



SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT  
DE PAUL INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL GENERAL

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING  
**VINCENTIAN  
SOLIDARITY**





**Human pride constantly hopes to be released from all obligations, because all obligation implies dependence [...] Providence on the other hand designs to bind the past to the future, one generation to the next, human beings to each other, through a never-ending stream of benefits that commit and favours that are never exhausted.**

**BLESSED FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM, DECEMBER 1848**

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## OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY

### 1. SERVICES

In addition to home visits, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul provides many other services for people in difficulties.

- Literacy training
- Educational support
- Funerals for people in need
- Distribution of food, clothing, etc.

### 2. SPECIAL WORKS

It also undertakes “special works” to assist with particular forms of poverty.

## VINCENTIAN SOLIDARITY

The Society relies on its international network of charity to deliver mutual support between countries and to fund more challenging actions.

This Vincentian solidarity is expressed through:

- Projects
- Twinning

## TWO WAYS TO ORGANISE VINCENTIAN SOLIDARITY

Through the International Council General, which coordinates mutual aid among countries. We speak of projects.

Directly, between countries or within a country, by means of twinning.

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## WHAT IS A “SPECIAL WORK”?

A “Special Work” is intended

- either to strengthen the action involved in home visits
- or to reach people living in deprived circumstances, by providing them with **STRUCTURES** that can help them in various ways in their practical or spiritual life.



## HOW IS THE SPECIAL WORK DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE CONFERENCE?

The Special Work needs funds to operate

- Rental costs,
- Operating costs.
- Perhaps salaries for employees, etc.

The Conference works is less dependent on money.

The important thing is to give

- of our time
- our love
- and our talents (Rule, part 1, Article 3.14)

## THE SPECIAL WORK AND THE CONFERENCE: SHARED IDEALS

However both share the same ideals : **“to show special concern for individuals in need”**

Indeed it is important to bear in mind that “practical activity will always be insufficient, unless it visibly expresses a love for man, a love nourished by an encounter with Christ”

Benedict XVI, Motu proprio on the Service of Charity

A SPECIAL WORK IS VINCENTIAN IF...

There is a majority of members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul on the management committee

It bears the logo of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

## EXAMPLES OF SPECIAL WORKS

- Community shops, furniture and clothing stores
- Schools, universities
- Children's camps, family caravan holidays
- Homes for elderly people
- Drop-in centers
- Hostel accommodation (students, refugees)
- Hospitals, dispensaries
- Nurseries,
- Apprenticeship workshops
- Soup for the "Homeless": Food banks...

## IMPORTANT

Involvement in special works does not free the Vincentian from his or her two obligations

- Home visits
- The Conference meeting

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## PROJECTS: VINCENTIAN SOLIDARITY COORDINATED BY COUNCIL GENERAL

Normal procedure

1. Countries send funds to Council General
2. Through CIAD (its Projects Commission) Council General allocates funds to the countries.

Value of this system

- Avoids duplication of effort
- Allows care to be shown to forgotten areas of the world

## AREAS OF WORK FOR THE PROJECTS COMMISSION OF COUNCIL GENERAL

### 3 main areas of work

- ❑ **Natural or human disasters** Rule, Part 1, Article 4.2)

Examples: drought, refugees

- ❑ **Rehabilitation work** (long-term action) after a natural disaster

Example: accommodation and return to work in areas affected by a disaster

- ❑ **Development**

mainly concerns rural areas(example: wells, etc.), including Systemic change projects with the Vincentian family (Rule, Part 1, Articles 4.3, 7.3)



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## TWINNAGE: VINCENTIAN SOLIDARITY EXERCISED

### WITHIN A COUNTRY

mutual help

- among Conferences
- among Councils

### WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

sharing wealth to:

- support the work of  
Conferences/Councils
- carry out specific works

## TWINNAGE: WHAT IS IT?

Twinnage is a fraternal bond between two Conferences or two Councils. It does not necessarily involve financial support.

Twinnage may be (Rule, Part 1, Article 4.1)

- ✓ Spiritual help through prayer
- ✓ Bonds of friendship among members  
often helped by an exchange of letter
- ✓ Financial help to carry out work
- ✓ Small projects or student scholarships
- ✓ Help in forming Conferences

## FINANCIAL HELP THROUGH TWINNAGE: RULES TO BE OBSERVED

1. Ensure Conferences are aggregated and Councils instituted. Conferences or Councils must follow the Rule of the Society
2. **For donor countries:** Always send funds through National Council. Never directly to the beneficiary Conference or Council
3. **For beneficiary Councils/Conferences:** a single twinnage partner
4. Beneficiary National Councils and donors are obliged to inform Council General's twinnage Commission of their twinnage arrangements.

## COUNCIL GENERAL'S TWINNAGE COMMISSION

Regulatory role:

- to balance twinnage arrangements
- **Ensuring that some regions are not forgotten**
  - This is done by defining twinnage zones that match natural partnerships among particular regions of the world
    - North America, Central America, South America
    - Europe, Middle East and Africa
    - Asia, Australia, New Zealand

Find out all you need to know about  
twinning from

**“Manual of practice  
and procedures”**

Download from: [www.ssvpglobal.org](http://www.ssvpglobal.org)

**Vincentians must never forget that giving their love, their talents and their time is more important than giving money**

THE RULE, PART 1, ARTICLE 3.14