

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2002

COMMUNICATIONS/SYNOD REPORT

Greetings to all!

The following are our efforts in the area of **COMMUNICATIONS**:

1. A Public Relations Committee, comprising members of the Society, was formed and is fully functional. Their efforts include the publication of a News Letter which has grown in popularity. Four thousand (**4,000**) copies are now distributed every other month.

This committee was also responsible for the HIV/AIDS presentations, decorations and music at the last Annual General Meeting at the Gulf City Auditorium.

Congratulations for a job well done. We admire your commitment and enthusiasm.

Other members are invited to join and Conferences are asked to send in articles and information on your events.

2. The Society's Radio Programmes continue weekly. Fr. Rudy Mohammed and Sr. Rosemarie Patrice are the presenters on '**Voice of the Poor**' at Radio Trinidad 7:30 a.m. every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Bro. Winston Mathura is the presenter on '**The Church Today**' now on Power 102 FM every Thursday at 5:30 a.m. This programme was formerly at 94.1 FM until July, 2002.

Members are reminded to make better use of these programmes to advertise their events.

3. The Society now works along with the Living Water Community and Credo Foundation to produce a monthly television programme on **Social Justice**. This is aired on **EWTN Channel 10 usually on the third Tuesday of every month** and replayed on the Sunday immediately following.

Bro. Clive Belgrave and Bro. Winston Mathura represent the Society in this project. At this time we are interested in having inputs from other members, so please contact us.

4. The Society is also represented by Bro. Belgrave and Bro. Mathura on an Archdiocesan Communications Committee chaired by His Grace, Archbishop Gilbert. This committee comprises agencies involved in communications within the Church e.g. C.C.S. Catholic News, Living Water etc.
5. The Archdiocesan Communication School offered a space to bro, Mathura in the Presenter's Workshop during August, 2002. Many thanks to the organizers for this opportunity. Other members of the Society interested in communications are encouraged to participate in this school which is usually held in August, annually.

SYNOD

And now some news on the Synod.

At World Day for Peace in January, 2002, His Grace, Archbishop Gilbert asked the Society to get involved in the Synod, especially in the Social Justice aspects. Since then Fr. Christian Pereira, the Chairman of the Synod met with all Presidents to instruct and clarify on aspects of the Synod. This was in February, 2002.

Shortly thereafter, the National Executive met and discussed the issue and Bro. Mathura was appointed to further the process.

During Lent 2002 an S.V.P. Synod committee was formed and this group has met regularly to formulate plans.

The following action plans were arrived at:

- i. During the month of May, 2002 all Conferences were supplied with spiritual Readings on Social Justice. They were asked to study these and to share ideas on Social Justice among themselves.
- ii. During June, July and August, 2002 a team of resource persons comprising Bro. Dennis Bryan, Bro. Rudolph Boneo, Sr. Juliet Rajah, Fr. Rudy Mohammed, Bro. Clive Belgrave, Sr. Yvette Woodruffe and Bro. Winston Mathura began meeting with members in their regions to further talk and listen to each other. Meetings were held in Tobago, North East, Sub Urban, North West, Central and South. While attendance at these meetings were fair, participation was excellent.
- iii. The final action plan will be in October, 2002 when we hope the entire Membership of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will come together to write a proposal to be submitted to the Synod Organizing Committee.

The past year has been challenging and God has seen us through it. We thank him for His goodness and kindness and seek His protection in the new year.

God Bless Everyone.

Bro. Winston Mathura
Chairman – Development & Communication