

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Greater Toronto Central Council

In the Loop

April 2022

From the Board Chair:

Ecclesiastes tells us there is nothing new under the sun, and Peter Allen by way of all that jazz told us that everything old is new again. Following our presentations to Particular Councils on finances and the new strategic plan, many board members felt that Vincentians had an appetite for more and timely information about aspects of the Central Council's works both regarding special works and conference activities. So, we thought, why not revive the newsletter which has fallen by the wayside as we grappled with new governance, new board members and of course the pandemic. Our intention is not to inundate you with emails and data points but rather attempt to ensure that key information is shared where it is most needed and best used in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, itself a keystone of our Society. Going forward, we hope you find it useful, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Have you heard about ...

Strategic Planning Presentations

Presentations on the new Strategic Plan brought to you by members of the Board, have taken place with most Particular Councils. The Plan provides a framework to guide the work of the Board, Committees and Members for the next 3 to 5 years as emerge from the pandemic and bolster our services and outreach. You, along with other Vincentians and stake holders provided the inspiration. If you are interested in learning more about the Plan, reach out to your PC President for the presentation materials. You will hear from us going forward, how objectives are being met, and the successes we are sharing, and we look forward to hearing from you on progress being made.

Financial Presentations

Most Particular Councils hosted Financial Presentations in January and February, informing members on the how's and why's of funding, budgeting, pass-ups, expenses and sharing of resources. This presentation, and others are on our website, click ([Financial Presentation](#)). Please remember your responsibility to pass up funds to support the work of your Central Council, and to contribute to costs incurred on behalf of you, the membership.

Please click here ([T3010 Presentation](#)) to view the recent recorded T3010 seminar for helpful information on completing this CRA report.

Preparations for Camp

After a long two years, we are preparing to open both Marygrove Camp and Camp Ozanam this summer, both with modified programs to accommodate pandemic protocols. Each conference has received a registration package with further details; please ask your president to share the material.

Marygrove Camp Collection: The entire operating budget for Marygrove comes from the annual Camp Collection to be held the weekend of June 11th. Please check in with your pastor and do what you can to make this collection a success.

Frederic Ozanam never aspired to a position of leadership, nor did he ever attempt to utilize his position for personal gain. Quite the contrary...in his many different activities we see that Frederic was a believer who, animated by his faith, placed himself at the service of the most vulnerable members of society. - *Francisco Javier Fernández Chento*

Call for Board Candidates

We are seeking qualified candidates for the Board of Directors, serving 3-year terms. If you have previous experience serving on a Board, please consider putting your name forward, or encouraging someone you know who would be suitable. Nominations close May 18, 2022, please visit ([Board Election 2022](#)) for information and an application. The Board is in the process of undergoing an assessment process, reviewing strengths, challenges and identifying needed skills, preparing to welcome new members.

What would an update be without Governance news?

The Governance and Board Resource committee, with guidance from our legal counsel, worked on further refining the By-laws to reflect best practice in our new governance model. Proposed changes will be brought to the membership at the September AGM. A task force was appointed to review the Particular Council Presidents Committee, its goals, mandate and support required to assist Conferences as they embrace the Five Guiding Principles. The National Council is working with the International Council to trademark the logo and name of the Society, we are concerned that this is not a well thought out process and will lead the Society further from the basic tenet of the Rule, which is service rooted in subsidiarity. As we receive more information, we will pass it on to you.

Membership Policies

Did you know there are a number of policies implemented over the years, written to support the work of members? Visit our website for a full listing of the [policies](#), inclusive of the Branding Guide, a helpful reminder of how to profile the Society in your outreach.

Spirituality Committee

Thank you to our members who continue to provide Spiritual Readings for Conferences and Councils so that we may pray and reflect together. Monsignor Bianco has provided exceptional leadership in bringing the vision of the Spiritual Facilitator role to fruition. Monsignor Bianco will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee, 50 years ordained this May. He will be stepping back from his role of Spiritual Advisor to the Society this June, a role he has embraced with enthusiasm and undeniable respect and love for those whom we serve. We have been blessed with his many gifts and wish him peace and good health.

Mark your calendars:

May 7th: Marygrove Camp, grounds clean-up, 32nd annual Rake-a-thon

May 17th and 31st: Orientation for new members, if you haven't been, now is your chance! Please coordinate with your President.

June 30th: Last day to submit your T3010 to CRA if your conference has a charitable number.

Sept 24th: GTCC AGM

Ask your President for more information