

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INDIA
ANNUAL REPORT - 2021-2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers, Greetings in the name of Bl. Frederic Ozanam

It is indeed a privilege for me to present the Annual Report of the National Council of India, Society of St. Vincent De Paul for the financial year 2021-2022.

The Grace of Our Lord has gathered us today at Kristu Jyothi Animation Centre at Kottiyam in Kollam, to hold 68th AGM of National Council of India. Unlike 67th AGM we are able to interact, discuss and share pleasantries in person; we thank God for this eventuality, to switch off the virtual-mode. We shall joyfully fulfill our statutory and moral responsibilities.

Introduction

With profound gratitude to our Heavenly Father and with a sense of satisfaction in awareness of responsibilities, under an able leadership of Bro. S. Jude Z.R.Mangalraj, the National Board is pleased to present the Annual Report of the National Council of India, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, for the financial year 2021-2022 and submit Audited Accounts, Auditor's Report and General Profile before the Plenary session of the National Council of India.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is an International Christian Lay Voluntary Organization dedicated to tackling poverty and backwardness by providing practical assistance to those in need irrespective of ideology, faith, ethnicity, age or gender. The vision of SSVP is to be a global catholic charity organization providing various types of assistance for the development and hope to the poor and the marginalized.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 to help impoverished people living in the slums of Paris. Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society was a French lawyer, author, and professor in the Sorbonne University. He was only 20 years old when he founded the society. Bl. Frederic Ozanam was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1997. This year we celebrate the twenty fifth year of beatification. The Society took the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Vincent de Paul as its patrons under the influence of Sister Rosalie Rendu who guided Frederic and his companions in their approach towards those in need. Sister Rosalie Rendu was beatified in November 2003 by Pope John Paul II.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is present in all the Five Continents, 153 countries (each with its own Council). It has 800,000 active members and over One Million volunteers forming a vast network of Charity around the world. The Society is an accredited UN NGO.

Society in India

The Society was first introduced in India by the French Missionaries at Pondicherry during the Year 1852-53 as a non-aggregated Conference. The Society was officially started in India in 1863 when some conferences in Bombay were aggregated and the Bombay Particular Council was instituted. Thereafter, the Society continued to grow in India. The Superior Council of India was established and instituted by the Council General International on 09.11.1953. The President's secretariat is at Chennai in Tamilnadu after the installation of 14th National President of India, Bro. S. Jude Z.R.Mangalaraj, on 28 February 2021.

The Superior Council of India was renamed as National Council of India on 06.08.1973 which is headquartered in Mumbai. The National Council of India is registered under the Income Tax Act 1961 with exemption under it's Sec 80G, under FCRA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Societies Registration Act and Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.

Opening of Utilization Bank Account (UBA)

The Government introduced amendments to FCRA and directed NGOs for adherence. The new Regulation stipulates that all foreign funds must directly reach the beneficiaries. In order to implement norms of the government, in our Society, the National Council Board held meetings with the Auditor, Income Tax Experts and individuals knowledgeable in FCRA. The process led to insist on every central council to close the 'Foreign Account' if any and open an UBA in the name of National Council of India, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, designating Four authorized signatories, Two from NCI and the other Two, office-bearers from the concerned central council. As on date, 65 Central Councils are operating UBA. The National Council of India transfers specified contributions from foreign to UBA of concerned central councils which has to transfer the same to the bank account of listed beneficiaries, leaving 'nil' balance in UBA. Central Councils need to operate an UBA to avail benefits of overseas funds and relief measures at times natural calamities and epidemic.

STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIETY

i. Conferences

The basic unit of SSVP is a Conference functioning at the Parish level. In India we have conferences for men and women, there are also mixed, youth and junior conferences. A total **6814** conferences are functioning as on 31-03-2022, according to data from the Central Councils.

Types of Conferences	No. of Conferences
Junior	151
Youth	214
Women	1092
Gents	2636
Mixed	2721
Total	6814

ii. Area Councils

An Area Council encompasses the Conferences in the nearby areas that are grouped together for coordination, interaction and unity. As on 31.03.2022 there are 673 Area Councils.

iii. Central Councils

Area Councils are generally grouped at Diocesan level into Central Councils. The Central Councils guide and coordinate the activities of the Area Councils and Conferences under its circumscription. As on 31.03.2022 there are 87 Central Councils.

National Council

All the 87 Central Councils in the geographic area of India are functioning under the supervision and guidance of the National Council of India.

Active Members

The details of the total number of Central councils, Area councils, Conferences and total number of 62893 active members in India are given below.

Name of the Region	No. of Central Councils	No. of Area Councils	No. of Conferences	No. of Active Members
Kerala	32	341	3842	33251
Tamil Nadu	20	143	1323	13799
A.P. & Telangana	08	61	556	5118
West	12	57	574	6943
North	06	18	171	1691
North East	09	53	307	2088
Total	87	673	6814	62893

The Church and SSVP

The SSVP is recognized by the Catholic Church as a Pious Lay Organization. Pope Benedict XV signed a declaration "Vatican's Corrientes Decision" granting full autonomy to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Spiritual Advisor of the National Council is appointed by the CBCI on the recommendations of the National President. The Spiritual Advisors of the Central Councils are appointed by the Bishops concerned. At the Conference level, the Parish

Priest is usually the Spiritual Advisor. So, the SSVP is closely linked with the Church and the members take an active role in all the activities of the Church.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2021-2022

1. Adoption, Visits and Assistance.

The basic work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is visit of the poor, sick and the needy and also distribution of relief materials to the deprived in their own environment. Through visits a person to person relationship is built up in a spirit of love and friendship. No act of charity is alien to the Society.

Personal involvement is the hallmark of charity practiced by the SSVP. In India there are **46285** adopted families and our brothers and sisters have made **1474699** visits to these families. In addition to the visits to adopted families **1465164**, other visits of charity are also made. These visits include visit to families, hospitals, old age homes, prisons etc. During the reporting year, **54866** individuals and **633931** families were given casual assistance; besides **22615** students were provided educational help.

2. Twinning Schemes.

The twinning scheme was introduced in 1960 in a spirit of sharing spiritually and financially. Conferences and Councils in developed countries are linked with developing countries through prayers, correspondence and financial assistance. The major twinning partners of India are England & Wales, Australia, Scotland, Netherlands, USA and Canada. The twinning schemes to assist the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the beneficiaries.

Summarized statement of Overseas Twinning

Country	Receipt	Disbursed	Balance	Twinned Conferences	New Twin	Surrendered
Australia	15220280	11010340	4209940	1391	02	00
England & Wales	19896752	14729067	5167685	1402	02	57
Scotland	847692	581595	266097	289	04	00
USA	468422	285974	182448	03	00	00
Canada	136197	96852	39345	03	00	00
Netherland	-	-	-	17	00	00
Total	36569343	26703828	9865515	3105	08	57

3. Internal Twinning

Internal twinning program was started in the year 2007 by the National Council of India. This continued effectively at all levels. During the past decades twinning grants were received generously from foreign Vincentians. But now we found a diminishing trend in

the inflow of twinning grants from outside India. The time has come for us to look for resources within our country. Affluent conferences and councils in our country can help and assist weaker conferences. At present the internal twinning program is operated at the following levels.

Internal twinning – 2021-2022 (as reported by CCs)

Scheme	No of Donor Conferences	No of Beneficiary Conferences	Amount (Approx.)
NC Internal Twinning (With Other CCs)	82	84	600000
CC Internal Twinning (With in same CC)	503	546	1638000
Total	585	630	2238000

The need to further strengthen and widen the coverage of the internal twinning scheme was discussed in the Board Meeting as well as in the Managing Committee. The proposal of Bro. George Joseph, Internal Twinning officer was considered and it was decided to present and discuss it in the AGM before taking a call on the proposals.

The need to further strengthen and widen the coverage of the internal twinning scheme was discussed in the Board Meeting as well as in the Managing Committee. The proposal of Bro. George Joseph, Internal Twinning officer was considered and it was decided to present and discuss it in the AGM before taking a call on the proposals.

The National Council is encouraging the Councils at various levels to increase the number of internal twinning to the needy conferences.

4. Scholarships

The National Council of India helps in the education of students belonging to poor families in our country through various scholarships supported and sponsored by overseas councils. The main overseas sponsors are Australia, England & Wales, USA and Netherlands.

Sl. No	Scholarships	No. of New Scholarships	Total amount sanctioned
1.	HES	267x9000	2403000.00
2.	TVTS	656x5000	3280000.00
3.	Vidya Jyothi Scholarships	1118x1000	1118000.00
	Total		6801000.00

5. Projects

Projects are an integral part of the Twinning Scheme. The projects aim at eliminating the root cause of poverty through self-help or group schemes in order to uplift the poor from their financial crisis and to restore dignity and a sense of self-respect.

The financial assistance for the implementation of projects is received from the respective overseas twinned Councils on the recommendations of the National Council of India. Projects are either one time projects or revolving projects which generate income as well as employment. The Central Councils have successfully implemented many projects during the past year and there are many ongoing projects such as AIDS Hospice, Old Age Homes, Medical Centers, Home for the differently able etc. Number of new applications submitted during the year 2021-2022 was 17 and number of projects sanctioned in the same year were 79. Total amount received during this period was Rs.1,06,12,021.00.

The details are as given below:

CC wise and country wise Project Grant Summary

Central Council	England	Australia	Netherlands	Scotland	Total
Belthangady	75000.00				75000.00
Cuddapah	80000.00	173404.00			2 53404.00
Thuckalay		2970087.00			2970087.00
Guntur	1428500.00	449014.00		175000.00	2052514.00
Kurnool	170000.00				170000.00
Nellore		33815.00			343815.00
Visakhapatnam	556000.00	135639.00			691639.00
Vasai	305000.00				305000.00
Quilon	140000.00				140000.00
Trivandrum(L)	520000.00		360880.00	100000.00	980880.00
Jamshedpur	66500.00				66500.00
Muvattupuzha	160000.00				150000.00
Total	3501000.00	4071959.00	360880.00	275000.00	8208839.00

Major projects of National Council of India

a. Jeevan Jyothi-Home for the Differently able at Baripada, Odisha.

A Home for the physically challenged and mentally retarded. There are 40 inmates taken care of by the sisters of Daughters of Charity. As the inmates are having various kind of impairments, it is a great challenge for sisters to take care of them. At present Rev. Sr. Jyoti Karri DC, is in charge of the house with two more sisters.

The inmates are also involved in preparation of Christmas cards and candles. The Home has a Flower, fruit and vegetable garden surrounding the building. There are a few cattle and poultry as well. The farm produce is utilized for the inmates and the excess produce is sold in the market in order to generate some income. The Christmas Cards

made by the children are sent to England & Wales for sale and candles are sold during the festive seasons locally.

In the 61st AGM held at Delhi, a scheme named "Adopt a Child of Jeevan Jyothi" was evolved. Initially many Central Councils, Vincentians and other benefactors generously supported this program. Later the support dwindled with several of them failing to honour their commitments. Central Council Presidents should take special initiative to increase their contribution to this National Council Project. Taking into consideration of the escalation of the cost and the prevailing situation and salary hike for the workers, NCI has increased the contribution to Rs. 2,25,000/-with effect from 1, April, 2022.

b. Paul Memorial Home for Aged- Velankanni

This project is the contribution of a generous person Mr. Franciono Lorena of Italy in memory of his son Mr. Paul who passed away at an early age. The Central Council of Thanjavur is managing the home on behalf of the National Council of India.

To make the optimum utility of the Building and the area, National council President and the Secretary who went to the Paul Memorial in the month of March, 2022 had a fruitful discussion with the committee members along with the Conference President and members. During the discussion the Conference members suggested three Projects. One is income generating and creating employment for women. This project is, manufacturing of betel nut leaf-plates. Other two are charity projects for the benefit of 100 downtrodden families living nearby: 1. Night school and tuition Centre for the benefit of the children. 2. To arrange supper, daily for sixty persons, widow, widower and aged people. It is expected that the income from the betel nut leaf-plate making would meet the expenditure of charity projects.

c. Home for the Aged, Kuzhithurai, Tamil Nadu.

This is a project of the National Council of India started in 2008 at Sahaya Nagar. This Home is managed by the Central Council of Kuzhithurai on behalf of the National Council of India.

Guidelines for ongoing projects

Uniform guidelines for ongoing Projects at CC level: It was decided that uniform guidelines should be formulated for the effective functioning of Projects and it was suggested that the Project Coordinator is kept updated by status-reports of all ongoing projects, from the Central Council presidents.

In this regard Regional Coordinators may issue circulars to the concerned CC presidents.

As regards the uniform guidelines, a small booklet is prepared by Bro. Stanly Michael, National Council Project Coordinator and is ready for distribution. All are requested to make use of those guidelines

Projects Managed by: CC's/AC's/ Conferences

Sl.No.	Central Council	Projects
1.	Ahmedabad	Home for Differently abled Girls, Anand
2.	Bangalore	1. Our Lady of Lourdes Computer & Tailoring Center 2. St. Jerome's Home - Old Age Home for Women 3. KGF-Old Age Home for Women 4. Our Lady of Fatima - Tailoring & Computer Center 5. St. Antony's Tailoring Center
3.	Berhampur	Lourdu Mary Health Centre
4.	Bhubaneswar	Dr. A.Q.C. Van Routine Health Centre
5.	Bombay	1. Shanthi Bhavan Home for the Aged 2. EFANN AIDS Hospice/Leprosy Home 3. Ozanam Community Kitchen, Mankhurd
6.	Chandigarh	Ozanam Home for the Aged
7.	Coimbatore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
8.	Delhi	Ozanam Home for the Aged
9.	Eluru	Ozanam Home for the Aged
10.	Ernakulam	1. Vincent Nagar Housing Project 2. Ozanam Bhavan, Home for the Aged (Ladies) 3. Ozanam Care Center 4. Anjali Home. Home for the Aged (Ladies)
11.	Goa	1. Arc of Hope Home for the Aged. 2. Dr. Alfred Antao Home for the Aged. 3. School for Special Children, Curtorim. 4. Day Care School for migrant Children. 5. Special School Differently abled Children. 6. Bl. Ozanam Recovery Centre for de-addiction
12.	Guwahati	Ozanam Health Center
13.	Idukki	Cancer & Palliative Center
14.	Kanjirappally	Ozanam Vidya Bhavan. Home for Poor Children
15.	Kothamangalam	Ozanam Home, Thodupuzha - Shelter for patients & bystanders Ozanam Centre, Kothamangalam
16.	Kottar	Ozanam Health Counseling Center, Chungankadai Ozanam Home for the Sick, Asaripallam
17.	Madras	SSVP Mobile Medical Project
18.	Mananthavady	Ozanam Bhavan Home for the Aged
19.	Mangalore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
20.	Neyyattinkara	Ozanam Bhavan - Computer Center

21.	Palai	.St. Mary's Home for the Destitute Bl. Kunjachan Missionary Bhavan/Home for the Aged
22.	Palayamkottai	1. St. Jude Tailoring Institute. 2. Ozanam Computer Academy 3. St.Vincent de Paul Technical Institute
23.	Pune	Prem Niwas Home for the Aged, Mkodikhana
24.	Quilon	Ozanam Eye Center
25.	Shillong	St Vincent de Paul Health Center
26.	Tellicherry	Vincentian Bhavan for Aged Couples
27.	Thanjavur	Ozanam Home for the Aged
28.	Thuckalay	Ozanam College, Computer & Typewriting Center
29.	Trichur	Vincentian Abhaya Kendram - Shelter for patients & bystanders
30.	Trivandrum(L)	Ozanam Karunya Bhavan, Old Age Home
31.	Udupi	Ozanam home for the Aged, Kallianpur
32.	Verapoly	1. Vincentian Clinic 2. Vincentian Institute of Commerce
33.	Vasai	NUPC Project of Vasai Area Council North
34.	Vijayawada	Boys Town Vijayawada

6. Extension and Development Activities

During the year under review action has already been taken to form 2 new central councils, one in the Diocese of Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar) another one in Sambalpur Diocese, Odisha. In addition to that, the National Council President visited some of the Central Councils under North East India Region to review the status and suggested various measures to improve the functions and strengthening of those central councils.

To develop the activities and improve the knowledge of the society to the members, various programs for the youth, the ladies and all the leaders were organized through virtual and physical meetings by the National Council of India. In addition to that the national council president invariably participates in the annual general meetings of central councils and the formation programs organized in all regions.

7. Aggregation and Institution

Aggregation of a Conference and Institution of a Council by the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a formal recognition of admission to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. During the year 2021-22 the National Council of India forwarded applications for Aggregation & Institution.

Aggregations and Institutions were received from the International Council.

Region	No. of Central Councils	Aggregation No. of Conferences	Institution No. of Area Councils	Total Aggregations & Institutions
Andhra Pradesh	2	10	5	15
Kerala	8	30	-	30
Tamil Nadu	3	9	-	9
Western	4	11	2	13
Northern	3	10	-	10
North East	2	1	1	2
Total	22	71	8	79

8. Formation and Training

The National Council of India gives highest importance and priority for formation and training of Vincentians all over the country. Efforts are being taken to activate the formation and training programme. We have revised the syllabus for their session – one for beginners and another for seniors. Programmes are being finalised to conduct a series of Formation and Training Programmes in Calcutta and Bhubaneswar in the first week of October, 2022 which covers the North East India region. We seek the cooperation of other Regional coordinators and presidents of central councils for conducting these programmes in their regions.

Many central councils have organized training programmes for Presidents, Office bearers and members of conferences and Area Councils. Programmes for Youth and Ladies were organized at various levels viz. National, Regional and Central Council. In coordination with all the Central Council Presidents, Regional coordinators organised many programs especially on formation and training

9 Spirituality

Spirituality is the centre of Vincentian activities. Most of the charity organisations focus only on the economic and social development of the under privileged, whereas our Society deals with nourishment to body and equally to soul. It's so because, our founders and those who followed them not only showed compassion, infused faith too. Unless the members of conferences practise catholic faith through adoration, liturgy and devotion they may not be able to transcend in their service to the poor. Those who are poor in faith should also be cared for. The bearer of the theme of this year, **Taillandier**, did this. It is evident from summarized statistical report which emphasizes on '*sacramental life, spiritual camps and domestic differences*', that the Society revolves on axis of charity and spirituality. The reporting year records **8183** persons having brought back to sacramental life, **1120** spiritual camps and **4350** settlements of domestic differences.

10. Canonization

The process of Canonization of Bl. Frederic Ozanam seems to be in the final Stage. Evidences for the happening of second miracle have been handed over to Vatican during October, 2020 by Our International President. Further he has submitted the relevant supporting documents to Rome to expedite the canonization of our founder Bl. Frederic Ozanam. Let us hope and pray to the Lord to receive a positive reply from Vatican soon.

11. Reach-Out, SSVP Bulletin

Reach-out is the mouthpiece of the National Council of India "Reach-out is spiritual, informative, educative and formative in its content and it reaches many countries of the world. Now the Reach-out is also published in the website of the international council. It is a great honour and proud moment for Vincentians of India.

During the Pandemic the Reach-out bulletin issues could not be printed and sent as per the schedule. Efforts and hard work of Bro. Randolph, have made it possible, for the bulletin to resume it's cycle.

12. Youth

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul has always been driven by "youthful spirit", whose essential features are described in the Rule as: "enthusiasm, adaptability and creative imagination". Young Vincentians have had various types of gatherings to meet each other. Through social networks they continue to work, discuss and pray together after these gatherings. The involvement of young Vincentians in SSVP has improved considerably over the years.

During this period, orientation programmes at National level were held through virtual mode for the benefit of youth. In addition to that a number of programmes were organized by the Regional Coordinators at Regional levels. CC presidents organized orientation programmes and Spiritual Seminars at their levels for the benefit of youth.

13. Women

The women members of SSVP are playing an important role in realizing the objectives of SSVP. At every level in the Society the women are in the forefront in matters where men find it difficult to handle, such as counseling and caring of widows, orphans, single mothers and victims of various types of abuse etc. Various seminars and meetings were arranged for women members at the CC, Regional level and National level.

During this year a number of programmes were conducted to encourage the women to work with enthusiasm. International women's day was celebrated on 8th March, 2022 through virtual mode in which Bro. Renato Lima de Oliveira, participated in the meeting. The theme of the Meeting was "Break the bias". More number of Lady Members participated in the meeting. To appreciate the long years of service in the Society, "appreciation certificate" was given to those Vincentian sisters who 25 years of service in the Society. The first international SSVP Women's day was celebrated on 14th August,

2021. This day was celebrated with the theme, "Family Life and implementation of Vincentian activities through women". This theme was inspired from the life of Amelie Ozanam who was a role model of selfless service and unconditional love for God with the zeal of mission of SSVP. She always supported her husband to make his dream come true. One more programme was conducted with the theme "Rejuvenation of Lady Vincentians". Women committee meeting was held on 10th February, 2022 through Google meet.

14. Special Medical Aid

The National Council of India released a sum of Rs.36,72,859/- to Central Councils based on the requests received from them.

Covid-19 Relief	36,72,859
Medical Aid	95,000
Discretionary Medical Aid	50,000
Total	38,17,859

15. Internal Audit

SSVP is appreciated and admired throughout for their honesty, transparency and responsible stewardship. As its members, it is our sacred duty and responsibility to cherish and nurture this good reputation of our Society. Internal Audit is one of the essentials in this direction. The Internal Audit helps us to introspect ourselves and rectify where ever we have gone contrary to the Society's polices and methods. Thus Internal Audit assists us to upkeep the spirit of the Society. We are happy to inform you that the Internal Audit team of the National Council, under the leadership of Bro. Sebastian Thomas is continuing the good work to support all the Vincentians in the proper maintenance of accounts bringing total transparency in all financial matters.

16. Aid to Ukraine

To wipe the tears of Ukraine War Victims, CGI has passed a resolution stating that Society of St. Vincent de Paul should extend support to war victims of UKRAINE by giving aid: **A)** Generosity – SSVP Fund – Money may be sent. **B)** Exodus – Aid may also be sent to the nearby countries such as Poland where the displaced Ukrainian have taken refuge. **C)** Prayer – All the Vincentians have to pray to God for early end of war and to save all war victims from their distress. In response to the above resolution of CGI, all the Central Council presidents were requested to contribute generously. An initial amount of Rs.5,00,000/- was sent from the local account of NCI with hope that this amount will be reimbursed collectively by all the Central Councils.

17. Vincentian Family (VINFAM)

VINFAM is a common forum of all associations and congregations of priests, nuns and lay people who have St. Vincent de Paul as their patron Saint. Our role as a member in the VINFAM has been significant in the past years, Bro. Francis Victor is the official representative of SSVP, National Council of India. Various activities have taken place and some of the future plans are given in the report given by the Officer in-charge.

18. Meetings

During the period, board meetings and managing committee meetings were conducted by virtual platform. On 12th of April 2021, the physical managing committee meeting was held at Chennai and the Physical board meeting was held on 12th and 13th of March, 2022, at Mumbai.

The 67th Annual General Meeting was held on 21st November, 2021 through Virtual Platform due to restriction of Covid19.

19. International Commitments

It is a matter of great pride for the Vincentians in India that Bro. T. Joseph Pandian is continuing as the Vice President General of our Society. Bro. Johnson Varghese is continuing as the International Territorial Vice President for Asia 1. Bro. Dr. A. Francis and Bro. Leo Levin Pushparaj are serving as the Territorial Delegates, Formation and Training, Asia I and the Youth Coordinator for Asia I respectively. We thank the International President General International for having inducted one more representative to CGI from India by appointing **Bro. Stanely Michael** as a member of the International Twinning Commission Asia, for the period, Nov 2021 to Sep 2022. The National Council of India extends best wishes to Bro. Stanley Michael.

20. Amendments to Rules and Statues of the Society

It was felt that it is time to make amendments to the Rules and Statues of the Society of St. Vincent dePaul. The last amendment was made during the year 2010. Addition and deletion are required to various provisions in the light of our past experience. To carry out this important and critical job, a committee under the Chairmanship of Bro. Sebastian Thomas with Four members, **1) Bro. Dr. A. Francis, Vice President, 2) Bro. Joseph Soares, Treasurer, 3) Bro. Stanely Michael and 4) Bro. A. Santiago Manickam, Secretary** has been constituted. The Chairman of the committee has already issued the circular to all the central councils inviting their views and comments regarding amendments.

21. Year of Auguste Le Taillandier

In 1833, Auguste Le Taillandier was actively involved in the first charity conference (society of St. Vincent de Paul) in addition to giving religious instructions to apprentices when they visiting home and while making visits to prisons.

Ozanam fondly described Taillandier as “A very amiable young man who is well informed and has sound common sense”. To remember the services of Taillandier to the early society, CGI is celebrating this year as the year of Taillandier by conducting a literary competition in his honour.

22. Renovation of NCI headquarters at Mumbai

Taking into consideration of the present status of the headquarters office, it was considered that the office has to be renovated. After detailed discussion it was decided to make some alterations in the office. Bro. Joseph Soares has already taken necessary steps to carry out the renovation.

23. Remembrance

Bro. Cecil Raj, President, Dharmapuri Central Council was called to eternal peace. The National Council of India remembers with gratitude the services rendered by him and all Vincentians reached heavenly abode. **May their souls rest in peace.**

24. Acknowledgement

The National Council of India thanks the Arch Bishops, Bishops and the Spiritual advisors of the Central Councils for their spiritual guidance and support. We take this opportunity to thank our National Council spiritual advisor, Rev. Fr. Joseph Arockia Jeyakumar, in a special way for his support and spiritual guidance. We are also indebted to our benefactors, well-wishers and supporters all around the world for their generous contributions to the Society. We express our sincere thanks to our overseas councils of England & Wales, Australia, Netherlands, Scotland, USA and Canada for their generous assistance through various schemes which help us to carry out our activities in India.

Our Special thanks to Bro. Renato Lima de Oliveira, our beloved President General International, for his love and special concern for the Vincentian activities in India. We also thank Bro. Joseph Pandian, Vice President General, CGI, for his support & encouragement. We thank Bro. Johnson Varghese, former National Council President and Bro. K.J. Francis, former Secretary, National Council of India who graced this occasion with their presence and for their advice and guidance. We thank M/s Harish Hedge & Co., Chartered Accountants for auditing the accounts of the National Council of India.

We also thank M/S R. Sathyanarayanan, Chartered Accountants for Auditing the President's Secretariat Accounts free of cost. Our sincere thanks to the members of the Board, Managing Committee, General Body and various committees for their selfless

support. We also thank the members of the staff at the headquarters and president's secretariat.

“Charity must never look backwards but always to the front because the number of Good deeds already accomplished is very small while present and future hardships remain infinite. Just take a look at philanthropic organizations, they are nothing more than meetings, reports, accounts and minutes. Philanthropy is a form of decoration proudly worn by people who wish to boast about their good works. (Ozanam’s letter to L. Curnier, 23 February, 1835).

Bro. A. Santiago Manickam

Secretary

National Council of India

16TH September, 2022