



SVP Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2011

Welcome to our first edition

Dear Sisters and Brothers

A very warm welcome to our first SVP Newsletter and Website. I hope you are as excited as I am!! At long last we have the facility for communication between all Vincentians.

Our sincere thanks to Bec Bromhead for the wonderful design and layout and many thanks to all who have contributed to this first edition.

To be effective, communication requires the creation of a common understanding of ideas, desires and observations among people. Developing good communication skills throughout all levels of our

team must be the primary focus and priority if we hope to build, grow, and maintain our great organization to reach out to even more of the desperately poor and needy

Here's the unvarnished truth: We may have a compelling and inspired vision and strategy, but without effective communication of our ideas, we will never fully reap the rewards of full commitment from our team.

Sisters and Brothers this is your Newsletter and your website and we look forward to being inundated by your



Improving our own communication will help us strengthen both our fraternity and the work we do for the poor.

contributions and criticism. We still face a challenge in ensuring that it reaches every Vincentian in our land but we are working on that and will shortly announce a Distribution System to achieve that aim

With warmest regards
Rex Glanville, Editor

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Prayer Campaign

Join with us in praying the following each day:

Prayer Intention: Lord, please strengthen me and all members of the Society to better fulfill our mission of bringing consolation and help to the poor of South Africa.

Dear Lord,
Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your healing power,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Dear Lord,
Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, - only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.



O Spirit,
Grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Dear Lord,
Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*St Vincent de Paul: Pray for us
Blessed Frederic Ozanam: Pray for us*

First Students selected in pilot

This month was exciting for the Society of St Vincent de Paul in South Africa as we congratulated the very first student recipients of our new Assist A Student pilot program! Pictured with SVP Central Council President Philippe Castel are the first recipients and the Conference President Peter Harri, from Blessed Sacrament Malvern who referred the students.

Assist A Student is being trialled here with the assistance of Bec Bromhead who is on loan for one year from the Society's office in Sydney. The Australian program currently supports up to 8,000 students per year in Asia/Pacific through individual sponsorships that help students with the costs of uniforms, books, bags, shoes and other school-related costs.

The first small pilot program here in South Africa is taking place in the East Rand Central Council. The two sisters are very excited to be the first recipients of the program in Africa. They are in their final year of high school (matric) and both love studying anything computer related. The sisters hope to be an accountant and a graphic designer. We were blown away when we saw their grades - both got high 80s and 90s in all subjects last year!

It is wonderful to see the program officially kicked off and we couldn't have hoped for more deserving students to take part!

For more information please email: twinning@stvincentdepaul.co.za



"We are always looking for SVP news and updates so please send your stories and photos through to us!"

New SVP website launched!

The National Council is extremely excited to announce that a new website for SVP South Africa has been launched and is now available online!

www.stvincentdepaul.co.za

will now be the best place to look for instant, up to date information about the Society and also has online donation facilities and much more!

We are always looking for news updates, so please send through your local SVP stories, photos (with permission) and news to: news@stvincentdepaul.co.za

SVP delivery for Rustenburg

The National President of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was pleased and humbled to be able to share some of the Christmas spirit this festive season. The parishioners of St Therese's Parish in Alberton collected over 100 Christmas buckets and R10,000 worth of Stop

Hunger Now parcels to be distributed to the poor and needy. Mr Clement Venter and a small group of St Vincent de Paul volunteers picked up the parcels from Fr Kevin Bugler at Alberton and delivered them on the same day to Bishop Kevin Dowling in Rustenburg.

The parcels will be delivered to some of the families who are looking after over 400 AIDS orphans through the Tapologo Centre and outreach programs. For more information on SSVP, please visit the website:

www.stvincentdepaul.co.za

See also: www.tapologo.org



National President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I am so excited at the prospect of being able to communicate with all Vincentians at grass roots level throughout this vast and beautiful country of ours.

There are approximately 3000 South African Vincentians who are all striving to respond to Frederic Ozanam's inspiring call from way back in 1833, when he cried out with great compassion "Come let us go to the poor" resulting in a relatively short space of time to a global organisation of one million members in 144 countries that go out daily to respond to his message.

Think for a moment how many desperately deprived people the Society worldwide has managed to assist in that intervening period of 178 years!! God is good!!

And yet how many more need our help and are beyond our reach. What to be done?

Well your National council has put together a SSVP Development program designed to help us to reach more of those desperate millions that need our compassion and help.

Details of the Development Program are contained in this Newsletter and I entreat you to read it carefully, and talk about what more we can do in all our conferences throughout our land country.

Our "assist a student" project in the Eastern Gauteng Central Council has taken off with a bang and it seems to be a great success, more Central Councils will be involved as time goes by.

Great ideas to improve Twinning as

well as Training are in the melting pot, watch this space.

My theme for my term of office is "Do not be afraid" so I challenge you to take a bold step in to the future and "do not be afraid".

So here we are last with our first Vincentian Newsletter that will be available on the web and shortly in hard copy. We can talk one another! Isn't that great!

Bless you all in your endeavors to live your lives in accordance with the Gospel Values

Yours in Christ
Clement Venter
National President

Vincentian Reflection...



Our Society of St Vincent de Paul logo...

The fish is the symbol of **Christianity** and, in this case, represents the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The eye of the fish is the vigilant **eye of God** seeking to help the poor in our midst.

The crossing at the tail or the tie-knot represents unity and oneness among members and also the **union with the poor**.

The circle bounding the logo signifies the **global** or worldwide stature of the SSVP, an international Society.

The words **serviens in spe** mean to **serve in hope**, the hope that comes from Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection:

- Break into 5 groups. It is fine if there are only 1 or 2 people in each group.
- Each group take on one of the above elements of the logo and reflect on that theme. Discuss/think about how that element is present in the work that your Conference does.
- After a few minutes, share back with the Conference what you discussed/thought.
- Does your Conference live out all of these elements in its work and meetings? Are there any areas that could be strengthened? If yes, discuss what these areas are and what you could do as a group to incorporate that element more in the Conference.



Society of St Vincent de Paul

National Council of South Africa
Registered Public Benefit Organisation
003-193 NPO
www.stvincentdepaul.co.za
news@stvincentdepaul.co.za

SVP Mission:

To deepen the faith of its members – to go out into our nation to heighten the awareness of Jesus Christ. We do this by sharing ourselves (who we are and what we have) with the poor on a person-to-person basis. We seek to co-operate in shaping a more just and compassionate South African community, Our preferred option in this mission of service is to work with the poor in development, by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their destiny.

SVP Vocation:

The vocation of the Society's members, who are called Vincentians is; To follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Members show their commitment through person to person contact.

Fr Benson's visit

Fr Richard Benson will be visiting the Southern Gauteng Central Council from the 24th March to the 5th April 2011. This is an unique opportunity of meeting one of the very few Vincentian fathers worldwide and we acknowledge the work that Sue Glanville has put into organizing this and thank her for creating such a wonderful opportunity. Fr Benson will be addressing a number of gatherings on "Vincentian Spirituality and how we can put this into practice in the 21st Century – encountering Christ in all our Brothers and Sisters".

All Southern Gauteng Conferences have received details about the various opportunities to meet Fr Richard, so please ask your Conference President if you have any questions.

Father Richard Benson, CM, was ordained a priest in 1978. He is a Vincentian father—a member of the Congregation of the Mission. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Philosophy from St Mary's Seminary in Penysville, MO and his Masters degrees in Divinity and Theology from De An-dreis Institute of Theology in Chicago.

Father Benson has recently been appointed first superior of their mission in Kenya.

National Development Plan

In 2010 the National Council held a Strategy Discussion meeting to establish a Development Plan to enable the Society over the next three years to strengthen our ability to address the poverty problem and to reach out to more needy people in the most effective way

Critical Issues: What is a critical issue ?

Critical Issues are problem areas that need urgent attention to improve efficiency and organisational effectiveness. They can also be described as "Obstacles to Success" or "Road Blocks to improved performance".

In future editions of this newsletter, we will take the time to discuss each of the 9 Critical Issues that have been identified by National Council, but for now let us take a look at what the issues are:

1. Increased Spirituality
2. Accounting and Administration
3. External Marketing
4. Internal Communications
5. Youth Development
6. Fundraising
7. Training
8. Recruitment of energetic, enthusiastic people
9. Self development of clients



National Council will shortly release a presentation that will help your Conference identify its own critical issues. Watch this space!