



Diocese of Paisley Spring Festival Newsletter

May 2019

Welcome from Brother Joe Hendry

It is a great privilege for me to welcome each and every one of you to our Paisley Diocese Spring Festival meeting. To have been elected as Paisley Diocesan President is a wonderful honour. I hope to serve you well and very much look forward to working with you all in helping the lonely and disadvantaged in our Diocese.

God bless you all.
Brother Joe.

Circular Letter from Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira

Perhaps as a Conference you have had time to read and reflect on this Circular Letter 2019, from our President General. If you have not managed this as yet, it would be good to do so. Meanwhile Section 5 offers some useful questions on which to reflect to bring about improvement:

- What do we need to stop doing in the SSVP?
- What do we need to keep doing to continue our mission of charity?
- After this evaluation, what do we need to start doing to improve our Vincentian effectiveness?
- What do we need to do more?
- And finally, what do we need to do less?

Acknowledgement from Brother Danny Collins

Dear brothers and sisters I am pleased to take this opportunity through the Diocesan Festival Newsletter to express my sincere gratitude to all Vincentian members throughout the Diocese of Paisley for their support, assistance and encouragement I received over the years.

I have had the privilege to serve the Society as a local member and Conference President at St. John's Barrhead – Diocesan Recruitment Officer – Diocesan President – Vice President National Council and recently as your new National President.

It would not be possible to carry out the duties associated with any of these positions of responsibility without the active participation of others.

I would therefore appeal to all SSVP members to continue to play their part in ensuring the Society delivers the many works of charity provided for those in need at the local – diocesan- national and international level.

Yours in St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Brother Danny Collins
National President

Paul Lamache - The soul of an artist and practically a knight

This year President General Renato Lima de Oliveria announced in his Circular letter that 2019 would be the International Thematic Year of Paul Lamache. As part of an ongoing effort to heighten the profiles of the founding members of the Society, this year focuses on the longest living member of the founders.

Lamache, one of the first Catholics to write in opposition of slavery, was a husband and father, a law professor and remained active in the Society into his eighties.

Paul Lamache was born July 18 1810 in a village in Normandy, northern France. He came from a family of farmers and administrators who served local nobility. His father was a doctor and the mayor of his hometown.

He moved to Paris to study law at the Sorbonne, just like Ozanam and the other founders. In 1832, Lamache met Ozanam and joined him in the 'History Conference', playing an active part in discussions.

Writing to his Mother in 1834 Frederic Ozanam described his band of friends and when it came to Lamache he said 'Lamache – the soul of an artist; and practically a knight'.

Lamache wrote many articles for different magazines and other media of the time, and was very outspoken in current affairs. His brother, Fr. Jerome Lamache was a missionary priest on the Caribbean Island Guadeloupe and ministered to the black slaves there. He shared with his brother his experience and Paul Lamache went on to campaign for the end of slavery.

It was his skill as a writer which would later find Lamache a wife. Lamache wrote a short and pious religious work on the life of St. Chlotilde. Upon reading the book, Henriette Le Bon d'Humbersin made it known she would like to meet with the author. They married in 1844 and had five children: Paul, Adrienne, Henri, Leonie, and Marie.

Lamache was also a scholar in the field of education, and actively participated in campaigns to promote the importance of teaching and quality education, defending religious education in schools. His academic life was admirable. His political institutional views meant he vigorously protested against any new legislation that would eliminate the social rights of the poor.

He was part of the National Guard during the French Revolution of 1848, just like Ozanam as well as many other members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Lamache, his sister Rosalie Rendu, Francois Lallier and Frederic Ozanam received the Legion of Honour award.

Lamache in his later life continued to remain faithful to the Society. After retiring as a professor of law in Grenoble at the age of 76 he devoted even more time to the poor.

Lamache died on July 28 1892 in Grenoble.

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Congratulations to Brother Collins

On behalf of Paisley Diocese, I would like to thank Brother Danny Collins for his service and hard work as Paisley Diocesan President. Also to congratulate Brother Danny and wish him every success in his new position as National President. He is assured of our prayers. *Brother Joe.*

St. Thomas' Neilston Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies were formed two years ago with pupils from St. Thomas' Primary School. They have a Mini Vinnie Bin in the school and collect groceries, clothes and toiletries for distribution to the homeless and general community. They have also helped prepare the vegetables for soup which is served at the soup kitchen. The attached picture shows the Mini Vinnies entertaining our senior citizens at our fish tea which is held every couple of months in the church hall.



A message from St. Andrew's Academy, Paisley.

Hello everyone. I am one of the teachers who organises the St. Andrew's Academy Uganda Project.



A group of our pupils visited a Paisley Group Meeting in St. John's Barrhead recently to deliver a presentation about their trip in June.

A group of about 20 Sixth Year pupils and four teachers will be travelling to Kigumba in Uganda in Summer 2019 and working alongside a team of local builders to help with the construction of a classroom block for Blessed Comboni Senior Secondary School. The trip lasts 18 days and 10 of these days will be spent working on the building site. The first trip was 2009 and we always return to the same Parish and live and work as part of the local community. We use local materials and employ the same builders who, over the years, have become our friends. There is very little technology available and so we provide manual labour led by the team of builders.

Our partner Parish now has a nursery, primary and secondary school and also a health centre. As well as working on the building site our young people have opportunities to visit the health centre and classrooms and often teach a few classes.

Our Parish Priest in Uganda, Fr. Francis, is always very grateful for the support of the wider community of St. Andrew's Academy and I know he would like me to convey his thanks to the SSVP, for their interest in our work. In 2015 Bishop John travelled with our group and the local community welcomed him most enthusiastically and would like him to return to Kigumba at some time in the future!

Fr. Eoin Patten and Fr. Matthew Carlin have also taken part in trips in previous years. Many of the members taking part in this year's trip are SSVP youth members.

We are grateful for the support from SSVP.

We have a Facebook page which has photos and videos of the work from previous projects and it will be updated during this year's trip in June. It is a public page and so you do not need a Facebook account to access it.

www.facebook.com/standrewsacademyugandaproject

Please keep in touch.

Let us know what's happening in your Conference. It would be appreciated if items for inclusion in the Autumn Festival Newsletter are written in Word. Inverclyde Group to forward items to the Inverclyde Group President and Paisley Group to forward items to Brother Joe Hendry, until such times as a new Paisley Group President is appointed. Many thanks. **Brother Joe**

Forthcoming Events

29th June SSVP National Mass and Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart. Celebrant is Archbishop Leo Cushley. A bus has been arranged. Please book your seat by contacting Brother Joe Hendry by Friday 21st June. joseph.hendry@yahoo.co.uk

Pick up points as follows:

9.30am St. John the Baptist, Port Glasgow
9.45am St. Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley
10.00am St. John's, Barrhead

28th Sept. Vincentians In Partnership, Carfin. Details to follow and a bus will be arranged, as usual.

November National Retreat St. Mirin's Cathedral. Date and details to be confirmed.

Obituaries October 2018 to April 2019

PA01004	Paisley	St Charles'	Active Member	Elizabeth	Catterson
PA01007	Linwood	St Conval's	President	William	McKenna
PA01013	Barrhead	St John's	Former Member	Percival (Bert)	Preece
PA01013	Barrhead	St John's	Former Member	Pat	McGrath
PA01013	Barrhead	St John's	Former Member	Bert	Preece
PA01013	Barrhead	St John's	Former Member	Harry	McGilloway
PA01013	Barrhead	St John's	Active Member	Carlo	Fazzi
PA01021	Paisley	St Mirin's	Active Member	Frank	Woods
PA01029	Glenburn	St Peter's	President	Kenneth	Eason
PA02014	Port Glasgow	St John The Baptist	Active Member	Gerard	Harkins
PA02019	Greenock	St Mary's	Active Member, Former Treasurer	James	Deegan

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Recruitment Campaign

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.

Holy Spirit Conference

The Holy Spirit Conference held a Christmas Dinner in St. John the Baptist Church Hall, Port Glasgow, on 28th December. Brother Farren reported that the dinner was a great success. 50 persons attended, each of whom was fed, given a gift bag and clothing, before leaving the hall. The caterers worked very well with Brothers and Sisters who had attended and assisted at the event. The dinner was open to homeless and lonely persons. Transport was arranged to bring attendees to and from the Inverclyde Homeless Forum to the venue. After a church wide appeal, there has been successful recruitment of drivers to assist the Holy Spirit Conference with the mini bus driving rota.

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