

Easter 2021

Ozanam

News

Faith, Hope
and Love
...Renewed

Appeal from the
National President

A Powerful
little medal

Digital Lifelines



Council of Scotland

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Contents

Easter Message from National President Blessed Rosalie's Cause	3
Around the Conferences	4-6
Circular Letter from President General	7
Twinning News In Memoriam – Archbishop Tartaglia and Bishop Logan	8
Spirituality Obituaries	9
Social Justice Shaping the future together	10
Youth News	11
Year of Founder Jules Devaux	12

2021

19
AUGUST

**Next submission deadline is
Thursday 19th August 2021!**

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, May, September and November. 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.



Easter message 2021 from the National President



My sincere regards to our brothers, sisters, friends, and volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Scotland. I welcome the Easter edition of the Ozanam News 2021 which highlights the fact that despite the serious challenges we have faced together during the past year, many acts of charity were delivered to those we serve.

This coming year will no doubt present us with even more challenges due to the

circumstances created by the worldwide pandemic.

However, I am confident that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the Vincentian Journey Together Towards Holiness referred to in page 20 in our Manual & Rule book, we will learn from the past years' experience and continue to Serve in Hope.

Danny Collins

National President

Hope

We LIVE on hope in this life: hell is the loss of hope. Never let us say, "There's no hope" – keep hoping – **Heaven** is the fulfilment of all hope.

SSVP Prayerbook

Appeal

Given the unprecedented impact of COVID19, I appeal to those members, volunteers or known contacts, who may be able to offer expertise in areas which can support SSVP in the year ahead. If you have experience in fundraising, financial management, HR, or administration and can offer some time, please contact me directly to discuss. president@ssvpscotland.com Thank you

Blessed Rosalie's Cause

On February 7th we celebrated the feast of Bl Rosalie Rendu. Brother James McCluskey from St Ninian's Hamilton has reminded us of this wonderful woman and her contribution.

"She played a crucial role in the establishment of SSVP and we sometimes don't attribute the credit she deserves. It was to her that Frederic and friends turned to begin their mission.

Untrained and clueless though good intentioned, they needed to be pointed in the right direction. Enter Sr Rosalie. She was already on the streets of Paris helping the poor.

Courageous and strong she climbed the barricades of Revolution, to rescue soldiers from every side. Constantly on the go, she prayed while walking to reach those in need as she had no spare time but desired God's guidance. She made time for Frederic and the newly formed SSVP and taught them how to be alongside the poor, where to find them and how to help in a meaningful way.

Another interesting connection between these two servants of the poor was that our founder Frederic died on her birthday – 9th September. May we remember Sr Rosalie's example and may it guide

us in our Vincentian work. We must also remember to pray for her canonisation, alongside the cause of Blessed Frederic."



Around the Conferences

Glasgow Archdiocese

SSVP Makes Heavenly Match

Who needs dating apps when you volunteer to help with SSVP?



Happy couple Daniel Hayes and Clare Deighan have recently become engaged. The pair met in September 2017 when they both volunteered as student helpers at the Ozanam Centre Sunday lunch. Clare was a member of the Glasgow University SSVP and Daniel had come along to assist his local parish, Corpus Christi, Scotstounhill.

It was a chance meeting, as both had been drafted in as last-minute

substitutes when others had called off. Daniel was about to leave for a year's study in Cordoba, Spain and Clare had her final year of a history degree to complete. However, they kept in touch and love blossomed.

Everyone at SSVP Scotland wishes the couple every happiness in their future together.

The Space community hub in Govanhill, received a very generous donation of toiletries, hats, scarves, gloves and many other essential items from the Ozanam Centre. Bernice Brady from Our Lady of the Wayside Conference reached out to ask if there was anything in particular the ladies in the community we serve might need while The Ozanam Centre was unable to open. Carol Picken (of the same Conference)

Generosity for Govanhill

delivered the very thoughtfully put-together packages of clothing and toiletries. They were very timely donations just as the cold weather was starting and very much appreciated by all who received them.



www.spaceglasgow.org.uk

Days gone by – Our Blueprint for the Future!



Glasgow President Joe McGuire discovered an old record sheet from St Ninian's Conference,

Knightswood in 1982 and was inspired by the activity going on, that he realised the past has much to teach us.

“At that time, the Conference had 16 members, with a mix of youth and experience. Occupations ranged from student to trainee nurse, solicitor, manager, mechanic, machine operator, accountant, gas board technician and retired primary headmaster. It was a hardworking and friendly Conference who over that year of 1982 carried

out 514 home visits with some 50 different families requiring financial support of some kind or another.

Our parish had the use of a minibus that brought elderly and disabled parishioners to Mass on Sundays. 1300 transports to and from Mass was the final total at the end of the year; the cost of which in fuel the Conference gladly paid. At that time, the Society still had access to St Vincent's Centre in Langbank, and six families went on the parish minibus for a week 'doon the watter'. During the summer evenings we gathered groups of parishioners onto the minibus and drove to Largs or Langbank for a small social evening with drivers aptly named 'Crazy Harry' and 'Joltin Joe' at the wheel. You could hear a pin drop! Beautiful evenings with colourful sunsets as dusk fell made it all worthwhile for us.

Approaching Christmas, we spent £400 on Christmas parcel deliveries to the parish. Puzzlement then delight lit up the faces of the families as we did our rounds over Christmas week. The church hall served as our base as cars, drivers and those on foot took a list of names and a bundle of parcels to head off into the night. A second night followed to tidy up the stragglers, those who hadn't been at home. Complaints came along later. 'Why was my mum missed?' There's always one but we put it right. However, the good work carried out that night still brings a smile to my face.

Our Conferences in today's world are irreplaceable just as they were 40 or 50 years ago and beyond. Even more so now when wealth has split communities in two and left a fracture that we in the Society mend with our open-hearted approach to everyone. Long may we continue to follow the example of Ozanam.”



Teamwork is the key at Immaculate Conception, Maryhill

Alongside St Gregory's Parish and the Ladies group from Killermont, they distributed groceries in the week before Christmas at their foodbank. Donations were kindly received from families, community groups and supermarkets.

Due to restrictions SSVP Immaculate Conception could not function fully and teaming up with friends in the community meant they

could continue to help those most in need.

Many groups now work together at the Foodbank, which has become a hub for people from diverse backgrounds in the Maryhill area. The pandemic has brought so many nationalities, religions and cultures together in search of help and to offer support. Local MP Bob Doris, local councillors and community

groups have worked together to provide the necessary funding assistance in finance, housing and social services. It is now a well-respected and recognisable place to go for help. Liz Strachan from the parish said "We are truly blessed with good people and kind hearts everywhere. We are building new communities too with people meeting at the Foodbank."



Snapshot of St Simon's, Partick

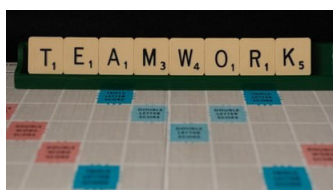
When lockdown was announced in March last year, we suspended SSVP face to face meetings and replaced them with online discussions. These meetings take place every two weeks via Zoom.

We have taken time to contact members of our Parish, including some of our elderly and vulnerable Parishioners. They really appreciate the social contact from us and it's good to have a blether with them and ensure they're keeping safe and well. We volunteered

at St Simon's Mass before the lockdown was re-introduced. This involved welcoming, stewarding and conducting Eucharistic Services. We felt it was very important to support the local Parish Priest and Deacon during these difficult and challenging times and we were only too happy to do this.



Edinburgh Cluster Stronger Together



As part of our Lenten Journey, the S E Edinburgh Cluster Parishes of St John Vianney, St Catherine's and St Gregory's have invited "inputs" from our local SSVP Conferences. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise the profile of our Society and encourage people to respond positively to our outreach work in helping people in need during this challenging time. Frederic Ozanam, our

founder lived through a storm- a storm of religious scepticism prevalent in France during his time. Like Frederic, we find ourselves in a powerful global storm- Covid 19. Many people are feeling isolated, confused, disheartened, anxious, depressed and struggling financially. Vincent and Frederic gave us a mandate to evangelise and serve the vulnerable in our society with compassion. Our three local SSVP Conferences are responding materially and spiritually, helping to alleviate the plight and burden of people in need by sowing the seeds of hope and maintaining the dignity of all people.

Timely Local Twinning Reminder



Motherwell President Pat Carr has discussed how essential our principle of local twinning is, in this time of low income. "As per our Society Rule, Conferences who have healthy bank balances can assist Conferences in their Diocese who are low in funds, enabling them to continue assisting those in

need. In our Diocese, we agreed that Local Twinning cheques should be sent to our Diocesan Treasurer who would deposit them in the Diocesan account. I would then advise him of which Conference to transfer the funds to. (Conferences in need contact me directly) Two hours later, the funds would be in the requesting Conference's bank account. The donating Conference would not know the name of the receiving conference and vice versa."

Motherwell Diocese

St Bernadette's Motherwell SSVV 70 Years Young!



The SSVV group at St Bernadette's in Motherwell recently had a big birthday. However, like so many recent events, celebrations are on hold until safer times. This first Conference was set up by a committed group of parishioners seen here, who included Mr Paddy Carr (far right). Paddy's son Pat is our very own SSVV Motherwell Diocesan President and granddaughter Clare was our

first National Youth Co-Ordinator. These family ties within our Society are so important: the Vincentian mission being handed through the generations is one of our great strengths as a Society. We wish all at St Bernadette's a happy celebration when they are able to be together again.

Airdrie Activity at St Edwards!



It was with much trepidation that St Edward's SSVV conference launched their 5th Christmas Jesse Tree Appeal, however they felt that the need was greater than ever. Despite the many reservations, the generosity of parishioners and the local community surpassed

all expectations. We were able to give 165 children 3 gifts each. Children from 6 local Primary Schools, St Margaret's High School, Airdrie Family Support Unit and Monklands Women's Aid all benefitted from the Appeal. We also donated toys and baby gifts to the toy appeal run jointly by St Augustine's Church and North Lanarkshire Council.

In another Christmas activity, we delivered 40 Christmas Treat Boxes to local parishioners. These were made extra special, as the Mini Vinnies from St Edward's and St Dominic's

primary schools made personalised Christmas cards which were enclosed. We also worked in partnership with St Margaret's High School who donated 20 Christmas food hampers to the Conference which we distributed to local families.



During the present lockdown, the Conference identified that many pupils within the parish and school communities were having difficulty in sourcing physical materials such as jotters, pens, pencils etc, and were falling behind as a result. The Conference therefore secured a large quantity of relevant supplies and created over 100 learning packs (each comprising all manner of suitable equipment & resources) which were distributed to pupils from our four partner schools. This enabled all children in need of these resources to continue their studies at this most difficult time. It also allowed the Conference to continue to support the youngest members of our community in a new & innovative way.

Just Giving Page is just the ticket!

Brother Gerry Murphy, President in St Patrick's and St Catherine's Conference in Shotts, started a Just Giving page on Facebook to try to recoup some of the £1,300 his Conference spent on vouchers for families in need at Christmas. As a result of this they raised £1,400 and a local businessman pledged £5,000 to their Conference fund. Gerry felt maybe Conferences

could do the same as he found so many people want to give. Someone handed Gerry £40.00 last week. Diocesan President Pat Carr thanked Gerry and his Conference for their generous donation to the Diocesan projects and a very generous donation to our Local Twinning fund. Ask and you will receive!

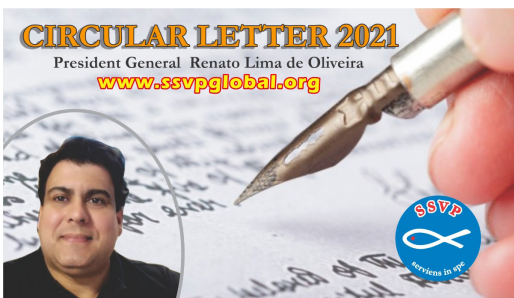
JustGiving™



International News

Circular Letter from President General

In Our Circular letter for 2021, President General, Brother Renato outlines how we will redouble our efforts in this time of need. Here we have reprinted a small section from the start and end of the letter to give a flavour and provide a handy guide to all the chapters for your own reading or at Conference meetings.



“In this Circular Letter of 2021, a year for rebuilding and new beginnings, I want to address some matters on which we all need to reflect, so that our work for those who suffer can be improving all the time. The ideas and questions I will cover are also intended to alert us to the way our Councils operate, as their only purpose is to provide services for the grassroots. Some of my readers may not agree with some of what I have to say, but at least they will know how the President General thinks, with all my flaws and limitations. I humbly suggest that this letter should be divided into blocks or topics and read in short sections at the meetings of Vincentian Conferences. I would be delighted to receive comments, criticisms and suggestions about the content of this Letter, as well as proposals for the coming years. We have set up an e-mail address for this, cgi.circularletter@gmail.com which you can use.

5.3. Encouragement to overcome

I want all the members, and the volunteers and employees of the SSVP around the world, to keep doing the necessary and demanding work of charity, together with the humblest people, with care, love and charity,

never judging the poor without above all understanding the reality of their lives and their needs. Sometimes we do not realise our own strength which comes from God. Be peaceful, gentle, loving towards those who suffer. Avoid conflict and bureaucracy; instead, follow the Rule in love of the seven founders. Seek to resolve any conflict, and do not waste time on less important, secondary and mundane affairs. Salvation awaits us.

5.4. The year to rebuild the world

After overcoming the health crisis, we have to make up for lost time. Our Conferences will have to double their efforts to recover what has been lost. Within the Council General, we will also be doing this. All the activities which should have happened in 2020, such as the opening of the new Head office in Paris, and several missionary journeys (for the President General and for the Structure) will be underway in the coming years again, with renewed emphasis. We will make up for this with hard work, greater dedication and service. Council General can never slow down, as the International Confederation depends on its vitality and energy to “inoculate” the world with good viruses. We are absolutely certain that the good Lord will never abandon us. We Vincentians are in the world as the soul is in the body. So, my dear brothers and sisters, in this year of 2021, let’s remain firmly devoted to Ozanam and true champions of hope, charity and peace! May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Member Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th President General

www.ssvpglobal.org

Section Summary

1. Introduction
 - 1.1. 2020 has truly been a year like no other
 - 1.2. The subject of this Circular letter
2. Activities of the Council General
 - 2.1. Responsibilities of the President General
 - 2.2. Action of the Council General
 - 2.3. The canonisation process is speeding up
 - 2.4. The impact of the pandemic
 - 2.5. Innovations
 - 2.6. Improvements in the area of administration
 - 2.7. Contributions to Council General
3. Recommendations to members
 - 3.1. Huge challenges
 - 3.2. Unnecessary conflicts
 - 3.3. The young people, of whom we are most proud
 - 3.4. 3.4. Tenderness, empathy and bravery
4. Year of Jules Devaux
 - 4.1. Literary competition
 - 4.2. Who was Jules Devaux?
5. Conclusions
 - 5.1. Hope, faith and charity
 - 5.2. Shadows, crosses and darkness
 - 5.3. Encouragement to overcome
 - 5.4. The year to rebuild the world



Kate Kelley, National Twinning Officer

India Announces New National President



Brother Jude Magalraj has been elected as the new National President for Society of St Vincent de Paul, National Council of India. The election results were announced by a special board consisting of Bro Sebastian Thomas, Bro Francis KJ and Bro Francis Fernando, pictured here with the new president. Our National President, Brother



Danny Collins has written to offer his congratulations and welcome to Brother Jude, offering prayers that the Holy Spirit will be his guide on the journey ahead.

Letter from St Assumption, Puliya – twinned with St John Ogilvie, Irvine

“Dear Kate, I take this golden opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks for the great help especially the financial aid that you are rendering to our St. Assumption Conference of SSV Puliya. I would like to bring to your knowledge the type of monetary help and other assistance that we had rendered to people who are living below poverty line, physically handicapped and those who are struggling for life.

We donated Rs. 3700/- towards the Education of the poor students. We spent Rs 100/- as a Medical expense for one person who suffered due to illness. We also supplied 150 Kg rice, six sets of clothes and Rs 900/- to the Five Adopted Families of our Conference. We issued free clothes for 53 Women and 32 men.

We were able to give the aforesaid help to the poor people by your generous donations, the donations of our benefactors and from the secret offerings of the members of our Conference. We attend the Holy Mass pray for our benefactors especially for you and for the members of your Conference and for those who help us from our country.”

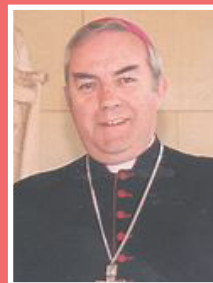
In Memoriam: Archbishop Philip Tartaglia



Archbishop Philip Tartaglia was described in his requiem Mass as being a strong tree under which many could be sheltered and feel restored. This is a fitting tribute to a man who gave of himself

tirelessly and stood strong for those less fortunate. We are eternally grateful as a Society for his presence at several AGM meetings, one at his beloved Celtic Park. To come together as a Vincentian family, under the protection of his branches on these occasions was uplifting and refreshing as we renewed our Vincentian fervor, for the year ahead. He will be missed by many of our members. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

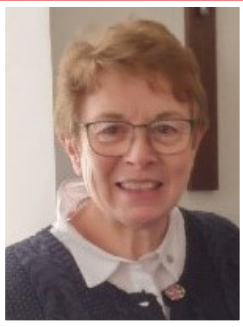
In Memoriam: Bishop Emeritus Vincent Logan



Bishop Vincent Logan was a devoted servant for the Catholic Church in Scotland. Through the Bishop’s Conference, he helped to establish the organisation Priests for Scotland. which was a place for those considering vocation to find the guidance and information they required. He also specialised in religious education and was

committed to the promotion of the faith in young people. His service to the Diocese of Dunkeld for over 30 years and his involvement with SSV Conferences there provided shepherdly guidance to our members. May he rest in the peace of Christ.





Spirituality - A Powerful little medal!

Sr Maria Robb DC, Spiritual Director

I reckon most of us were happy to see the back of 2020. Many people welcomed 2021 as the year we would 'get back to normal'.

.... But things don't always turn out as we plan! Instead of looking to the future with hope we find ourselves in lockdown again, now fighting a more virulent strain of Covid 19, an invisible enemy.

As I was reflecting on the situation, I was reminded of one of our own Vincentian saints – St Catherine Laboure, a Seminary Sister (novice) with the Daughters of Charity, living in the Rue du Bac, Paris. On three different occasions Our Lady appeared to Catherine. She asked her to have a medal struck, giving very specific details of the design. Mary told her to encourage people to wear this medal and to 'Come to the foot of the altar. Here graces will be poured out on all who ask for them with confidence and fervour.'

Convincing the powers that be to get the medal struck was no mean task for a young Seminary Sister. Who was going to listen to her! Yet, Our Lady knew the need of this medal and she knew her request to Sr Catherine would be fulfilled. It may take some time, but it would happen.

So why am I telling you this story? Read on!!

While in 1832 the first Miraculous Medals were being produced, Paris was hit by a terrible cholera epidemic that claimed more than 20,000 lives.

In June, the Daughters of Charity started to distribute the first 2,000 medals, especially to infected people who filled the hospitals.

This terrible epidemic, a disease without cure, struck thousands and beleaguered many more. And yet, an exceptional phenomenon was noticed. Those who devoutly wore a certain small medal around their neck were spared or relieved from the epidemic.

The healings continued to increase, and the population of Paris began to call the medal "miraculous."

How many of us wear the Miraculous Medal today? When I go out to schools or do any of our Vocation work, I always take Miraculous Medals and the Miraculous Medal Novena with me. When I give them to the young people, I tell them to take a medal but give it to someone they know who needs it more than them. They always come back asking for one for their granny, the old man who lives next door etc.



Perhaps today, in the midst of this pandemic, Mary is inviting us to wear the medal with confidence, and to pray through the Miraculous Medal Novena for a cure for Covid 19.

The Miraculous Medal is a gift given by Mary to the whole world, through a Vincentian Sister.

Obituaries - May they Rest In Peace

Rose Houston, former member, St Louise Arden

Alex Smith, former President and active member, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Kilmarnock

Matt Cairns, former President, St Paul, Ayr

Jim McLaughlin, active Treasurer, St Mary, Bo'ness

Rena Johnston, former President, St Margaret, South Queensferry

Lorraine Bryce, former member, St Margaret, South Queensferry

Bernadette Gray, former President, Our Lady and St George, Penilee

John Dynes, former President, St Dominic, Bishopbriggs

Isa Maguire, former President of South Glasgow Group and St Margaret Mary, Castlemilk

Elizabeth Algeo, Former President, Christ the King, Grangemouth

Julie Doogan, former member, St Robert, Glasgow

Patrick Connelly, Treasurer, St Ninian, Gourrock

Patricia Mary Russell, active member, SS Patrick and Catherine, Shotts

John McBeth, former Group and Conference President, St Mary Our Lady of Victories, Dundee

Hugh Lynch, former President, St Mary Our Lady of Victories, Dundee

Helen Izatt, President, St Joseph, Kelty

Joseph Simonette, Treasurer/Secretary, Sacred Heart, Salsburgh

Jean Gorman, active member, Holy Cross, Edinburgh

John Anderson, active member, St John, Barrhead

Rita Graham, former member, St Columbkille, Rutherglen

Frank Bluett, former member, St Ronan, Bonhill

Philip McKenna, active member, St John, Barrhead





Social Justice News

Patricia McCartney, Social Justice Co-ordinator

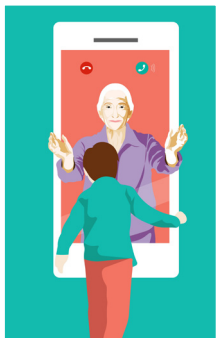
✉ socialjustice@ssvpscotland.com 🐦 @SocJustSSVPScot

Digital Lifelines in the Pandemic

This time last year it would have been hard to imagine how much our lives would be impacted by another type of poverty which would rear its head and require action. Digital poverty.

As the pandemic deepened, social contact and interaction for many people ceased. Families with children have struggled with home schooling due to lack of digital resources. Loneliness and isolation, especially for the elderly, increased.

The term 'Digital poverty' is recent but its existence is not new. The current pandemic has simply highlighted it. The inability to engage with digital technology due to lack of



finances to purchase a device and Wi-Fi connection and the lack of personal support to learn the skills to use it, leaves someone digitally poor.

Therefore, when I heard about the Scottish Government's initiative 'Connecting Digitally', being managed by SCVO (Scottish Council Voluntary Organisations) to provide free iPad, internet connectivity and support to

develop digital skills for older people and for families with children, I applied on behalf of SSVP Scotland.

Applications were to SCVO on a Local Authority (LA) basis. SSVP has Conferences in 27 LA areas, so applications were made in all for both the Older People and Families with Children programmes. I am pleased to report that 21 / 27 applications for Older People's programme and 16 / 27 for the Families with Children programme were successful either in full or in part, giving us a total of **231 free devices!**

By the time you read this, hopefully all grant agreements will be signed; the devices delivered to a named SSVP contact in each LA area and that Conferences will have identified older people and families with children who would benefit from receiving a free iPad with 24 months of free wifi connectivity.

To ensure the recipients are supported in the first 6 months of receiving their devices it is a requirement that 'Digital Champions' are identified from our SSVP members. These 'Champions' are not expected to be Digital experts, just someone who can assist the recipient with using their new device. Training and support for this will be given by SCVO. By being generous with our time and ourselves, we will help families with children and older people escape from digital poverty. Please contact me for more information and to find out about being a Digital Champion in your area.

Shaping the Future Together - Update from Pat Snee, Galloway President

Faith in Community, Scotland (F.I.C.) is a charity which was started, some years ago, as a joint enterprise between the Church of Scotland and the Archdiocese of Glasgow. Since then, it has developed into an organisation whose purpose is to work with diverse Faith groups to promote a fairer and more just Society, and to work together in tackling common issues.

Galloway SSVP Diocese is currently working with F.I.C on a project called, "SHAPING the FUTURE TOGETHER".

Along with other groups and communities, we are looking to share experiences and to learn from each other in our common goal of improving the wellbeing of individuals and families.

The biggest challenge we face, considering the pandemic, is how to continue to operate efficiently within the current constraints. Areas of particular concern are continued food provision to needy individuals and families; and the problem of communication due to the absence of physical meetings. There

has been initial positive reaction to the programme and it is hoped to report on some tangible results, of our working together at a later stage.





Youth News

Pauline Bonnar,
Youth Development Co-Ordinator

 youth@ssvpscotland.com

 @youthSSVP

 [ssvp.youth.scotland](https://www.instagram.com/ssvp.youth.scotland)

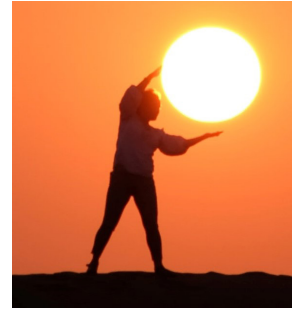
 Youth SSVP Scotland

I'm counting the days till I can restart visits to schools to see all the great work you're doing where possible, or planning for the better days ahead. I miss all your stories of the kindness you show to those around you. It's what makes the world that little bit brighter!

While I've been working from home, I've had time to look at how we arrange our Youth. There seemed to be a gap between leaving primary as an enthusiastic Mini Vinnie before becoming involved when reaching senior secondary. To address this, we're now having three groups across our schools: Mini Vinnies P4-P7, Junior Vinnies S1-S3 and Senior Vinnies S4-S6. This means there will be a sense of progression

through the groups, each with its own logo (currently under design) and group colour. The Junior group will be able to continue good works in the community during periods of exams for Senior Vinnies. The groups can work together

on special projects but having Junior and Senior will enable younger pupils to remain an active part of the Vincentian family.



Christmas Kindness

A few weeks before Christmas, I was delighted to be invited along to St Laurence's Church hall Greenock to join with Notre Dame High pupils as they helped sort essential food donations for SSVP. They had collected essential items via a reverse advent calendar. It was all hands on deck for sorting items and wrapping boxes, and all after a long December Monday at school! Handmade cards from St Michael's Primary were also added to the boxes. It was wonderful collaboration work between St Laurence's SSVP Conference, local schools and the parish community. Thank you to Miss Farren from Notre Dame Greenock, Miss Kearns from St Michael's Port Glasgow and Fr Eoin Patten of St Laurence's Church.



Climate Competition for COP26

In November this year, Scotland (Covid willing) will host the COP26 Global Climate change Conference in Glasgow. Leaders from around the world will gather to discuss what we can do better to protect the planet. As advised by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*, we must all play our part in caring for our common home. How we react to climate change now will determine what the world will look and feel like for generations in the future. Indeed, the very rule book that Blessed Frederic wrote when he started the first Conference, and which we still use today says "The Society's vision goes beyond the immediate future, looking towards sustainable development and protection of the environment for the benefit of future generations."

As such, we're launching a competition to tie in with COP26. Both St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam shared a deep desire to care for the natural world, reduce wastefulness and share resources.

Under the title **Wounded World**, write a story, article, poem or prayer. You can also submit a picture along with your entry but this is not essential. The best entry in each Vinnie grouping (Mini, Junior and Senior) will be printed in the next edition of the Ozanam News which will be just in time for the COP26 Conference. They will also be published on SSVP Scotland's website and Social Media and a certificate will be sent to the winners.

Get those keyboards clicking and send your entries to youth@ssvpscotland.com by Friday 30/07/21. Please include your name, address, age and school.



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Year of Founder Jules Devaux Launches with Literary Competition



Council General International have launched the year of Jules Devaux, one of the seven founders of SSVP. They hope to encourage members around the world to investigate and learn about the life of this humble servant who gave his time and commitment to assist Frederic Ozanam in establishing our Society.

As it would be wonderful to have a Scottish winner, we thought we'd give you a little starter for ten, and share here some biographical information about Jules, courtesy of our sister organisation, We are Vincentians. Anyone can enter who is a member of a Conference or SSVP school group. This is a great project for some of our Vinnies. " For more information on entry, see www.ssvpscotland.com/latest news."

"Like Lamache and Le Taillandier, Jules Devaux hailed from the Normandy region. He was born on July 18, 1811, in the town of Colombieres, Calvados. His father, Marie Adrien Devaux was a country doctor, probably of peasant stock. After attending the College Royal in Caen, Jules came to Paris to study medicine, probably in 1830. It was there that he met Ozanam and his friends. He took part in the Conference of History but did not seem to have been very

active in the debates, perhaps because he was studying medicine and not law.

He was one of the seven founders and attended the early meetings of the Society. He took up the collection of funds at the first meeting by walking around with his hat held behind his back. He then became the first treasurer of the Conference and later the first treasurer of the General Council. Jules may have worked with Sr. Rosalie Rendu before the formation of the Society. Regardless, it was he who, at the urging of Emmanuel Bailly, was delegated to approach her so that the newly formed Conference of Charity would be well-mentored in the work of charity.

Leaving Paris in 1839 after submitting his medical thesis, Devaux settled in Trivieres, Normandy. After his mother's death, he temporarily abandoned medical practice to travel, especially in Germany. He tried to found the first Conference there but did not succeed. He married Louise Alice Pasquet in Paris on April 30, 1848, and they had at least one son, who recorded some of his father's memories. The remainder of his life is not well-known. He died in Paris on October 27, 1880."



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