



23 October 2021

To all members of the Society of St Vincent De Paul in New Zealand

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to take this early opportunity to greet all members of the Society of St Vincent De Paul in New Zealand and thank you for the trust you have placed in me as President of the Society for the next three years. It is very humbling to be chosen for this role but I do plead for your prayer support for the daunting tasks ahead that we face. It will require all of us to work together in unity to meet the upcoming challenges.

I would like to thank Marlena, our past president for her service to the Society and her selfless dedication to the role of leading the Society in the work of service to the poor. She has led us through the difficult times of Covid and resolved a number of very complex longstanding issues. We all owe her a great debt of gratitude.

I will shortly be consulting with the National Council on the appointment of a National Board, including a Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary to assist me with my work. Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will guide us in choosing people with deep Vincentian spirituality and the requisite commercial skills to ensure that our work of service to the poor is carried out to the highest level possible. I consider it vital that we get people who are dedicated and generous with their time and skills so we can achieve our planned strategies and develop our future leaders.

Under our Rule, the National Council (made up of all Area Council Presidents) is our governing body and I am proposing to have this Council involved in all significant governance and policy decisions which will be decided according to our Rule on a consensus basis (R3: 4.1).

Covid is already having a significant impact on our communities but we need to be prepared for the possibility of greater increasing levels of need. Looking to the relatively near future, the economic effect of the Government's Traffic Light system is unknown except it will produce two kinds of citizens, those who are vaccinated and those who are not. The economic repercussions of this are the great unknown, but rising inflation and interest rates will still impact many families with more demand on us. Lockdown impacts of loneliness, depression and illness will further increase the need for our services. We must be prepared to act quickly when this happens.

As we work to provide the material needs of the people we serve we must always remember that we must also meet their spiritual needs in the tradition of St. Vincent De Paul and Blessed Frederick Ozanam. I have always delighted in the pragmatic way that we as Vincentians manage the provision of material and spiritual nourishment. The impact of every member's work is combined and magnified through the power of the Holy Spirit and serves for the glory of God and to promote us as individuals, on our own paths to salvation.

Thank you for the work that you do. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the near future.

Yours in Christ

Terry Jordan
National President