

REPORT ON PARTICULAR COUNCILS

The Particular Council is a conglomeration of Conferences in a certain region. The country is divided into ten (10) regions, each with its Particular Council – **Cathedral, North West, Sub-urban, North East, Central, South, South East, South West, South West Peninsula and Tobago**. There is also a **Particular Council for Institutions**.

CATHEDRAL PARTICULAR COUNCIL: A new president was elected to replace **Sr. Annette Abbot** who migrated late last year. Meetings are held on the *last Monday every month*. The Council sees the recruitment of new members as the biggest challenge facing the Society and suggests appeals at Mass and in the Catholic News, SVP newsletter and fliers. The Council supports the recommendation arising from the Ernst & Young report that Particular Councils assist in the maintenance of SVP institutions in their area. Cathedral Particular Council is concerned about the completion of the refurbishment of Nazareth House and the maintenance of St. Andrew's Home in Belmont and is committed to participate more closely in the activities of the National Society in the future.

SUB-URBAN PARTICULAR COUNCIL:

Meetings are held on the *second Monday every month* at St. John's R.C. Parish Hall, San Juan. Presidents assist one another in whatever projects or activities are planned and seek to solve whatever problems may arise. Festival Meetings are held *about once every three months* and are shifted about within the Particular Council. These meetings are preceded by members attending Holy Mass in the Parish Church. They provide a sense of fellowship and solidarity amongst the members. Some important aspect of the Society is discussed at each Festival meeting. There are four (4) institutions located in the Sub-urban Particular Council, they are Tritscher Home in Bourg Mulatresse, Audrey Mollineau Halfway House in Barataria and Cyril Ross Nursery and Ozanam Night Shelter both in Tunapuna. While these institutions are overseen by home committees, the members of Conferences in this Particular Council visit and help these institutions in many ways.

The Particular Council encourages all its members in the region's Conferences to work assiduously in their parishes and to co-operate with their Parish Priest and other parish groups so that the parish functions effectively.

NORTH EAST PARTICULAR COUNCIL:

Meetings are held on the *third Sunday every month*. Despite a few internal problems with some Conferences, the year was a good one. A few Conferences reported having new members, in some cases, two (2) or three (3) members. Conferences continue to have fund raising events except for two (2) Conferences who have a large First Sunday Collection and many benefactors. Some Conferences report having less families to take care of and some report more.

At the North East Synod Regional Meeting held on 21st July, 2002, fifteen (15) of the eighteen (18) Conferences were represented.

The Council is financially able to assist Conferences in carrying out their work to some extent. Each Conference makes an annual contribution towards the Council's Fund. There is one institution in this Particular Council, the Santa Rosa Home for the Aged in Arima, and members fully support this institution. The Particular council is effectively represented on the Home Committee.

TOBAGO PARTICULAR COUNCIL:

On October 23rd, 2001 one of the residents of the SVP Mason Hall Home for the Aged, Mrs. Floretta Evelyn celebrated her one hundredth birthday with a Mass and a party which was well attended both by SVP members and villagers.

On November 22nd, 2001, a Mass commemorating forty days of Bro. Steve Solomon's death was attended by members of all the Conferences in Tobago. The collection from this Mass along with a contribution from the St. Joseph Conference were donated to the National Council to assist in the refurbishing of Nazareth House.

On January 21st, 2002, St. Joseph's Conference held their election of officers.

On May 5th, 2002, an outing to Canoe Day took place for residents of the SVP Home and shut-ins from Speyside, Delaford and Patience Hill Conferences. It was organized by the Society and the Sproptomist Club with all expenses paid for by the Club.

On 30th August, 2002, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was given an award by the Tobago House of Assembly in appreciation for the work amongst the poor of Tobago over the past forty-two (42) years.

The President of a Particular Council is automatically a member of the National Council and acts as a liaison between the Conferences of his/her region and the National Council, and encourages members to take part in activities at National, Regional and Conference level.