

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
FOUNDED IN PARIS 1833 - ESTABLISHED IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO 1857
INCORPORATED BY ACT NO. 35 OF 1950
SECRETARIAT REPORT 2000 – 2001
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2001
GULF CITY AUDITORIUM, LA ROMAIN, SAN FERNANDO**

**TRUSTEES: BROS. CLIVE BELGRAVE, CECIL MILNE, HUGH A.S. CLERK,
KENNETH AUGIER AND JOHN JARDIM.**

MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL:

President	- Bro. Clive Belgrave
Spiritual Advisor	- Rev. Fr. Joseph Harris C.S.Sp.
Vice President	- Bro. Anthony Wong Doo
Executive Secretary	- Bro. Steve Solomon
Recording Secretary	- Sr . Alake Attiba

PARTICULAR COUNCIL PRESIDENTS:

Port of Spain	- Sr. Annette Abbott
Central	- Sr. Cynthia Soodeen
North West	- Sr. Heather Alleyne
North East	- Sr. Cynthia Etienne
Tobago	- Sr. Crescent Parisienne
Sub-Urban	- Bro. Patrick Baptiste
South	- Bro. Paul Fitzwilliam
South West	- Bro Mc Donald Bedeau
South East	- Bro. Keith Rodriguez
South West Peninsula	- Bro. John Boodoo
Institutions	- Bro. Thomas Assing

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Development	- Bro. Winston Mathura
Legal	- Bro. Isidore Smart
Institutions	- Sr. Yvette Woodruffe
Communication	- Fr. Rudy Mohammed
Training	- Bro. Horatio Nelson
Fund Raising	- Bro. Clive Belgrave
Finance	- Bro. Kenneth Augier
Twinning	- Sr. Leah Gordon
Emeritus	- Bro. Rigsby Charles

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President and Chairman- Fund Raising	- Bro. Clive Belgrave
Spiritual Advisor	- Rev. Fr. Joseph Harris C.S.Sp.
Vice-President: South	- Bro. Anthony Wong Doo
Central	- Bro. Ronald Ho
North West	- Bro. Hugh A.S. Clerk
Vice-Chairman: Finance	- Bro. Kenneth Augier
Twinning	- Sr. Leah Gordon
Development	- Bro. Winston Mathura
Recording Secretary	- Sr. Alake Attiba
Executive Secretary	- Bro. Steve Solomon
Administrative Secretary	- Sr. Yvette Woodruffe

The social climate continues to reflect a lack of proper programmes for integral human development. Murders, domestic violence and drug addiction increase; the incidence of HIV/AIDS, lack of caring concern for the marginalized, the mentally ill, the ex-prisoner, the sick, the aged, in some instances the unborn child, teenage pregnancies and delinquent fathers. There is a level of unemployment caused by unemployability and at times unwillingness to work.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to attempt wherever possible to promote Integral Human Development thus removing poverty from the lives of those who seek our assistance. The regular visitation of the poor in their homes continues to be the main work of the Society and during these visits counselling, guidance and friendship are important factors in the removal of poverty from their lives.

There are 90 conferences and committees with a membership of 1,000. These conferences meet weekly and regularly visit poor families, taking assistance to them, having a person to person relationship with the poor.

The conferences and committees are linked together by ten Particular or Regional councils which meet monthly and are further linked through the National Council.

The Centre for Socially Displaced Persons was established in March of 1991, that is ten years ago, as a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Social Development and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Western section of the Riverside Plaza carpark at town Council Street, Port of Spain was converted to house and facilitate programmes for these marginalized homeless members of society.

The homeless include the mentally ill, substance abusers, persons afflicted with HIV/AIDS abandoned by their family, the ex-prisoner and the new category of deportees from the U.S.A.

The dormitories are semi open to facilitate easy supervision of those making use of the Centre and to remind them that the use of the facility is temporary. One of the setbacks is the lack of adequate and efficient social services particularly low cost housing.

The C.S.O. population census of 1990 indicates that the homeless of Port of Spain was 500, San Fernando 300, while the Ministry's count of 1993 was 813. Since the Centre begun operation 1,571 persons were admitted while 1,260 persons left to return to society while 123 died.

The capacity of the Centre is 200 while the number estimated on the streets of Port of Spain is about 200.

The cost of operating the Centre is met by the Ministry at an average of \$129,000.00 per month which provides salaries for staff and three meals per day for the residents. The average cost per person per day is approximately \$30.00.

Several months before the opening, a committee known as "FRIENDS OF THE HOMELESS COMMITTEE" was organized by psychiatric worker, Marjorie Baptiste and has been meeting all through the years to the present time, working and assisting in the development of the Centre. The committee is still in operation.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is responsible for the day to day management of the Centre, staff recruitment and the co-ordinating of the assigned staff; and operational monies are received on a monthly basis from the Ministry of Community Empowerment, Sports and Consumer Affairs.

Rehabilitation is undertaken in the areas of daily life skills, social skills, work skills and home settlement. In 1992, the "FRIENDS OF THE HOMELESS COMMITTEE", organized a six month "volunteer - preparedness programme", dealing with basic counselling techniques and coping with behaviours displayed by the homeless.

There is social, recreational and cultural activity. Games as table tennis, football, cricket and cards are played. There are Christmas and Easter concerts and a Carnival Calypso competition. Religious services are held regularly.

The Members of the National Executive met on the first Monday of every month at 5:00 P.M. The National Council met on occasions and there were meetings of Presidents of Councils and Conferences.

Special Lenten exercises were conducted by Fr. Joe Harris C.S.Sp at St. Joseph R.C. Church, St. Joseph, Uganda Martyrs, Longdenville and La Divina Pastora, Siparia. At the session at Siparia Sr. Mary Rose Knights of Antigua who is the Regional Coordinator of the International Council General was present and was invited to address the members.

The Cyril Ross SVP Nursery accommodates 30 children ages 8 mths 13 years. The nursery is staffed by 25 and is run under the patronage of the Divine Infant Jesus and our Lady of Perpetual Help.

With the availability of medication the doctors office was air-conditioned and converted into a medical store room. The reception room is now used as the doctors' fully air-conditioned and functioning as a proper medical facility, it also facilitates the out patient

functions and space for nurse and medical manager. A proper room is now being put in place to facilitate the laundry services.

On Monday September 17th Nurse Susan Barringer of the U.S.A. who visited Cyril Ross Nursery on previous occasions, arrived to provide volunteer services to the Nursery. She hopes to be with us for at least six months. During this period she will conduct training sessions for the staff volunteers and persons involved with us in the care of Persons With AIDS.

An additional room was added to the Ozanam Night Shelter this was part of the programme to provide more room for the children especially as they are becoming older.

The room at the front which was used as a clothes room by the Tunapuna Conference was transferred to this new room where there is also space to hold Counselling Sessions and work-groups. This additional work was financed by the J.B. Fernandes Memorial Trust Fund II.

The celebration of the World day of Peace as designated by the Holy Father was held at the National Shrine of Our Lady Laventille on Sunday January 14th. After mass a Study/Workshop was held.

A study workshop was organized on Saturday March 3rd of the Holy Father's Lenten Message 2001 at the roof top of the Audrey Mollineau Half-Way House.

There was a training workshop on Care of the Aged and Saturday, February 17th 2001 at the W.V. Clerk Hostel.

The Radio Programmes the Voice of the Poor, sponsored by Simpsons Funeral Home is Aired every Sunday from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. on Inspirational Radio 7:30 A.M.

The Church Today comes over on the Love Station 94.1 F.M. every Tuesday from 8:00-8:30 P.M.

A variety of subjects are presented and different guests are invited to deal with special Subjects.

The Finbar Ryan Home for Geriatrics takes care of 60 persons. With the assistance of the J.B. Fernandes Trust I a lift is being installed. Since only half of the funds were donated efforts are being made to raise the balance.

We continue to receive support from the Electronic and Print Media. The Catholic News is very supportive while the Television stations is always willing to assist.

The Luncheon for residents of our homes and the Rally for our members, friends and benefactors were well attended.

During the past year the following members, friends and benefactors died.

- Bro. Boysie Walcott - Past Member of Sacred Heart Conference – La Brea & St. Joseph Conference – Mon Repos.
- Bro. Ettienne Mendez - Past Member - St. Joseph Conference – Mon Repos
- Bro. Mondesir - Past Member - St. Mary’s - Mucurapo
- Bro. Frank Clerk - Past Benefactor
- Sr. Sybil Clerk O’Donell - Past Benefactor
- Sr. Carmen Faustin - Past Benefactor
- Sr. Garcia - Past Member - Santa Rosa Conference - Arima

- Sr. Bernadette Boodansingh - Past Honorary Member - Holy Rosary Conference Sangre Grande

- Bro. Rupert Lambert - Past Member - Sacred Heart Conference - La Brea
- Bro. Rupert Charles - Past Member - Sacred Heart Conference – La Brea
- Bro. Norman Stephens - Past Member - St. Francis Conference - Belmont
- Bro. Leslie Henry - Past Member - St. John the Baptist Conference- San Juan

- Bro. Vernon Lewis - Past Member - St. Charles Conference – Tunapuna
- Bro. Lloyd Johnson - Past Member - Our Lady of the Universe Conference- Bourge Mulatresse

- Bro. Zaid Mohammed - Past Member - Holy Rosary Conference – Port of Spain

- Sr. Vida De Souza - Past Member - St. Charles Conference – Tunapuna
- Sr. Millicent Attale -
- Bro. George Bowen - Past Member - Cathedral Conference – Port of Spain

- Rev. Fr. Dom John Baptiste Osborne OSB.

Let us remember them in our prayers.

It is fitting that we thankfully acknowledge all who have contributed towards whatever success achieved.

Our benefactors, volunteers at our institutions, Social Work Department of U.W.I., our staff and above all Almighty God, Our Blessed Mother Mary, St. Vincent de Paul and Frederick Ozanam who have all been the inspiration and motivation to us all.
