



**ALL AFRICA**

20TH - 23RD JULY 2022



**ASSEMBLY**

Transformative Advocacy:

*Serving a Changing Africa*

**Nairobi, Kenya**

# TWINNING

**A TALK DELIVERED BY JOSEPHINE OBOMIGHIE,  
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**DURING THE ALL AFRICA ASSEMBLY(AAA) MEETING  
HELD IN KENYA, FROM 19<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022**

- It is with great pleasure and humility that I present to you, the nitty-gritty of a healthy twinning relationship.
- The role of stakeholders such as the National Council Presidents and Twinning Officers of both donor and receiving countries in ensuring accountable twinning activities can be equated to the success of such relationship. Rising from this fact, it becomes necessary to acquaint you with all important information you need to have for the success of every twinning relationship in your region.

# MEANING AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF TWINNING:

- The awareness of acute poverty in a great number of countries and Vincentian preferential option for the poor spurs conferences and councils to assist others with less resources, or in particular situation.
- Conferences and councils help others in need, both at the national and international levels. This direct link between two conferences or councils consisting of **sharing prayer, a profound friendship & material resources is called TWINNING.**

- Although the International Council General (CGI) formally launched Twinning Programme in 1954, this concept of mutual assistance dates back to the inception of the society in 1833.
- Based on over fifty years of experience stressing the need for practicality, fairness and transparency, Twinning was reinforced at the international level in 1979 when at a plenary session of the CGI it was declared that ***\*all monies collected in the name of the society anywhere belong in principle to the poor\****.

- And in 2004 a twinning manual outlining the international twinning policy applicable to all levels of the society was put in place by the CGI, which supersedes all other twinning documents on Twinning.
- In May 2013, the international Twinning manual was reviewed and renamed **\*INTERNATIONAL TWINNING : POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL\***

# SPIRITUALITY

- I must say that friendship is the hallmark of the society while twinning is the form of solidarity we exercise. Twinning helps conferences and councils fulfill the universal mission of charity.
- In twinning, Vincentians strive to give selflessly, not from their surplus funds and materials, but indeed from what they must need themselves. The society is a unique Christian family in a worldwide community in which each person shares their resources and experiences in solidarity with the Vincentian vocation to meet the needs of others –whatever that needs may be!

# VISION

- Our vision is that all councils and conferences be twinned, thus creating a unique worldwide community of love and solidarity, dedicated to sharing the necessities of life with as many of Christ's poor as possible.
- To facilitate communication between councils and conferences around the world, thereby promoting a spirit of understanding friendship and solidarity among all Vincentians

- To help councils and conferences spiritually, morally and materially, to alleviate misery and hunger; promote social justice and animate solidarity, etc.
- To promote the establishment of new councils and conferences by helping them to start and expand.



# THE INTERNATIONAL TWINNING COMMISSION

- The international twinning commission is the governing body created in 2011 by the president general CGI, to foster an enhance twinning worldwide. The commission comprises of the head coordinator in the person of brother Arthur Schulze with international Regional coordinators for America, Europe, Africa, Asia & Oceana.

## **Some of the basic roles of the International Twinning Coordinators from each region are as follows:**

- To assist the ITCC to continually update the Twinning policies and Procedures Manual to reflect changing needs and all other appropriate matters as may be requested by the ITCC
- To promote and monitor the progress of international twinning in their areas of responsibilities
- To provide reports & advise to the ITCC on needs of national councils or conference when required.

- To establish and maintain a database of all twinning in their area of responsibilities and report to ITCC.
- To assist the ITCC to establish, review and implement compliance with regards Funds Transfer, Bank Accounts and Aggregation
- To work with ITVPs, Zone Coordinators and National Presidents on the issues of twinning.

# ROLE OF THE NATIONAL TWINNING CO-ORDINATOR

- To liaise with the Donor Country Twinning Coordinator to ensure updates twice yearly
- Maintain a list of conferences available for twinning
- Have an understanding of governance and compliance with regards to funds transfer Bank Accounts and aggregation
- Acknowledge all twinning monies received within 15 days.
- To promote the success of the twinning programme through regular articles or other materials,

- Taking initiatives for expanding number of twins where necessary
- Liaise with the donor coordinator regarding breakdowns in communication and other twinning relationships related matters
- Report to the International Twinning Chair and the Commission member for region on twinning matters and forward receiver Twinning and Project report annually, by 28 February
- The Coordinator is the intermediary for receipts and sending of reports and photos when the receiving twin is unable to communicate either due to common language or lack of internet

# AGGREGATION & INSTITUTION:

- The formal recognition of any conference by the international council general is known as **aggregation**, while In the case of councils, it is known as **institution**. In both cases certificate of recognition are issued by CGI.
- All conferences and councils involved in twinning **must be** aggregated and instituted accordingly. Councils and conferences seeking to be twinned must provide full contact address together with full details of their correspondent – the twinning officer.

# BOTH DONATING AND RECEIVING TWINS

- Every national council, metro and central council or conference involved in twinning – whether local or international, **must** appoint a **twinning officer** and inform the next higher council as soon as the appointment is made, giving the full contact address. Such twinning officer **must not be president** nor hold any other executive position in the same council or conference.
- Registers and records of twinning must be kept and forwarded annually or upon demand.

- National and lower councils should have an active committee responsible for twinning activities headed by the twinning officer
- The Donating and Receiving national twinning officer is expected to submit annual report to the ITC & copy the regional Coordinator, on or before 28<sup>th</sup> of February
- Both countries must communicate on a regular basis, at least quarterly or annually
- Donating and Receiving countries must abide by the Twinning provisions in order to avoid suspension of twinning.



# TYPES OF TWINNING:

- Twinning is both finance and non-financial. Twinning should be, and is mostly, conference to conference or council to council. Under this system funds and/or materials are sent for general support or for specific purposes.
- Non-financial twinning may also be entered into, based on the exchange of correspondence and linkage by prayer and visitation where possible.

# USE OF FUNDS:

- All contributions to conferences and councils on twinning must be forwarded through the national council into a **twinning bank account** of the receiving country with the full knowledge of the national twinning coordinator. Evidence of receipt of such funds must be provided to the donating country as soon as it is received. Twinning funds must not be used for other purposes, come what may! Here donors intention must be respected.
- Councils and conferences must embrace prompt and effective communications in all twinning matters as an instrument of trust and reliability.

# INTERNAL TWINNING:

- Where it is not possible to obtain international twins, councils and conferences under the same national councils should be encouraged to help one another based on the twinning policies and procedures manual and supervised under the national council through the national twinning coordinator.

# Strategy 25

- This project was approved by the CGI Board in which we are to target the poorest 25 member countries twinned and untwinned. To identify these member countries, World Bank detail based on USD\$2 per day is the measure for extreme poverty. I wish to inform us here that in , the Board focused mainly on:
- 250m Members across designated countries, Twinned and Un-Twinned
- Extreme Poverty, US\$2 per day
- 3 Continents, Africa, Asia and Central America
- 250m people affected, 32% of the 778m people in the member countries
- Community based projects
- Some Un-Twinned have received funding in 2021
- Reaching out to and supporting
- Seeking from Donor Countries support to commit to the Un-Twinned

# Strategy 25 Africa Focus

- Total Africa population in extreme poverty 460m people
- Total Africa member countries population 507m
- Total Africa member countries population in extreme poverty 217m, 43%
- Focus is on Community based projects
- Some Un-Twinned have received funding in 2021
- Reaching out to and supporting in the best way through informative and regular communication
- Seeking from Donor Countries support to commit to the Un-Twinned

# CONCLUSION:

- In order to achieve the desired objectives in twinning, national councils are to ensure that training, workshops and seminars are organized for their national and lower council twinning officers as to stimulate high degree of efficiency and productivity.
- National councils should put in place an active committee that is responsible for twinning. Such committee must keep a register of all twins and twinning activities.
- Lastly, the National Twinning Officer must update his records of twinning transactions, report same to the council and forward copies of the report to the commission and the commission member of the region appropriately
- Thanks and God bless.

- While donor council and conferences may adopt more than more twin, receiving councils and conferences are not allowed to have more than one twin as hoarding of twins is strictly prohibited.
- All request for Twinning must be directed through the Twinning Coordinator of the National Council
- I strongly advise that you get yourself acquainted with the Policies and Procedures of Twinning activities in order to be guided in your operations.
- Thank you for listening to me!