to provide individual social work support, advocacy, and connection to services that meet their needs. Through HOPE, families will be able to access the wider support services offered at Waipuna that includes a range of pregnancy and parenting education services, parenting and attachment programmes, and healthy lifestyles and relationship groups.

Our final goal for this project is to raise the remaining \$110,000 needed to sustain the operational needs of providing the critical wrap around services. If you would like to help with a donation – please email Mary at mbrady@sudpchch.co.nz



Pictured: The Hugo Trust (Aveen, Maryanne) with George and Danielle (St John of God Hauora Trust) and the Vincentian team of Mike Daly, Robyn Casey and Mike Moore.

ASHBURTON CONFERENCE

September AGM Notes

- In the past year to the end of August members have delivered 550 food parcels, with the busiest fortnight being early March with 40 deliveries and the quietest in early April with just 10 deliveries.
- Membership of both the Shop volunteers group and Conference members is steady in excess of 30 each/
- Covid disrupted operations. The shop manager and her family stepped in to do contactless deliveries when others were in lockdown. Person to person deliveries are key.
- Young Vinnies not currently operating due to the 3 local schools being wary of people moving between schools while covid and the flu were about.
- Referrals from Budget Advice (Presbyterian Support) and He Waka Tapu as well as other organisations are steady.
- It has been a reasonably busy year picking up and delivering furniture, with 312 pick-ups, deliveries, including welfare deliveries.

- 7 firewood deliveries thanks to a donation of split wood. We were donated a small truck and trailer load of (green) split pine for next year. A couple donated this in return for the help they received during covid.
- We received potatoes from the Plains Railway Society and other growers.
- Members help with the highly successful Lions Club Toot for Tucker project held each November.

Plans for the coming year: recruitment of more members including for satellite groups in Methven and Rakaia and employing a Youth Co-ordinator in interested schools.



ASHBURTON CONFERENCE

What sells best on Trade Me?



- by *Michael Hanrahan*

The answer is the humble toast rack. At least that's the experience of the Ashburton Conference, that runs a Trademe site under the name **ashsvdp** just in case anyone wants to check it for any of the many bargains listed.

It all began with a visit to the sorting room at the shop where three toast racks were sitting in the scrap metal bin waiting to be taken off the scrap metal dealer.

Michael: "Why are these going for scrap?"

Manager: "No one wants them, no-one buys them in the shop, even at 50 cents."

Michael: "I'll try them on Trademe - I reckon they'd sell."

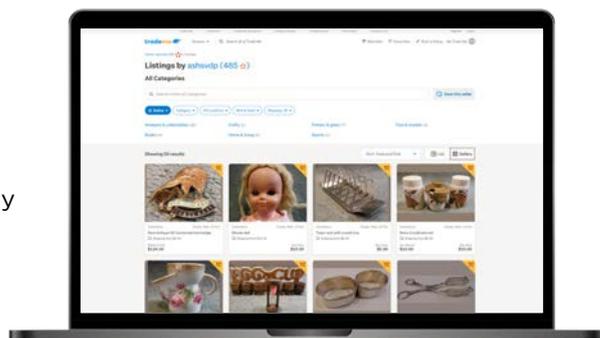
So I did. And they sold. \$5 per toast rack, plus postage, for a start, then when demand threatened to outstrip supply I put them up to \$10 for the best.

Now, six months later, number 19 has just been sold and number 20 is soon to be listed.

Some people have said they cannot be bought in shops now and others have said they use them in an air fryer to cook hash browns.

If something is undamaged, someone somewhere wants it.

The best time to sell things on Trademe is when the North Island is having a wet weekend.



SOUTH AUCKLAND

Manurewa shop update

The last newsletter (Issue #29, May 2022) presented the challenge to find more volunteers to be able to open the Manurewa shop for more days of the week. The available volunteers had reduced the shop to only being open three days of the week. The good news is the shop is now open five days of the week Tue – Sat, we have been blessed with a new manager and volunteers who are all doing an admirable job.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Feastday Mass - Sunday 25th September

St Vincent de Paul members from the Kapi Mana, Wellington and Hutt Wairarapa Areas gathered at the Tawa Parish church on Sunday 25 September to celebrate their annual Feastday. The Area Presidents and many members, including the National President Terry Jordan, joined with Cardinal John and the Tawa parishioners in the Sunday Eucharist.

In his homily Cardinal John spoke of how St Vincent on becoming a priest moved in the highest circles of the wealthiest families in Paris. One day he was asked to attend a dying man from a very poor family. Vincent was hugely changed by the man's faith and by how poor he was and from then on he was focused on doing what he could to help the poor by way of practical and spiritual help. Vincent found Christ in the poor.

Our Founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, was of like belief some 200 year later – a spirituality based on the encounter with Christ in the needs of one's poor neighbour. You cannot separate loving God and loving your neighbour. As St Vincent wrote,

"We must strive to be deeply involved in the cares and sorrows of our neighbour and pray that God inspires us with compassion and pity filling our hearts and keeping them full."

Pictured L to R: Gerry Stevens, Kapi Mana President, Charles Bell, Hutt Wairarapa President, Cardinal John, Terry Jordan, National President, Andrew Bridgeman, Wellington President.

At the end of Mass, the Kapi Mana Area President while thanking the people of Tawa for their practical and spiritual support, explained how out of that belief of St Vincent, Blessed Frederic Ozanam some 200 years later began the Conference of Charity, dedicated to the care of our poorest neighbours. Shortly afterwards it became known as the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The President went on to explain that the environment in which Vincentians work now are very similar to those in the time of Blessed Frederic. They started by visiting the poor and bringing food and firewood and to day we are literally still doing the same.

Today it is recognised as a large international Charity with members helping the world's poor in practical ways, one on one, bringing Christ into their lives, while growing their own personal spirituality.



Vinnies Youth and the Environment



Our Youth Programme has a strong focus on kaitiakitanga (guardianship) for our environment (taiao).

We ensure that what we do is as sustainable as practicable. Schools no longer laminate our certificates, we reuse or recycle all plastic, and reduce plastic use by using paper wherever possible. We also upcycle unusable t-shirts donated to our Vinnies shop into reusable bags for shop customers.

Vinnies are shown how to save seeds from common vegetables and plants they use at home to pack in paper envelopes to go in seed libraries. We discuss the impact of people being able to grow their own on reducing carbon emission's food miles and waste, and plastic packaging... as well as on health outcomes. We also follow through with assisting with maintenance of a local community orchard on public land and growing vegetables in schools for our foodbanks wherever possible.

We have also visited Te Awarua o Porirua (Porirua Harbour) where we have collected rubbish that has washed up along the shore from windblown litter and stormwater systems. We use washable gardening gloves, rather than disposables, and reuse onion sacks from a local food Co-op. We also plan to collaborate with local groups in planting native trees on reserve land.

The Vinnies I work with are only 10 years old but very conscious of their responsibility to our environment and the role they can play in reducing the impacts of global warming on us and our low lying Pacific neighbours. Through the programme we endeavour to ensure that there are activities they can relate to and easily do on their own or with their whanau (family) outside of the sessions and school, therefore sharing their enthusiasm for protecting the environment and putting their 'faith in action' with their wider community.

Ngā mihi,

Amanda Joe

Youth Coordinator Kapi-Mana
Society St Vincent de Paul



VINNIES YOUTH

Guide for the creation of Youth Conferences at Universities

The **Youth Conference Guide** has been created as a resource to assist you in starting a Youth Conference at your university.

<https://tinyurl.com/8ay4phat>



There are many benefits of starting a Youth Conference. As a student, you have an amazing opportunity to:

- make a real difference to the lives of people in your community;
- meet like-minded people wanting to make a difference in your community;
- put your faith into action;
- participate in fun activities;
- be a role model for others;
- develop leadership skills;
- expand your comfort zone.

Our founders were young university students.

SSVP was born through conferences (of various themes) formed within universities and which spread throughout the community.

We understand that young people at the university are open to new horizons, and that their search for knowledge and innovation combines with aspects such as solidarity, social justice, organized charity, fraternity.

And a conference formed by young university students, will be a group of students, who will make a difference in their communities, working on social justice issues and putting their faith into action.

Paola Minehan

- National Youth Advisor



Mike Daly - a tribute to service



Area Council President, Mike Daly, is about to step down from his Presidential role in accordance with Vincentian policy that only permits a maximum 6-year term.

During these past years, Mike has shown himself to be an excellent leader of the Society in Canterbury during a time when there were many 'ups n downs' as a result of Covid lockdowns but despite that has managed to keep the Society operating in a very balanced manner. Mike has always been a kind and caring leader and a colleague to those he has worked with in SSVDP. He always made time to acknowledge those who supported his work.

Maryanne Brown (Conference President in Kaiapoi) moved a vote of thanks to Mike at a recent Area Council meeting for his years of service as Area President. 'He was totally and always committed - very just, fair, and considerate in his decisions and always had the best interests of the Conferences and their futures at heart for the betterment of the Society long term. He's done a sterling job and will be sorely missed in this role.'

Mike's dedication to the Society has been impressive and has resulted in many positive results! How he has managed family work and Vinnies is mind boggling! Congratulations on an outstanding Presidency which of course, has been acknowledged by the National President appointing Mike to the National Board with his focus being on membership. This appointment recognises contribution and extensive understanding of the work of Vinnies. Over the years, Mike has developed close working relationships with other agencies with great expertise and respect. A great

example is St John of God (Haurora Trust) where combined efforts have resulted in our Pavitt Street transitional housing project becoming a feasible project. The facilities should be completed by end of year and the tenants will be supported with wrap-around services provided by the St John of God team based at Waipuna.

With Mike & Marianne away most of September (travelling to Europe), we will recognise Mike's very significant contribution to Vinnies at a function on his return in October '22.

Some of Mike's achievements during his time as President include:

- 2016** Mike appointed President, Canterbury Area Council.
- 2017** Implements new ZOHO Welfare system as part of our Vinnies tool kit. Meets with International President General Renato Lima de Oliveria at our Festival Day. Organising President of the Societies 150-year celebrations held in Christchurch in October 2017.
- 2018** Established a new retail shop in Hornby
- 2019** March, set up a fund for victims of Mosque attack. Our rebuilt Papanui shop officially opened with a state of the art" op-shop
- 2020** Covid lockdown - implements new procedures to facilitate the ongoing support of our clients
- 2021** New General Manager appointed. Mike is invited to join National Board. Stage 1 Pavitt Street project starts.
- 2022** Pavitt St project Stage 2 commences - due for completion and opening later this year. New Conference Coordinator position established.

For a better world, in over 150 countries



"We must live for the good of others. Let us do whatever good lies in our hands."

FREDERIC OZANAM (ITALY 1953)



International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul



The Vincentian Foundation for the Elderly

Hearing Aids

During the year ended 31 May 2022 the Vincentian Foundation for the Elderly made 34 hearing aid grants at a cost of \$10,183. Total operating costs for the year totalled \$13,407 which exceeded operating income of \$8636 so an operating loss of \$4771 was recorded in the audited financial statements.

Hearing aid grants were provided to people living in the following areas –

Auckland, Rotorua, Tauranga, Taupo, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Masterton, Lower Hutt, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Gore and Invercargill.

Should an Area Council or Conference wish to support this special work please make a donation to the Foundation's BNZ bank account:

02-0528-0234390-00

Please show your Area Council or Conference name as a reference. Email your details for receipt purposes: h.trust@wn.catholic.org.nz

Grateful thanks for your ongoing support.

Pat Sheehan

Chairman and National President's Representative on the Vincentian Foundation for the Elderly



Testimonials from Hearing Aid Grant Recipients

Thank you very much to your committee for the contribution of \$300 for my hearing aids, it's great to see what's been put in place for our SVDP members when they are in need of their old age, I recently turned 65 and already I'm so supported as a pensioner and enjoying my retirement. Keep up the great work. Once again Faafetai Lava. God's Blessing's.

- Samuga Poliko Vili

Thank you for your prompt reply and grant. I am most appreciative of your support. Having hearing Aids has made a great difference to my life & especially now I am able to have a decent conversation with my husband & everyone else. Hearing better will make my life so much more enjoyable.

- Bessie, Rotorua

From the Archives

Prepared by Anne-Marie McCarten



And now 1970!

Another decade in the life of our Society is about to come to a close. As in the life of the Church never before has so much been achieved in such a short time. It has been quite remarkable how quickly we are able to adjust our thinking to these contemporary times. Like the Church, we are a living institution and in no way must our experience and traditions be discounted; on the contrary it must be put to advantage because never before have we been more aware that we are our "Brothers' Keeper".

Perhaps this has been brought about in the revolution of our thinking and putting the emphasis in the right place – striving to love God through our endeavouring to serve Him in the person of our neighbour in need, rather than the selfish motive or merit or "what is in it for me". No, we have to face up to the fact that true charity begets humility. We are now aware that those we serve are doing us a favour, as it is in them that we see Christ. It is exactly this that Frederick Ozanam meant when he referred to the Society as being "servant of the poor".

Let's face it, the 1970's are not going to be easy for our Society. We will be required to rely a great deal more on our faith. Every day the world emphasises status and people will continue to thrive on the image of success. This could make our Society appear to be negative because of this simple Christian approach. Are we going to be concerned? Why did we join the Society? These are going to be the tests of our Vincentian vocation. Maybe we shall find that our simple Christian concept will not suffice. Why, even in the "Household of the Faith" Vatican II has not brought on a flood of new members. Furthermore, there are many parishes throughout New Zealand where the Society does not exist. However, where the Parish priest supports us we flourish.

A far greater call is going to be made on us to co-operate with our "Other Brothers in Christ" in the field of charity and it is through this means we will be able indirectly to serve the poor by giving of our Vincentian experience. Let's prepare for this. Let's show our goodwill and love to all.

by Norman Gusscott

National President from 1965-1970



YOUNG VINNIES

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Thank you

Food Collection

In August Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School (OLOL) had a non-uniform day to raise money for St Vincent de Paul. Our OLOL Young Vinnies group decided it would be a nice idea to collect some non perishable food items to donate as well. The group spoke to each class asking for food items to be brought in. The School rallied together and had an outstanding collection of \$150 cash and over 50 food items. Thank you OLOL and Young Vinnies.



Morning Tea

Our Lady of Lourdes Young Vinnies have been working hard at getting involved with the Parish and interacting with parishioners. Each week a small group of Young Vinnies have been helping with hospitality after the Wednesday morning mass, serving hot drinks and biscuits as well as chatting, sharing stories and giving out handmade cards to members of the congregation. Building these relationships has been a huge hit with both the children and the parishioners and is looked forward to each week.



Christmas Cards 2022

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Obituaries – Rest in Peace

Harry Lampen-Smith

3 July 2022

Former National Board member, Manawatu Area President (several times) and member of the Society for 46 years. Harry was a devoted and committed Vincentian.

Harry arrived at Silverstream as a 10 year old refugee from Singapore after the Japanese captured the island. Harry was educated at St Patrick's College (Silverstream) and was their longest serving boarder (7 years, 2 terms).

Michael Walsh

27 September 2022 (died St Vincent de Paul Feast Day)

Michael was a devoted member of St Joseph's Conference in Dannevirke for over 20 years.

Pat Hannan

29 July 2022

A devoted and longstanding member of St Joseph's Conference Levin, always ready to assist those most in need. Pat is survived by his wife Margaret who is still an active member of the Conference.

Peter Courtney

18 August 2022

President of St Benedict's Conference and the Auckland Metropolitan President and for many years served on the Auckland East Area Council and the National Board. Peter was also a former Twinning Officer for Oceania and also took great interest in the Young Vinnies and their activities.

Michael Coghlan

29 June 2022

A longstanding and devoted member of the Newland Conference. Michael and his widow Marie have been active members of the Society for many years always attending Festival Masses together. Marie will continue on as a Conference member.

Queen Elizabeth II

8 September 2022

Pope Francis – Woman of Faith



Francis said he joins everyone who mourns her loss "in praying for the late Queen's eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises."

"I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late Queen's eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth," the Pope said.

Shortly after her death, Pope Francis sent a message to offer his condolences to King Charles III for the death of his mother, the UK's longest-serving monarch.

"Deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I offer heartfelt condolences to Your Majesty, the Members of the Royal Family, the People of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth."

Pope Francis also commended "her noble soul" to the mercy of God the Father.

"I assure Your Majesty of my prayers that Almighty God will sustain you with his unfailing grace as you now take up your high responsibilities as King. Upon you and all who cherish the memory of your late mother, I invoke an abundance of divine blessings as a pledge of comfort and strength in the Lord."



NEWS IN BRIEF

Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand

Level 1, 35 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011
Postal: P.O. Box 10-815, Freepost 992,
Wellington Central 6140
Phone: +64 4 499 5070
www.svdp.org.nz

We'd love to read your stories:

If you have any news items that you would like us to put in our next 'News in Brief' e-newsletter, please send us a short article and a photo (if you have one) to:

Anne-Marie McCarten
Email: national@svdp.org.nz