

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of British Columbia
Provincial Council Board Meeting
Domano Renewal Centre, Prince George, BC
Thursday, April 29, 2005**

1. Attendance:

Claude Bedard, Rosalie Wells, Reg Humphries; Bernie Goold, Bill Clendinning, Sheila Coutu; Florence D'Costa

Apologies:

Apologies were received from John O'Flynn (work), Pat Carew (later arrival) and Barry Grannary (illness).

2. Opening Prayer:

Claude led the prayer.

3. Spiritual Reflection:

Sr. Mary Ann Bates RSCJ led the Spiritual Reflection using a reading from Exodus "Be still and in the Hands of God". Sister had decorated the table to honour the Bible, the Word of God. All were invited to write down and share special moments in our lives when the Word of God had touched us in our silence.

4. Words of Welcome from President:

Claude welcomed the members to Prince George where the weather promised to be fine with a wonderful weekend upcoming. The facilities were excellent and we were assured of a northern home welcome. John O'Flynn and Pat Carew would be joining us later in the day.

5. Adoption of Agenda:

The agenda was adopted as circulated. Moved and seconded Sheila / Bernie Carried.

6. Correspondence:

Claude reviewed the correspondence with the meeting:

- a. A letter from Bishop Eugene Cooney, Bishop of Nelson Diocese, in which he gave his full consent and blessing to Fr. Pat Monette as he undertook the apostolate of chaplain to the Provincial Council.
- b. A letter detailing the National Disaster Fund of the Society.
- c. A letter from Dana Webster, Vice-President of the Okanagan Valley Particular Council asking that the Opening Mass of the AGA weekend could be offered for the intentions of Barry Grannary
- d. A letter from the National President, Michael Burke.

7. Financial Report:

The Financial Statement for the period from April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005 was accepted as presented. Current balance in the account was \$2423.58.

During the course of the year more than \$7000.00 had been sent up to different levels - National (\$5000.00) and International (\$2000.00) and seed money in the amount of \$1000.00 each had been disbursed to two new Conferences - Fort St. John and 100 Mile House.

Victoria Council had sent up \$1800.00. Sheila raised the question of a sum of \$10,000.00 which she believed had been sent up to Provincial.

It was pointed out in clarification to a query by Reg that each Conference should send up the amount of \$240.00 to National Council annually as well as \$120.00 by each Conference to the Provincial Council level.

Each Council in the province gets a subscription to the VincenPaul Magazine paid for by Provincial Council.

A breakdown of funds expended in the Tsunami Relief efforts is expected soon.

It is considered inappropriate for Conferences to maintain GIC's or similar instruments in financial institutions.

Adoption of the Financial Report as presented was adopted. Moved Rosalie Seconded Bill Carried

8. Refreshment Break

9. Budget:

Discussion on the Budget centred on the following items

- a. Reduce the amount allocated to the Webpage to \$250.00
- b. The amount allocated for subscriptions should be raised to \$1700.00
- c. The amount to be sent up to National Council should be amended to read \$7,675.00

It was moved:

That the Budget of the BC Provincial Council for 2005 / 2006 be approved as amended.

Moved Sheila Seconded Bernie Carried

10. Councils and Isolated Conferences Reports - Highlights:

a. Okanagan Valley Particular Council report was presented by Reg. The report had been prepared by Dana Webster in lieu of Barry Grannary but was not received in time for the meeting. The Particular Council has five active Conferences with a total membership of over 130 members. They will be pursuing Extension into Westbank in the coming year. Dana Webster will be stepping in as the pro-tem President because of Barry's illness. At least two delegates will be selected to go to the National AGA in Calgary as Kelowna will be hosting this Convention in 2007.

b. Fort St. John Isolated Council was visited by Bernie, Florence and Claude and assisted in its formation on March 12 & 13. A kit prepared by Nora Criss was used as a guideline. The Vincentian team attended their pastoral Council and then met with 15 - 20 parishioners and held a formation meeting using Chuck Heffernan's template. The Society has the support of the Knights of Columbus and the CWL. An election was held for an interim President and Betty Dvorak was elected and established an Executive. Congratulations!

c. Divine Mercy Isolated Council at 100 Mile House has undergone a similar process as that in Fort St. John in two formation meetings. They have had some difficulty setting up a bank account - the bank wanted to set up a "charitable" account versus a "business" account. They have been registered under the Charities Act.

d. Fort St. James group needs our prayers as they struggle to form. The two nuns who were assisting there have been recalled to their Mother House as a result of the tragic deaths of four of their sisters. The group is embarrassed that they are not doing more so they need our prayers and encouragement.

e. Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Kamloops has reported to all the parishes in the city. They host coffee at Masses when they do this reporting. They are in desperate need for additional members and volunteers as their core group of four is greatly over-extended. The networking between different agencies alone takes considerable time and effort.

f. St. Francis of Assisi Conference has an ever-changing flow of people with a wide range of needs. They enjoy great support from City Council and are the premier social agency in the city. Their downtown location provides a very visible face to the poor and service providers meet there regularly. The dental hygienists visited with the Vincentians and made an assessment of dental health needs. Bernie recounted the miracle of the "home-free" days at one of the local sawmills.

g. Vancouver Archdiocesan Central Council provided goods and services with a combined value of more than \$35,000.00 for the needy in Vancouver in the last year. They have made a commitment to a new facility which will give them increased space and an increased mortgage. Their report given in the package prior to the meeting details the many activities they do. This package can be accessed through the Provincial website.

h. Victoria Particular Council report was presented by Bill. It is given in detail on the Provincial website. Highlights include funds received for a seismic upgrade to upgrade the original Ozanam Building and to renovate washrooms, almost \$18,000.00 donated to Tsunami Relief, and Rotarian assistance towards the purchase of wheelchair vans. Also included in the report are the many hundreds of hours donated by volunteers and Vincentians alike.

11. Committee Reports:

a. Nominating Committee - Sheila reported that her committee had solicited nominations for the position of President on a form that will be filed in the records. The Committee reported the nomination of Thomas O'Flynn. A vote of acceptance will be taken at the AGA on Sunday, May 1, 2005 with installation to take place at the Annual Retreat at Cache Creek in September.

b. OverBC - Sheila continues to be active as the Society's representative on this Provincial Committee - the Organizations Volunteers Emergency Response. There had been considerable debate within the organization as to the nature of its role and responsibilities. This has been clarified somewhat and the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) has proposed a plan to include OVERBC in a Provincial Integrated Recovery Council (PIRC)

Sheila also took time to distribute the Betty O'Flynn Memorial Bursary forms.

c. Newsletter - we continue to have no success in getting an editor. Bernie said that she had been approached by Ahmet, a young man from Prince George with an interest in this type of work. Reg said he would write an article on the AGA and the work of the Society for publication in the Prince George Diocesan newspaper. (*This was done and will be included in the June issue.*)

d. Twinning - there were some problems related to money allocated to a specific priest - Fr. Prem. A number of Conferences were having difficulty in twinning arrangements in Peru. Claude will bring up these concerns with National.

e. Archives - no report from Joy

f. Extension - Claude recapped the efforts to date for the new Conferences, He will also be approaching the parish priest at Dawson Creek. Nothing further had been heard from the Kootenays. More Extension kits will be made up.

f. Website - Reg has the website up and running, and like all websites it needs maintenance to keep the information current. The new Conferences will be added and the Members page will reflect the new Executive in the Fall. A "splash" page pop-up will show current activities. A Youth page can be added to reflect need.

g. Twinning - to date there has been no response from Jamaica as to whether the \$1000.00 from us had been received. Claude was asked to forward a letter of query to National in regards to this.

h. Youth - John O'Flynn submitted an extensive report and a list of contacts. John would be attending the AGA with a group of Youth delegates from the Lower Mainland. In Prince George there were a number of youth who volunteer at the Drop-In Centre. There had been a Diocesan Youth Rally the previous weekend in both Nelson and Prince George dioceses, and as a result there were no youth registrations from these dioceses. Youth will be a focus for 2006 in Vancouver. John and Reg will work on an Action Plan to publicize the role of youth in the Society through the media.

i. Book of Remembrance - Flora presented a sheet with the names of deceased members. This will be integrated into the web pages. Members are asked to communicate with Reg or Florence with missing names, giving the member's name, the Conference, and the year of death. Also please note the role played by the member in the Society.

12. Old Business:

- a. The Annual Retreat for 2005 will be held at Mary Immaculate Shrine and Retreat Centre in Cache Creek on September 23, 24 and 25. OLPH Isolated Conference will be the hosts for this year's retreat.

b. Claude asked for a Conference to host the 2006 Retreat. Reg indicated he would investigate the possibility of hosting it at Seton House of Prayer in Kelowna. (*Reg has made a tentative booking for September 15, 16 and 17, 2006. This is the only fall weekend available.*)

c. The installation of Officers will take place at the Retreat.

13. New Business:

a. The installation of Officers will take place at the Retreat. The focus for the weekend here in Prince George will be on spirituality and Claude urged that Vincentians attend all the events planned by the committee.

b. The members of the Executive extended their thanks to Claude for "his walking the walk" during his term in office during the preceding five years.

c. It was moved "That this Council move a formal vote of thanks to Claude Bedard for his wonderful work on behalf of the Provincial Council." Moved Bill and seconded by Rosalie and carried. Claude responded with his thanks.

14. For the Good of the Society:

a. Remember the intentions of Roland Henry of Gatineau, Quebec.

15. Next Meeting:

a. Location to be named by Sheila

b. Saturday, November 19 following 9:00 am Mass

16. Meeting Adjourned:

a. Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm

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Respectfully submitted

Reg Humphries, Secretary

