



Diocese of Paisley Autumn Festival Newsletter

October 2018

Welcome & Introduction

I am particularly pleased to welcome my Vincentian brothers and sisters to this year's Festival meeting and to present the Autumn Festival newsletter, which contains parish, diocesan, national and international information.

The following statistics contained in diocesan annual audits (see Annual Report) again demonstrate the level and wide range of charitable works delivered by conference members, volunteers and friends of the SSVP; however, the statistics do not include our Special Work Conferences and other SSVP projects throughout the Diocese referred to in this edition of the Festival Newsletter.

Brother Danny Collins
Diocesan President

Home Visits.....	6,664
Hospital Visits.....	1,129
Families Assisted Financially.....	389
Families Assisted Furniture etc.....	77
People Transported to Mass.....	4,122
Outings / Socials.....	69

Rosalie Rendu Special Works Conference... Paisley Ozanam Club "ALL YOUNG AT HEART"

We have 30 school age volunteers (S5/S6) from Trinity High School, Renfrew and St. Andrew's Academy, Paisley and we are delighted to see them every week. We have four other "youngsters" who are all in their twenties and have been volunteering since high school; they are old hands and could run the Club themselves.

Our youngest volunteer is Cara (now 13, volunteering since she was eight or 9), not that she had much choice, we could not leave her home alone.

Us "oldies" account for another **22 Red Shirts**, the oldest being **Louis (82+)** who together with his brother Albert run our tuck-shop. Albert has to fend for himself



Halloween Party 2017

though when the karaoke starts as Louis runs a tight ship ensuring all our singers get a turn.

Our current members list runs to **44 women and 67 men**, many of whom attend the Club with their carers. Attendance goes up and down but our party nights, especially Christmas, always draw a large crowd.

If you know of anyone who cares for a loved one with additional support needs, please tell them about the Club or point them to our Facebook page "The Paisley Ozanam Club" (the page is still a work in progress).

Caroline O'Neill
President

SSVP - Special Works Conference (SWC) St. Vincent's Hospice

The Diocesan Council agreed to support a proposal recommended by the SWC to help fund direct care to patients and loved ones through, for example, the provision of "Speciality Bereavement Care" to a children and young people's service. This decision would relax some restrictions on the donations so kindly and generously given by SSVP conferences year on year.

Our Lady of the Wayside Special Works Conference "Paisley Ozanam Centre"

We are delighted to welcome our new intake of Caritas students from both Queen Margaret Academy, Ayr and St Luke's High School, Barrhead along with their teachers. All enjoy working in the kitchen and are a tremendous help and inspiration to us all.

Over the past six months, we have served up 1,322 meals, provided 40 grocery parcels each month and supplied clothing/shoes to both men and women at various clothing nights. New clients appearing at Paisley Ozanam Centre are assisted by their parish conferences. We have supplied bedding/towels/curtains via the Furniture Project to many persons who are experiencing hardship. We thank conferences, individuals, our 84 volunteers and local businesses for helping us in our work with their donations of groceries, clothing, bedding, meals and money.

For Unity: As in previous years, Holy Trinity & St Barnabas will be passing on their Harvest Festival Gifts during October to SSVP for distribution to our users".

Sister Jacqueline Ritchie
President

Letter of Thanks

Brothers and Sisters.

The Holy Spirit Special Works Conference would like to say a BIG THANKS to the response from DC, Groups and Conferences to the recent appeal for continued support.

The response and timing of the responses was providential as we had a significant repair bill for one of the minibuses.

We hope that conferences can continue to provide steady support to the HSSWC.

On a practical level, our treasurer asks that when conferences are sending any cheques that they make them payable to HOLY SPIRIT SPECIAL WORKS CONFERENCE OF SVDP.

Please keep in your prayers the work of HSSWC and the very special care provided to recovering addicts by the Jericho rehabilitation houses.

Brother Jim Farren

Festival Focus...

Young Vincentians & Volunteers

There are six Mini Vinnie groups within the diocese - Several St. Vincent de Paul youth groups in various schools – Caritas Students within the SSVP Special Works Projects - Young people on the Pope Francis Award Scheme involved in community and church duties supervised by SSVP members and many other young people actively engaged in works of charity.

There is absolutely no doubt that their contribution is essential and very much appreciated.



Former Caritas student, Pope Francis Award Scheme group, and young volunteers along with SSVP members St. John's Conference, Barrhead.

Second International Youth Meeting– Salamanca

Our sincere thanks to Hannah O' Neill from the Diocese of Paisley who represented the SSVP Scotland at the above event,



Hannah spoke at this year's annual meeting about her experience (see photograph in newsletter) We will hear more from Hannah in the next edition of the Ozanam News.

For Youth

*We pray that young people will grow in faith and, like Frederic and his friends, become active members of the **Church and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.** Lord graciously hear us.*

Fond farewell

We also send our thanks and best wishes to Clare Carr-Cullen who was the SSVP Youth Officer for the past nine years. Clare has moved on to a new job and we wish her every success.

FURNITURE PROJECT...

Know the History

In 2002, two members of St. Mirin's Conference travelled to Inverness to collect a large box trailer donated by an Inverness Conference. With this trailer the Furniture Project began and has operated continuously ever since.

The aim of the project is to provide needy people identified by their local Conference with good quality, safe, white goods and other basic furniture.

The project operates from a large lock-up to which we gladly pay for the use of; this rent helps finance the Lunch Club run by the parish. To meet these real costs and other running expenses we depend on donations from the various Conferences in the diocese.

The project Coordinator uses a phone dedicated to the project and he organises the work for each week. We have a small group of volunteers who can be called on to help collect and deliver the furniture. This group are now all Pensioners so we try to operate on the basis that we will get the furniture to the client and they or the local Conference will get the furniture into the house.

We try to limit the work to one day a week usually Wednesday and this can take from four to six hours on that day. Sometimes we are called on to work two or three days a week. Typically, we make two or three collections to each delivery.

We use electrical test equipment on all electrical goods and we now have the necessary plumbing to check that washing machines are working properly.

Quite frequently, we will be offered all the white goods in a house and all the furniture we can use on the condition that we leave the house empty. From this we can get what we can use plus some items for the RAMH mental health charity LIFE SKILLS, plus some items for St. Mirin's Car Boot Sale.

St Colm's Kilmacolm

St Colm's Kilmacolm is the newest conference in the diocese.

Formed in 2016 they have 10 members, 3 men and 7 women. The majority are working parents, making St Colm's not only the newest but also probably the youngest conference in the diocese!

The village of Kilmacolm may not be obviously linked with financial poverty, but as Vincentians, we recognise that suffering, misfortune and loneliness are found in every community.

In addition to visiting those in need, the main work of the conference has been in providing practical help to parishioners, such as transport to hospital appointments. The conference has also taken responsibility for arranging special celebrations in the parish, such as the annual mass for the sick and a parish pilgrimage to Lindisfarne.

Becoming part of the Inverclyde Group has given St Colm's the opportunity to work with other local Vincentians at the Inverclyde Homeless Forum and the Christmas Dinner for the Homeless and Lonely.

Mary-Jo Coffield
President

Council General International (CGI) Appeals Response update

Following the CGI Appeals sent to Conferences in August there has been an excellent response. The total donations received by the end of Sept. 2018 exceeded £70,000.

The SSVP Scotland have sent £30k each to both the Kerala & Indonesia appeals and have agreed with CGI to retain the remaining balance until any further donations are received.

Many Thanks for your continued generosity.

Obituaries Diocese of Paisley – May to September 2018

Maureen Lunny	Active Member	Our Lady of the Wayside	Paisley
Richard Cairney	Former Member	St. Cadoc's	Newton Mearns
George Carron	Active Member	St. Colm's	Kilmacolm
Pat McGrath	Former Member	St. John's	Barrhead
Jim Deehan	Former treasurer	St. Mary's	Greenock
Percival Bert Preece	Former Member	St. John's	Barrhead
Kenny Eason	President	St. Peter's	Paisley

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Inverclyde Group - Christmas Dinner for the Homeless

*Arrangements are being finalised to provide this year's Christmas Dinner for around 60 homeless people. Professional caterers will provide the meals for this annual event, which has been running for over **Twenty Years.***

Feeding the Poor

In addition to the distribution of food by Our Lady of the Wayside SWC (Ozanam Centre), food Parcels are available on a weekly basis at a number of Churches.

Parish conferences also provide food parcels as and when required and have done so over many years as part of the regular relief support.

Welcome to our Invited Guests

ST VINCENT'S DEAF CONFERENCE. - Unlike most others does not work within one local parish area. Our Vincentian work is to support Deaf people in need across Paisley, Glasgow, Motherwell and Edinburgh dioceses. The seed in setting up the St Vincent's Deaf Conference was planted many years ago when we were children at school – St Vincent's school for the Deaf Tollcross. Perhaps we were the 'mini Vinnies' of the 50s/60s/70s. The Daughters of Charity and our teachers taught us to care for each other and to look after each other in loving service. This sense of service has not left us, and now as members of SSVP we continue to care and support Deaf people.

We are not a special works conference we are a conference like yours and just like any other parish. Although we have taught our PP – Canon Tom White to sign the Holy Mass (every Sunday night at 5pm) he is not able to communicate with us on a day-to-day basis. Catholic Deaf people do not have a chaplain to support our spiritual and pastoral needs.

Our conference carries out home visits, but as we cover and support Deaf people from Erskine to Coatbridge and Cumbernauld to East Kilbride, it is a very far-flung task. Bringing Deaf people together for outings in the summer and parties at Christmas goes a long way to addressing the isolation experienced by Deaf people particularly the elderly.

For us, being members of the SSVP is wonderful. We know it is difficult for hearing people to talk to us, we understand that you can be reluctant and it can be embarrassing but please do not leave us on the sidelines. We are your Vincentian brothers and sisters. Speak to us: sign to us: show us that you are happy for us to be part of the wonderful family of Vincentians serving the poor.

You will remain always in our prayers.

St Vincent's Deaf Conference,
St Mary's Church, Calton.

Paisley Group

Once again, parish conferences have shown their generosity and support for the appeal made at the August group meeting for school clothing for an area in Cyprus supported by Caritas and coordinated by St. John Bosco's SSVP Conference, Erskine. One hundred and fifty items of clothing were posted on 2nd September and a further consignment will be delivered this November. Thanks to both John and Margaret Sherry from St. Bosco's for providing the conferences with the opportunity to support this particular initiative.

St Mirin's SSVP Dementia Project (fish tea lunches)

December 2018 will mark the **second anniversary** of the first St. Mirin's SSVP fish tea lunches.

Lunches are served in the Cathedral Hall on the first Monday of every month at 1:30pm and are open to anyone living with dementia accompanied by a friend or family member. After lunch, we enjoy live music, singing, a quiz and bingo. Numbers have been steadily increasing with over 50 attending in October.

For further information or to arrange to attend please contact Terry on 07511 494509

Recruitment & Awareness Campaign update

In addition, to the Recruitment drive at particular parish conferences new members are coming forward through the traditional process of "word of mouth".

Fourteen individuals are at various recruitment stages at six conferences within the Paisley Group area.

The campaign is still ongoing and existing

members are invited to join the Recruitment Team to assist in this invaluable work.

Brother Danny Collins
(Acting Recruitment Officer)

SSVP National Meeting - Golden Jubilee Conference
Hotel, Clydebank (see September Ozanam News)



Bishop of Motherwell, Right Reverend Joseph Toal, National President Jim Mckendrick, Clare Carr Cullen, Poverty Alliance Director Peter Kelly, Twinning Officer Ian Tierney members of the Paisley Diocesan Council, and Hannah O'Neill (centre stage) who represented the society at the 2nd SSVP Youth International Meeting in Salamanca

Annual Vincentian Mass – Carfin

In addition to the bus provided through the SSVP Diocese of Paisley Council, we were delighted to meet brothers, sisters and friends from the other bus from the Diocese funded by St Conval's Conference Linwood. This year's Vincentian Family Gathering at Carfin was very well attended with around seventy people traveling on the two buses from our Diocese.



National Annual Retreat at St. Columba. Renfrew – Saturday 3rd November 2018 – 10.00 am to 4.00pm
ALL MEMBERS /CONFERENCES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.
Please confirm your attendance by contacting national office.



National Mass Gillis Centre, Edinburgh L - R Fr. Kevin Dow Master of Ceremonies St. Andrews & Edinburgh, Danny Collins Vice President SSVP National Council, Arch Bishop Leo Cushley, Richard Steinbach Arch Diocese President.

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