



THE VINCENTIAN

Society of St Vincent de Paul

July 2011

Central Council of St Petersburg Diocese

President's Corner

Here we are in the "long hot lazy days of summer " when we think that it is too hot to go out in the afternoon to make those home visits. We need to remember that the poor suffer in the heat more than we do.

The Southeast Regional Meeting is over and its time to plan for the National Meeting in Dallas, TX. The agenda for the meeting looks like it will be outstanding .

I hope that all of our Districts will have a number of members in the big "D" for the National meeting. The District Council Presidents and at least one other member should attend. It would be better if a number of people from your District attend. This will benefit not only the Conferences but your Districts. I have never come away from a SVDP meeting that I have not learned something.

To register just go to our web site at svdpccsp.org and on the front page under News and Media click on "SVDP National Meeting in Dallas" You will save \$50.00 if you register before July 31st.

I have started a column for the Canonization of Blessed Ozanam . We will list those members who are in need of prayers. Your help is needed to keep me informed as to your members who are in need of Blessed Frederic's intercession. Email me their names at ropert10@msn.com or phone me at 813-831-5100.

Thank you for seeing the face of Christ in the poor. In this hot weather some of our opportunities to help may have a bad order or an unclean home. Just remember what Bl Pier Giorgio said, "Don't forget that even if the house you visit is very dirty, there you may find Jesus."

My prayers are with you,
Marvin Ropert, President

Conference Masses

Conferences and Councils celebrate liturgical ceremonies, particularly Vincentian ceremonies, throughout the year, endeavoring to maintain a spirit of friendship among the members.

The Council of the United States has designated six days for religious observances. On these occasions, the members of Conferences and Councils demonstrate the spiritual nature of the Society by attending the Eucharist together:

- Ozanam Sunday (last Sunday of April)
- The feast day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam (September 9th)
- The feast day of St Vincent de Paul (September 27th)
- The Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Society (December 8th)
- A Conference Mass celebrated at least once a year for all members, including spouses and children. During this Mass, it is most appropriate to commission new members into the Conference, pray for those we have visited, pray for our benefactors, pray for the poor, pray for the deceased members, and for continued good work.
- Another feast day of local custom, e.g. December 12th, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. (from the "Rule Statute 9 page 53)

UP AND COMING

JULY

4th	Independence Day	USA
4th	Bl Pier Giorgio Frassati Feast Day	
19TH	Central Council meeting, 11:00	Tampa

AUGUST

2nd	Bl Ceferino Gimenez Malla Feast Day	
15th	Feast of the Assumption of Mary	
Aug 31—Sept 3	National Meeting	Dallas, TX

SEPTEMBER

5th	Labor Day	USA
8th	Death of Bl Frederic Ozanam	
9th	Bl Frederic Ozanam Feast Day	
20th	Central Council meeting, 11:00	Our Lady/Rosary Land O'Lakes
27th	St Vincent de Paul Feast Day	

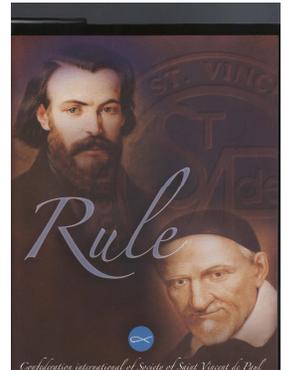


"THE RULE"

Conferences/Council and their work

Statute 5: Conference Meet Frequently

Members of the Society, traditionally gather in communities called "Conferences," which meet weekly, or at least twice a month. This is to affirm the importance of the Spiritual and social dimensions of Vincen-tians coming together as a community of Faith and love; Prayer and action.



After prayerful consid-eration of all circum-stances involved, Vin-centians should apply themselves to their maximum ability in fulfillment of the mission and essential elements of the Society. Vin-centians are available for work in the Con-ferences after fulfilling their family and professional duties.

Conference members consistently strive to develop a three-fold relationship with God, the poor, and one another—mutual support and friendship.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

No Anniversaries in July

August Conference Anniversaries

28th	St Anne, Ridge Manor	1986
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September Conference Anniversaries

1st	St Mary, Tampa	1998
1st	St Thomas Aquinas	1982
30th	St Patrick, Tampa	1960
30th	St Raphael	1984

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Frederic

God, our Father, you alone have the power to bestow those precious gifts of yours, which we rightly call miracles. If it be your will, be pleased to grant such a gift on behalf of **Jerry Curley** and **Louise Brown**. We humbly ask that you grant this favor so that Blessed Frederic Ozanam may be canonized by our Holy Mother the Church. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

INTERNATIONAL TWINNING

By Pat Dwyer, Diocesan Council Twinning Coordinator

HELP NEEDED: CAN YOU?

In keeping with the vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam to create a network of charity, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul sponsors a program called "Twinning." International Twinning is a process whereby Councils and Conferences of the Society assist Councils and Conferences, in other countries, that lack the resources to conduct their works of mercy.

The SVDP National Council is making a concerted effort to have more conferences/councils twin and establish a relationship with needy partners in Latin America. Our National President, Mr. Joseph Flannigan, has established two new positions: USA Representatives to the Americas. These representatives travel to Latin America to see first-hand the works of the conferences and report their results and recommendations on the National Council's website.

How has the Diocese of St. Petersburg done so far? The 2010 Annual Report for the Diocese indicated that 11 of the 46 conferences twin internationally, totaling \$10,250.00 for the FY 2010-2011.

Can we do better? The present economic situation in the United States is presenting more and more challenges to our conferences. Our primary obligation is to take care of the needy who come to us for assistance.

Do we have anything left that we can share with our sisters and brothers in Latin America? All you need to participate in the program is to complete an International Twinning application and pledge \$75.00 a quarter!! You may choose your own partner or the National Council Twinning Administrator will assign you one.

You can obtain more information about the program by registering on the website, www.svdpusa.org, and referencing (Members) and scrolling down to International Twinning. You can download an application and a brochure.

If your conference decides to twin, complete the application and send your first \$75.00 check made out to the National SVDP Council (write Int'l Twinning in memo section) to:

Patricia Dwyer

Pasco District Council President

7944 Grand Blvd.

Port Richey, FL 34668

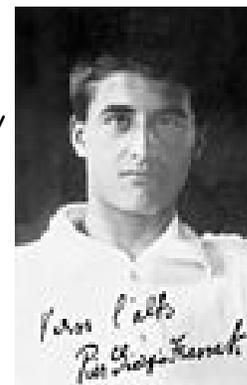
If you have any questions about the program, you can contact me at padwyer3@verizon.net

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati 1901—1925

Bl Pier Giorgio was born in Turin, Italy on April 6, 1901. His father, Alfredo, founded the famous Piedmont newspaper, *La Stampa*, and played a role in Italian politics, serving in the senate and as ambassador to Berlin in 1920. His mother, Adela, made a name for herself as an artist.

Adela taught Pier Giorgio and his younger sister verses from the Gospels. From this he would develop an exceptional relationship with God. It was clearly a case of God's grace at work in response to Pier Giorgio's faith. From the time he was twelve until his death at 24, Pier Giorgio received Holy Communion daily.

At 17, he joined the Society of St Vincent de Paul and committed himself to serving the poor, proclaiming: "Jesus visits me every morning in Holy Communion.



I repay him with my poor means, visiting the poor." When asked how he could stand the bad odors and unclean conditions of their homes, he answered: "Don't forget that even if the house you visit is very dirty, there you may find Jesus." Here again is an example of the core of Vincentian spirituality. Pier Giorgio did not love the poor in general; he loved the poor individual.

Pier Giorgio contacted poliomyelitis and became paralyzed. He would ask for nothing and did not complain, on Friday, the day he usually visited the poor, he did not forget, but with his paralytic wrote them a message. He died July 4, 1925.

HEARING CHRIST'S CALL, SEEING CHRIST'S FACE REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Aboard the Majesty of the Seas

Hearing Christ's Call

By the time the ship sailed and we completed the safety drill we had our first gathering. With the welcome and introductions over, Gene Smith, our immediate Past President of the National Council gave our first keynote address on 'Systemic Change as it relates to our Vincentian Ministry.

This was followed by a short talk by our National Council President, Joseph Flannigan and Roger Playwin our National Council's Executive Director. 8:30 Dinner at last.

Seeing Christ's Face

The next morning started early with the Liturgy at 6:45 am and after breakfast, Dr. Mary Carter Warren gave a stunning talk helping us examine the structures which keep people in poverty. She challenged us to find new ways in which to serve those in need as we "See the Face of Christ" in each of them. Dr. Warren continued her talk after the break.

The two National President candidates addressed the members with their hope of the Society for the next 6 years.

The afternoon was busy with very excellent workshops dealing with: Biblical Foundations of Vincentian Spirituality, Home Visits in Action, Store Operations, Strategic Fund Development, National Vehicle Donation Program, Foundations for Vincentian Spirituality.

With the workshops over for the day we had some time to enjoy the ship and have a drink with new friends.

Spreading Christ's Love

On Sunday the Liturgy started at 7:00 am and after breakfast Sr. Kieran Kneaves, Our National Formation Director, called us to action as the result of our reflection of Systemic Change, and our call to "See Christ's Face" in those we serve. She focused upon our role as

Servant Leaders in the footsteps of the Vincentian Saints: Vincent, Louise, Rosalie and Frederic.

The Southeast Regional meeting followed with the two SE Regional Vice President candidates, Bill Migley from Biloxi and Marvin Ropert from Tampa, each giving a short talk.

The morning finished with more workshops on Building St Vincent de Paul for the Future with Young People, Healing and Teaching in the Spirit of St Vincent de Paul, and Spiritual Advisors—Beginning and a Little Beyond.

With the afternoon off we were able to spend a few hours exploring the Nassau, Bahamas.

The final comments, prayer and commissioning was held at 7:00 pm with a reception following.

In all, this was a great Regional meeting. The speakers and workshop presenters were outstanding. The food was very good and the people we met were inspiring. I always came away refreshed and ready to do more Vincentian work.

The only disappointment was we only had three people from the area attending. Pat Dwyer, Pasco District Council President; my wife Terri and I. Regional meetings are a good way to increase your knowledge of the Society and refresh your spirit. You come away a better Vincentian.

Marvin Ropert, President



Terri & Marvin Ropert aboard the Majesty of the Seas
At the Southeast Regional Meeting