

# The Vincentimes



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## Message from Regional Council President

Dear Sisters and Brothers!

A cordial greeting to you all. In the few months I have served as president of Ontario Regional Council I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet many Vincentians from across the region. Your boundless energy to go to the poor is inspiring. Whether through virtual home visits, serving meals, or volunteering in a thrift store you are living the mission of the Society to bring love, respect, justice and joy to our neighbours in need. I am humbled by those who bring their gifts as leaders of our Society. Thank you for your willingness to share your talents and encouragement of your fellow Vincentians to do that which is good.



It is appropriate that this newsletter comes to you in the midst of the season of Advent – a time of preparation. While we may be readying food hampers for the many families we support, and busily decorating, shopping and baking for our own families, we also find quiet time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. It has been a difficult year. In a recent message, His Holiness Pope Francis said that this Christmas:

“... lights will be dimmed by the consequences of the pandemic, which still weighs heavily on our time.  
All the more reason why we are called to question ourselves and not to lose hope.  
The feast of the Birth of Christ is not out of tune with the trial we are going through,  
because it is the quintessential feast of compassion, the feast of tenderness.  
Its beauty is humble and full of human warmth.”

Let us pray for an abundance of human warmth for our neighbours in need. And may the light of Christ, and the warmth it brings, give you comfort and joy this Christmas. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Ontario Regional Council, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy Christmas celebration.

*Ann Massel, President  
Ontario Regional Council*

## Christmas Spiritual Reflection

For most of us, Christmas is a time with family and friends. We share gifts and enjoy a meal together. We celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour who was born so many years ago. But for many, this experience is missing from their lives. 2021 has been a hard year for everyone. Many are without work, without enough food and without a proper place to stay. They struggle to buy gifts even for their own children. Through our Christmas visits we bring hope to them and a little something to celebrate this beautiful day. Our hope is that they will be filled with joy and celebrate with us in their own way. We hope that they become like the little drummer boy. The story says that in his poverty he went to see Jesus in the manger. All he had to give him was the song in his heart which he played on his drum. Joseph, Mary and Jesus received it with gratitude.



May those who are in need thank and praise God like the little drummer boy did.  
May they experience the love of the child in the manger.  
May we too know the peace of Christmas in a special way.  
Merry Christmas.

*Deacon John Girolami*

## News from our Thrift Store

Every year The Hamilton Spectator hosts an online nomination site where people from the community can go to nominate their favourite businesses and/or professionals from the community to be recognized. Since there are so many businesses and professionals listed, at the end of each nomination period, each nomination category will be sorted from highest to lowest nomination count. The ten businesses/professionals with the highest nomination counts in each category move forward to the voting process. Then members of the public were able to vote once for their favorite Finalist.

We at SSVP and all stores want to Congratulate the Barton St. Store in Hamilton on winning the Platinum Award for Best Consignment/Thrift Store in the Hamilton Spectator Readers' Choice Award.

Winning once was not enough for everyone at the Barton St. Store. They also tied for first with a Diamond Award for best clearance centre.

The Manager Karen Felker couldn't be more grateful. She wrote "Our entire team has been working diligently and lovingly, especially during these COVID19 times to support our neighbours by serving Christ in the poor. It is wonderful to be recognized by our community in this w

This is a true testament to Karen and all her volunteers.  
Congratulations to all of you!

*Sue Mazziotti-Armitage, Vice-President, Stores Liaison*

## Communication Committee

The communication committee at Regional Council is looking for Vincentians that want to be part of this committee and help get information out to Vincentians. If you are interested, please contact Shelley at [shelleysvp@gmail.com](mailto:shelleysvp@gmail.com) I am hoping to have a meeting in the new year.

If you have any ideas or stories that you want to be included in our newsletter or our *Vincentimes*, please contact Shelley at [shelleysvp@gmail.com](mailto:shelleysvp@gmail.com).

SOCIETY OF  
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL  
ONTARIO REGIONAL  
COUNCIL



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### The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

#### Mission:

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is:

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

#### Values:

The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians we:

- See Christ in anyone who suffers;
- Come together as a family;
- Have personal contact with the poor;
- Help in all possible ways.

## Notice of Passing

We would like to recognize and remember the following Vincentians who have passed. They blessed so many with their lives.

**Ken Baird**, St. Clement Conference, Saturday, September 18, 2021

**Anita Renaud**, Most Precious Blood Conference, Windsor, Wednesday, October 6, 2021

**Marguerite Gilberte (Jill) Losier**, St. Jerome Conference Windsor, Sunday, October 17, 2021

**Fernando Sales De Frias (Fred)**, St. John de Brebeuf Conference, Kingsville, Sunday, October 17, 2021

**Jack Stewart Palmer**, Our Lady of the Atonement Conference, Windsor, Wednesday, October 20, 2021

**Anna (Ann) Frederika Brouwer**, Saint Vincent de Paul Store, London, November 29, 2021