

Easter 2022

Ozanam

News

**International
Solidarity**



**Around the
Conferences**

**International
News**

Join SSVP



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Contents

Message from National President	3
Around the Conferences	4-6
International	7
Twinning	8
Spirituality	9
Obituaries	9
Social Justice	10
Youth News	11
Conference Poster	12

2022
18
AUGUST

**Next submission deadline is
Thursday 18th August 2022**

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.

Designed & printed by Wigwam Marketing





Letter from National President Danny Collins

president@ssvpscotland.com



Easter Message 2022

Easter Blessings to our brothers, sisters, friends and volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Scotland.

February 2022 marked the 3-year mid-term I have served as your National President. I am pleased to confirm that at the last National Council online meeting the Diocesan Presidents, in accordance with the SSVP Manual & Rule book have approved the extension of a further 3-year term in office.

I am looking forward to continuing to lead and serve the Society and wish to express my appreciation for the opportunity to deliver my main priorities, namely recruitment, communication and the development of the SSVP in Scotland.

We have over the past 2-3 years

had to cope with the consequences of the pandemic, we now need to implement a 'Recovery Programme' which will require us all to learn from our experiences, adapt to any changes and ensure the long-term future of our Society. This objective can only be achieved through working together.

The Lenten Season provides an opportunity to reflect on the past, present and future and calls for us all to continue to pray for ourselves and others now and forever.

I am delighted to give you all advance notice of the **Visit to Scotland** by our International General President Renato Lima de Oliveira between 21st – 24th June 2022.

Danny Collins

National President

Daily Prayer For Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Loving Father, help me through the Guidance of Your Holy Spirit to be a true Vincentian today - to see and reverence Christ in all the people I meet especially the lonely, the troubled and the poor. Inspire me to serve them with love and generosity. Through Jesus Christ Your Son, Our Lord, Amen

**St Vincent de Paul
Pray for us**

'Better Together' Fund for International Solidarity - Annual Appeal 2022

Understandably during recent months, the Council General International, Commission for International Aid and Development (CGI CIAD), and Fund for International Solidarity (FIS), have been planning how best to assist our Members supporting the many disasters and emergencies around the world, including the suffering of those affected by the war in Ukraine.

Donations are collected nationally and

forwarded to CGI CIAD FIS to support those in need.

If your Conference can contribute, please direct any donations to the National Office. Cheque payee: "SSVP Scotland" and on the reverse of the cheque – 'Fund for International Solidarity'.

For more information about CGI, CIAD & FIS see page 8.



If you require further information please contact the National Office by emailing: admin@ssvpscotland.com

Around the Conferences

Glasgow Archdiocese

A Centenarian's Life in Vincentian Service

Written by Glasgow Archdiocesan President, Joe Maguire

Vincent Joseph Larmour was born on 30 January 1922. In the same month the SSVF Conference he would later join and remain with for the rest of his Vincentian life received its aggregation - St Constantine's parish in Govan. Vincent joined the Society in 1957. Married and with ten children we wondered how he ever found the time but this he did. He describes the Society as 'the most important thing in life' for him next

to his family and as he tells us this, he goes on to relate how he nearly did not join. He had gone along to a parish meeting that was seeking recruits

for the Children of Mary. When he left the meeting, he had joined the SSVF! The next 50 years or so would see him work tirelessly for the poor in the parish of Govan and Glasgow beyond, before retiring from the Society in May 2008.

He remembers his early visits to homes in the parish and tells us of the visit he made to a woman who possessed a kettle and some cups, nothing else, and with a family to feed.

As his experience and service grew, he readily accepted responsibility of various offices in the Society; President, Treasurer and Secretary, Glasgow Convenor for Hospital Visits, culminating in becoming Glasgow Archdiocesan President in 1998. There were other interests too. He was involved in the setting up of the Glasgow Furniture Project based at Polmadie and could be found every Saturday in September

"Joining the Society was one of the best decisions I ever made" Vincent Larmour on his 100th Birthday

at the local bank branch assiduously emptying the boxes filled during the day's Flag Day operation.

With pride he informs us that his Conference was the first in Glasgow to introduce female membership into the Society and it is clear how important women have become in the Society ever since that introduction confounding the sceptics and indeed some Bishops too. Much has changed in his time. In 1957 there was no National Council in existence, no female members as yet and very little adequate social security support to the poor in Glasgow. Govan he maintains was an area that evinced



Left to right is Phyllis Calderwood Member of St Constantine's Govan, Joe McGuire, Vincent Larmour and Danny Collins with the presentation certificate.

a strong community spirit and this saw frequent interaction with fellow Christian organisations in an effort to make living conditions better.

How did Vincent do all this and yet raise ten children? The answer lies with his wife Betty who died three years ago and mention of her brings a warm pride in his voice. We take our leave and the smile is back on his face. Let us remember him and all those Members like him who have contributed more than enough to the continued work of the Society.

St Andrew's & Edinburgh Archdiocese

In November, Archbishop Cushley celebrated the Society of St Vincent de Paul's annual Archdiocesan Mass at St Patrick's, Cowgate, Edinburgh.

He told Members: *"I'm very pleased that you have been able to maintain outreach to those in need, as well as those who find themselves alone and depressed because of Covid. You have been able to help them not only by practical support but by simply being there."*



St Patrick's Church, Edinburgh

Galloway Diocese

St Mary's, Irvine has resumed its regular cycle of fortnightly meetings and is again playing an active role through organising support for and donations to the North Ayrshire Food Bank. Their Members have responded to requests for help from those in crisis situations by providing food parcels, travel costs, bedding, items of personal hygiene, as well as supporting the alleviation of gas and electricity charges where appropriate. Support was also offered to local primary schools to assist families with school uniforms.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Kilmarnock provided local primary school pupils with clothing and a backpack containing individually requested items (slippers, pens, pencils, notebooks, bath towel, toiletries, etc). The class teacher was delighted with the response and the children fed back they were excited to have things the same as their classmates. They also provided parcels of boxed biscuits, selection boxes and grocery vouchers to 66

families (with a total of 116 children) identified through liaison with local schools and early childhood centre at Christmas.

St Margaret's, Ayr were given a kind donation from the Knights of Malta of clothes, cold weather essentials and toiletries for distribution over the Christmas period.



Henry Norreys (Knights of Malta) Michael Devine and Kitty McLaughlin (St Margaret's Conference)

Thanks & Prayers to Archbishop William Nolan

Galloway President, Pat Snee, sends congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to former Bishop of Galloway, William Nolan, on his installation as Archbishop of Glasgow. Pat said, "During his seven years

as our Bishop he has been a constant supporter of the Vincentian Family in our Diocese. May he flourish in his new role, and in the challenges that lie ahead. May he also be assured of our constant prayers in the future. God Bless you, Archbishop."



Aberdeen Diocese

The Cathedral Conference has been running a foodbank for years in which they buy in food, parcel it up and distribute it on a Tuesday afternoon from the Cathedral car park. By setting up tables in the car park, they have provided donated food and distributed 80 parcels. They rely heavily on food donations and cash for food purchases. The foodbank moved into the car park at the beginning of the Covid outbreak, and

rain or shine they have been handing out food there every week.

St. Columba's, Aberdeen have been visiting people in Sheltered Housing and in their own homes, whilst delivering food parcels to peoples' homes, from Holy Family Sisters of the Needy. They have also been providing food



and taking a turn cooking a hot meal in St. Mary's Cathedral hall for those requiring support.

Dunkeld Diocese



We are delighted to welcome Sid Grant as the new Diocesan President for Dunkeld.

Sid writes, "I am honoured and humbled

to have been given the role and will do my best to be worthy of this position.

On behalf of the Diocese, I thank my predecessor, John Joyce, for all

his work and wish him good health. COVID has impacted us all and in particular it has made it difficult for us to visit the needy in their homes, and restricted Conference meetings. As we now ease restrictions I hope that we can all return to regular face to face Conference meetings and I look forward to meeting everyone and discussing how to help grow into bigger and stronger groups.

With all that is happening in the world at present, I know that the need to help families and individuals, with rising living costs is apparent to all. Then there are also the refugees

who have been forced to flee from their homeland and some are seeking safety in our Diocese.

All of this will place an increased workload on all our SSVF Members.

I am very conscious young people are kept busy with work and family commitments, but I wonder if some would be willing to spend one hour or so per month to help with serving the less well off or the lonely in their community."

Motherwell Diocese

The Furniture Project continues to thrive, it has gone from strength to strength. This is due to the dedication and hard work of the Volunteers.

It is a continuous cycle of receiving, checking goods and redistributing goods which keeps everyone extremely busy.

The generosity of so many people in donating items means that we have a fully loaded unit with a wide range of good quality household items. Since the beginning of this year, deliveries have been made to over 30 families

many of whom received multiple items with an average turnaround time of 2-3 days. They also uplifted items from 40 homes.

They have also been able to assist our Brothers and Sisters at the Paisley Unit with items of furniture. Any unusable items are recycled ensuring nothing is wasted.

As Conferences begin to resume their activities, look out for their Open Day for Members to go and visit the Unit. They are always looking for new volunteers, if you are interested, please give them a call for more information.



Opening Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11.00 to 3.00pm.

Email svdpfurniture@outlook.com
or phone on:

07483 363 888
07483 904 658



“Writing the Circular letter is a gift from God in my life.” Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira - 16th President General International writes his 2022 Letter to the Conferences of the Society around the world.

Here are some excerpts from Brother Renato's letter, as well as the handy chapters guide, to assist your own and Conference readings.

Praised be our Lord Jesus Christ! My dear Members of Saint Vincent de Paul Conferences around the world, I first wish to ask for the abundant blessings of Our Lord Jesus Christ on you and for our Blessed Lady to be alongside us, particularly for those in need whom our Society helps, whether in special works or in the action of the Conferences.

I hope that everyone can reflect on the chapters of this circular letter, and

provide comments, criticisms and suggestions by e-mail:
cgi.circularletter@gmail.com

2.5. A Message for Young People

The presence of children and youth at the SSVP is a blessing for us all. I never tire of acknowledging the value of the presence of young people in Conferences.

5.1. An expanding Society

At present, the Society is found in 153 territories, with 800,000 Members, 48,000 Conferences, 5,000 Social Works and 30 million people helped every day. These are impressive figures, which fill us with pride, joy and great social responsibility.

5.2. Final Thanks

As always, I kindly request the whole international Vincentian community to pray for the successful completion of projects, programmes, and initiatives undertaken by the Council General, in harmony with the international strategic plan, in order to strengthen the SSVP.

Section Summary

1. Introduction
2. Council General is Moving Forward
 - 2.1. Despite the pandemic
 - 2.2. A year of challenges and opportunities
 - 2.3. Upcoming Elections
 - 2.4. Ideal Conditions for Electing a Good President General
 - 2.5. A Message for Young People
3. Recommendations to Vincentians
 - 3.1. Observing the Rule and Statutes
 - 3.2. The Unhappy Exclusion of Active Members
 - 3.3. The Outstanding Value of Education
 - 3.4. Decision-Making Process
 - 3.5. Conference: a Holy Place
 - 3.6. Vincentian Family
 - 3.7. Results of Elections
 - 3.8. Environmental Issues
 - 3.9. Fasting for Ozanam's Canonization
 - 3.10. The Theme of Service
4. Year of Le Taillandier
 - 4.1. The "International themed years" project
 - 4.2. Who was Le Taillandier?
 - 4.3. Literary Contest
5. Final Message
 - 5.1. An expanding Society
 - 5.2. Final Thanks

The 'International Themed Years' Project

The Council General, with the 'International Themed Years' Project, strengthens its commitment to increase understanding of the lives of the seven founders of our beloved Society of St Vincent de Paul. So far, the years have covered: 2017 (Bailly de Surcy), 2018 (Lallier), 2019 (Lamache), 2020 (Clavé) and 2021 (Devaux).

Who was Le Taillandier?

Pierre-Auguste Le Taillandier was born in Rouen, France, on 28 January 1811. He was one of the seven friends who founded the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Paris, on 23 April 1833. Le Taillandier moved with his family to Paris, where he could complete his legal studies. He joined the 'Conferences of History' with Frédéric Ozanam and

spoke out in favour of carrying out a more practical, beneficial kind of work. Ozanam describe him a "very amiable, well-informed young man, full of common sense". In 1833, he played an active part in founding the first Conference. He also gave religious instruction to aspirant Catholics during home visits and visits to prisoners. He was the first of the young founders to receive the sacrament of matrimony, marrying Marie Baudry on 7 August 1838. They had four children, three girls and a boy.

In Rouen, he was a Director of an insurance company, and of a hospital. In 1841, he founded the Rouen Conference of Saint Godard, becoming its President. He was very popular with his fellow Conference Members, and

with his fellow-citizens, receiving many marks of recognition, although he was never bothered about them. He spent his final days devoted to his family, to the education of his children, with his friends, the Conference and his beloved garden at home. Pierre-Auguste Le Taillandier died in the city of his birth on March 23rd, 1886, at the age of 75.





Twinning News

Kate Kelley National Twinning Officer  twinning@ssvpScotland.com

The shortage of resources faced by many countries where the Society is established promotes a spirit of Vincentian sharing. Conferences and Councils help each other, both nationally and internationally. This bond consists of sharing prayer, deep friendship and material resources, and is known as Twinning; it helps to create links among the various countries in the Confederation.

St Jude's Conference – Vredenburg, Twinned with St Conval's Conference, Pollok

Further to the initial report in the previous edition, we have received an in-depth report of the good work done by one of our South African Twins, which is 146km, on

the coast north of Cape Town. St Conval's Conference are lucky having a Twin who can produce this quality of reporting, but it gives us a great insight into the use that can be made of our £30 a quarter from the various Twinning Conferences. From the donations they receive, including Twinning they work with a few other parishes and run projects to assist schools, run feeding stations, help the aged and the unemployed.

"Through the grace of our Lord we managed to continue our work in serving the Poor and was blessed with good health and donations received from new and regular donors."

St Jude's Conference – Vredenburg



Activities carried out:

- Weekly Soup kitchen - Saldanha - Winter Months
- Monthly Food for Unemployed parcels - Saldanha
- Christmas party for aged
- Monthly food parcels for Mentally Disabled Home
- Financial support – Disability Adoption
- Monthly Nappies for disabled - Laaiplek

- Monthly food for Onikwa Special Day Care
- Quarterly Food parcel - St Anthony's School
- Monthly Feeding Scheme- Louwville
- Monthly food hampers for Abuse Woman at Safe House
- New Youth Projects
- Elands Bay Feeding Scheme

"Justice has its limits; charity knows no bounds."
Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

Emergencies & Development Projects of Council General International (CGI) The generosity and prayers of the SSVP Conferences and our Vincentian Family are felt around the world. The CIAD and IFS are able to respond to emergencies swiftly when they have funds ready to use.

Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) The CIAD focuses on emergency relief in response to humanitarian crisis (natural disasters, violent conflict, etc.), disaster recovery, setting up projects for development and systemic change and projects aimed at expanding and strengthening the SSVP. It is made up of eight SSVP volunteers from every continent, supported by

one staff member. To see a full report of their efforts, you can view their annual report on www.ssvpglobal.org/publications

Fund for International Solidarity (FIS) Created to support CIAD and strengthen its ability to respond to emergency situations. From Council General International to parish volunteers, we are a single worldwide community of love and support. We stand together to respond to crises, to meet ongoing and systemic needs, and to proclaim as one the love and grace of Jesus Christ.





Spirituality

Sr Maria Robb DC, Spiritual Director



I wonder what God is saying as He looks around our world today.

The heartache of the war in Ukraine is on our TV screens 24 hours a day! There is an on-going war in Tigre, Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, drug wars in Mexico. In fact 174 countries were at war in some form or another in 2021.

The conflict in Ethiopia has seen many Christians, including seven Daughters of Charity, imprisoned. I'm sure many more of our Vincentian brothers and sisters are affected by wars in their area. Our hearts and prayers go out to our sisters and brothers in all of these countries.

Sadly, we only seem to take stock of the wars that are likely to have an effect on us.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is close to us, has pushed up the price of petrol and fuel for us and more importantly, this conflict has the potential to be disastrous for the whole of Europe.

As Vincentians we're also aware of 'conflicts' within families, the families we support, the families in our parish area, etc.

There are always consequences of conflict, so what is our response?

As Vincentians, solidarity with those who are suffering is a hallmark of our charism. It was wonderful to hear that the SSVF in

Perth are standing alongside the Polish community to do a Rosary pilgrimage for the people of Ukraine on the Feast of St Joseph.

Fr Tomaž Mavrič, CM, President of the Executive Committee of the Vincentian Family, sent an update letter about the Vincentian Family in Ukraine to the FamVin website. You can read more at famvin.org

The many branches of the Vincentian Family are responding in so many ways, some opening their houses and chapels to the new poor this conflict has created.

There are many people responding in many 'practical' ways, but one way we can all respond is through prayer.

Prayer is always the foundational response to all needs. Jesus told the disciples, **"I assure you that whatever you ask the Father, He will give you in my name."** (Jn 16:23)

The seven Daughters of Charity imprisoned in Ethiopia were released after about three months... thanks to the power of prayer.

Jesus reminds us too that, **"If you have faith, everything you ask for in prayer you will receive."** (Mt 21:22)

Today, as we pray for peace in our world, we pray too for that gift of faith that God wants to give us. Let us unite our prayers with those of Mary, Queen of Peace and Blessed Marta Wiecka, DC (Sr Marta served the people of Sniatyn, Ukraine and is buried there.)

May the Lord of Peace fill the hearts of all people with His peace.

May He touch and soften the hearts of those who see violence as a means to solve conflict.

May Mary, Queen of Peace, Blessed Marta Wiecka and all our Vincentian Saints intercede for us as we pray for peace in our hearts and in our world. Amen.

Obituaries - May they Rest In Peace

Mary Carrick, Active Member, St Peter in Chains, Ardrossan

John Grey, Active Member, St Peter's, Paisley

Tom McGrath, Active Member, Sacred Heart, Cumbernauld

Mary Findlay, Former Member, St Joseph's, Stepps

Joe Gillespie, Former President, St Francis Xavier's, Falkirk

Patricia Carlin, Former President, St. Thomas, Arbroath

Helen Rolwich, Former Member, St. Bernadette's, Motherwell

Marion Robertson, Former Member, Corpus Christi, Scotstounhill

Mary Smith, Treasurer, St David's, Plains

Anthony Kerrigan, Former Treasurer & President, Our Lady & St Cuthbert's, Maybole

Bernard Lafferty, Active Member, St John's, Barrhead

Sarah McLaughlin, Former Member, St Bride's, West Kilbride

Hugh Clark, Former Member, St Joseph's, Whitburn

Kenny Kearney, Active Member, St Patrick's, Dumbarton

John Lauter, President of St Conval's Pollok, past Glasgow South West Group, President and Vice President; past Glasgow Archdiocesan Council Vice President and Board Member St Conval's Pollok

James Thomson, Former Member, St. Bridget's, Baillieston

Anne Kavanagh, Former Secretary, Our Lady Of Mount Carmel, Kilmarnock

Stephen Grant, Former President, Our Lady Of Mount Carmel, Kilmarnock

Rose Paxton, Secretary, St Gabriel's, Prestongrange

Fr. Colin Golden, Former President (before entering the Priesthood), SS Leonard's & Fergus, Dundee

Jack McCormack, Active Member, St Patrick's, Strathaven

Hugh Clark, Former Treasurer, St Joseph's, Whitburn

Margaret Addly, Former President, St Peter's, Edinburgh





Social Justice News

Tricia McCartney, Social Justice Co-ordinator

✉ socialjustice@ssvpscotland.com 🐦 @SocJustSSVPScot

Galloway's Acts of Kindness

During the pandemic, St Teresa's, Dumfries continued serving the community through 'Acts of Kindness'

Giving out food parcels and topping up energy cards, either by enquiries through the helpline or from out

of hours Social Work services. Also by phone or letter, they contacted people by who are mainly elderly and by themselves who were grateful someone was thinking about them. Thanks was offered to Sandra MacLeod for handing out 8 iPads and helping to send 2 iPads each to St Andrew's, and to Holy Trinity, Lockerbie and St Joseph's, Stranraer. Their Spiritual Director, Deacon Willie, handed out iPads to the local nursing home, Abbey Gardens, which was gratefully



received and kept residents in touch with loved ones. Simple acts of kindness go along way of bringing people together.

Going a Wander to Help the Poor

In September, Joe & Helen MacEachen; Members of St Augustine's, Coatbridge took on the 'Wee Wander' as part of the Kiltwalk in Glasgow. Joe said, "The event was very well organised & friendly. We managed to raise a total of £865, including the match funding from the Tom Hunter Foundation & the Kiltwalk organisers!"

St Maurice's High School, Cumbernauld managed to raise £1730 for their local Conferences, with 14 Senior Vinnies taking part with their teacher Mrs Siobhan Thompson. She said, "The kids had a great day and I'm hoping we can do the same next year!"

Their efforts will make a real difference to people living in poverty in our own communities.



SSVP Society of St Vincent de Paul
kiltwalk
GRAB YOUR TRAINERS & SOME FRIENDS & HELP US RAISE CASH FOR THOSE IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITIES
GLASGOW 24 APRIL
ABERDEEN 29 MAY
DUNDEE 21 AUGUST
EDINBURGH 18 SEPTEMBER
VIRTUAL KILT WALK 7 - 9 OCTOBER
WWW.THEKILT WALK.CO.UK
TAKE BIG STEPS FOR THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

"We would definitely recommend the Kiltwalk to all SSVP Members as a way of raising funds. You can go your own pace, have fun and raise funds for your Conference."

Joe MacEachen



Join Our Team!

SSVP Scotland are looking for a Youth Development Co-ordinator.

Youth News

Youth Development Co-ordinator



youth@ssvpScotland.com



@youthSSVP



ssvp.youth.scotland



Youth SSVP Scotland

St Mary's Primary School, Duntocher

Marian Boyce from St Mary's & St Joseph's Conference visited Primary 6 to say a huge thank you for their Enterprise Project. They developed a diverse range of products such as bookmarks, slime, sock puppets, lip balm, bath salts, keyrings and painted rocks to donate their profits of over £300. The children said, "The SSVP works hard and we worked hard to give something back to them."



Our Lady of the Missions Primary School, Thornliebank

The Mini Vinnie's clothing appeal collected winter jackets, hats, scarves, socks and warm clothing. They had massive success and the SSVP Members who collected these were overwhelmed by the generosity of the pupils and families.



St. Columba's High School, West Fife

At Christmas their "2Tins2Packets2School" campaign donated over 1,100 items to the local SSVP Conferences to distribute to families in West Fife, including 172 toys from staff and pupils. Keeping Christ in CHRISTmas. Well done!



St Athanasius' Primary School, Carluke

Mini Vinnies managed to involve their local SSVP Members by using virtual meetings and for Christmas they did a Reverse Advent Calendar, collecting food for the local food bank. They also sent their customary Mars Bars and personalised prayer cards to the Wayside Club in Glasgow. Well done, you are all shining stars.

Airdrie Vinnies Groups

The Mini Vinnies have been putting Faith into Action in a tidal wave of activities, in practical & spiritual ways. There's been Toast Cafes, Collections for the Foodbank, Leading the Rosary for Peace, and a Memorial Garden for COP26. With a Junior & Senior Vinnies in St Margaret's High School, they were invaluable in supporting St Edward's SSVP with their annual Christmas Jesse Tree Appeal. They organised Cake and Candy stalls and raffles to raise funds to support Fr Walters' 'Let the Children Live' Charity and have organised a Football Competition with St Ambrose High School in Coatbridge.



Farewell to Pauline

In November 2021 we said farewell to Pauline Bonnar, our former Youth Development Co-ordinator. Pauline joined the staff team only weeks before the first COVID lockdown. Despite school restrictions Pauline successfully strengthened our Youth structures & resources. A foundation which her successor will build on. Pauline did not restrict herself to Youth work, but quickly adapted to support SSVP communications and administration. We are most grateful for her contribution and wish her continued success.





Serving in Hope

Since 1845

SSVP members
of all ages meet together in
friendship and prayer.

**We provide material, social & spiritual
assistance to anyone in need.**

**We are here to support individuals and families,
as we would support a friend.**

Want to know more?

Or interested in joining us?
Please speak to a member of SSVP
or your parish priest.

Local SSVP Conference contact:

www.ssvpscotland.com